

COMMUNITY & CIVIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE

31st August 2021

Present: Chairman: Councillor East
Mayor: Councillor Gay

Councillors: Burton Corbett Geddes
 Hopkins Hunter Nash
 Oliver Parsons Rose

Officers: Richard Hopkins, Finance Manager
 Elanor Oddy, Office Manager
 Jan Rendle, Committee Administrator

Members of the Public: Nine

Councillor East opened the meeting by reminding the members of the public that this was an official Council meeting bound by strict protocols and procedures, rather than a public meeting.

224. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on the 20th and 27th July 2021, having been circulated to all Members were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

225. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Bridewell.

226. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were none.

227. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were nine members of the public.

228. FOR INFORMATION – SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID

The report was received and noted.

229. FOR INFORMATION - NARRATIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT & KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2021/22

Officers were thanked for providing narrative explanations within the report. It was proposed by Councillor Corbett, seconded by Councillor Parsons and AGREED

THAT Income and expenditure should be logged differently on future reports, to enable easy identification of all running costs for Council buildings, including the staffing element.

230. FOR INFORMATION – REPORTS FROM UNITARY MEMBERS

Although no report had been received in time for despatch with the agenda, a member had circulated a report to all Councillors earlier that day.

231. FOR DECISION – YOUTH PROVISION IN DEVIZES

Members supported the aim of engaging young people in the town with emphasis on ‘leadership, trust and development’, and acknowledged that this would be a long-term project requiring core funding from Wiltshire Council. The priority was to establish what young people would like to see within the town that would successfully engage them.

Councillor Hunter proposed, seconded by Councillor Geddes, and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT a collaborative working party should be set up to look at the objectives for this initiative.

It was further proposed by Councillor East, seconded by Councillor Oliver and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the working party would consist of Councillors Hunter, Geddes, Britten, Hopkins, Oliver, Burton, Nash, Parsons, Giraud-Saunders, Greenwood and Wallis.

232. FOR DECISION - ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS ON THE DEVIZES COMMUNITY

It was proposed by Councillor Burton, seconded by Councillor Rose and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the Committee accepts the recommendations of the working party for acknowledging the impact of coronavirus on the Devizes community.

233. FOR DECISION – SHAMBLES TRADERS CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Hunter and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT three Councillors would meet with Shambles traders as a consultative group, being Councillors Britten, Brown and Oliver, to listen, understand and report back to the next C&CR Committee six weeks' hence.

234. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Hunter had asked: "Can we please look at our current website platform reviewing its future development and understand how we can effectively communicate, engage & connect with the public through an updated multi-purpose website and dedicated social media platforms"

Officers noted that the Council website is now eight years old and will need to be replaced at some point. Further, Devizes Town Council has a relatively small staff with multifunctional roles, with communications being an add-on rather than a key focus.

For this reason, communication had not been as effective as it could be and is why it was agreed to take on a Community Engagement Manager, who would have a stronger focus on communication. One of her first jobs will be to better understand what the Council's ambition is around communication, how this will be achieved and how its success can be measured.

CHAIRMAN