

COMMUNITY & CIVIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE

8th June 2021

Present:

Councillors:	Bridewell	Burton	Corbett
	East	Geddes	Hopkins
	Hunter	Oliver	Nash
	Parsons	Rose	

Officers: Simon Fisher, Town Clerk
Jan Rendle, Committee Administrator

Members of the Public: Ten

Deputy Mayor Councillor Corbett was in the Chair.

47. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Rose proposed Councillor East as Chairman, and was seconded by Councillor Bridewell.
Councillor Wallis proposed Councillor Nash as Chairman, and was seconded by Councillor Parsons.

A vote was held and Councillor East elected as Chairman of the Community & Civic Resources Committee and took the Chair.

48. ELECTION OF DEPUTY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Corbett proposed Councillor Bridewell as Deputy Chairman, seconded by Councillor Geddes. There were no other nominations but a vote was held and Councillor Bridewell was elected unanimously as Deputy Chairman of the Community & Civic Resources Committee.

49. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 27th April 2021, having been circulated to all Members were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Gay.

51. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were none.

52. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were ten members of the public.

53. FOR DECISION – SUPPORT FOR SNUFF COURT RESIDENTS

This item was brought forward in the agenda, to avoid detaining unnecessarily the Snuff Court residents who were present for the discussion of this item.

Councillors and residents discussed the situation at length, following which it was proposed by Councillor Hopkins, seconded by Councillor Burton and **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

THAT Sovereign Housing should be invited to attend an urgent meeting with the Town Council to discuss the situation, with assurances obtained that:

- a) all residents would be offered comparable accommodation;
- b) if the properties are to be refurbished and sold, a proportion would be retained as social housing.

Most members of the public then left the meeting.

54. FOR INFORMATION – SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID

The report was received and noted.

55. FOR INFORMATION – INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The report was received and noted.

56. FOR INFORMATION – REPORTS FROM UNITARY MEMBERS

None had been received, but Councillors were advised that a recent £400 fine had been levied to a Devizes resident for fly-tipping and that a public transport consultation was soon to be launched.

57. FOR INFORMATION – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GRANT AWARD TO WILTSHIRE MIND

The report was noted.

58. FOR INFORMATION – ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPROVAL FOR DEVIZES INTEGRATED HEALTH CENTRE

Councillors expressed some confusion about what new services and facilities were to be provided at the new IHC that were not already available. Officers undertook to obtain further information and to report back to the next meeting.

59. FOR INFORMATION – GULL DETERRENCE

Members were disappointed at the intransigence of Natural England regarding the ongoing problem of gulls. Councillor Nash advised that Wiltshire Council is actively pursuing the matter and he hoped to be able to report back to the Committee shortly.

60. FOR DECISION – DEVELOPMENT OF TREE PLANTING POLICIES

The Committee noted the need to increase tree planting in the town and following some discussion it was proposed by Councillor Corbett, seconded by Councillor Rose and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT a working party is set up specifically to:

- a) formulate a Council tree planting policy;
- b) identify the most polluting roads in the town for roadside tree planting together with sites throughout the town centre (specifically the Market Place) for the planting of trees;
- c) formulate a town tree planting policy;
- d) discuss with Wiltshire Council matters such as permissions and ‘the right tree in the right place’;
- e) approach organisations such as DEFRA and the Forestry Commission etc to ensure best practice and investigate further funding.

It was further proposed by Councillor Corbett, seconded by Councillor Geddes and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the working party would consist of Councillors Corbett, Wallis, Oliver, Parsons, Hunter, Rose and Greenwood.

61. FOR DECISION – SUPPORT FOR IMPROVED BROADBAND SPEED ACROSS THE TOWN TO FTTP

After outlining the advantages to the town of faster broadband, it was proposed by Councillor Corbett, seconded by Councillor Oliver and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT a working party is set up to investigate improved internet connectivity and liaise with the various FTTP providers to assess options and funding, with subsequent option testing by a school and local businesses.

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It was further proposed by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Geddes and AGREED

THAT the working party would consist of Councillors Corbett, Oliver, Geddes, Rose and Greenwood.

62. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

CHAIRMAN