

**COMMUNITY & CIVIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**29<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Present: Chairman: Councillor East  
Mayor: Councillor Gay

Councillors: Bridewell      Burton      Corbett  
Geddes      Hopkins      Hault  
Hunter      Oliver      Rose

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

Members of the Public: Five

**568. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on the 15<sup>th</sup> February and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022, having been circulated to all members were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**569. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Nash.

**570. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**571. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were five members of the public, including Geoff Baker from the Gazette & Herald, none of whom wished to speak at the meeting; and Jon Hargreaves, a member of the Wiltshire Youth Council.

**572. FOR INFORMATION – SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID**

The report was received and noted.

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

The report was received and noted.

**574. FOR INFORMATION – REPORTS FROM UNITARY MEMBERS**

The report was received and noted. Members observed that Councillor Jacobs had been present for the earlier Planning Committee meeting but had left prior to the meeting of the Community & Civic Resources Committee.

**575. FOR INFORMATION – ROYAL BRITISH LEGION GRANT**

Members received and noted the report.

**576. FOR INFORMATION – INTERNAL AUDIT 2021-2021**

Members received and noted the report.

**577. FOR INFORMATION – DOG FOULING ACTION PLAN**

Members welcomed the report and awaited the community's response to the action plan with interest.

**578. FOR DECISION – PROTOCOLS FOR TOWN COUNCIL STUDENT ADVISORS**

There was a long discussion among members regarding the importance of encouraging the involvement of a variety of young people, particularly those who would generally not be expected to interact with such initiatives. It was suggested that any student/youth advisors should not exclusively be nominated by Devizes School. Jon Hargreaves suggested a Youth policy forum to establish the aspects of Council business on which they would wish to focus.

To avoid a repetition of the past scheme which had started positively but quickly petered out, members considered the need to determine afresh the aims and objectives of the initiative.

It was proposed by Councillor Hunter, seconded by Councillor Oliver and  
**AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

THAT this item would be passed to the Youth working party to update the existing protocols and to re-assess what the aims of the initiative should be and how best to engage with potential student/youth advisors. Further, that Jon Hargreaves would be accepted as the first youth advisor to the Town Council.

**579. FOR DECISION – PROTOCOL FOR RECORDING COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

It was proposed by Councillor Corbett, seconded by Councillor Oliver and AGREED

THAT the Committee accepts the proposed protocol for recording working parties and outside bodies.

**580. FOR DECISION – FREE EVENT PARKING, DEVIZES TO WESTMINSTER CANOE RACE**

Members clarified that this request was not exclusively for car parking, but more significantly reflected the need for car park closure for essential operational and logistics reasons, such as canoe preparations, marshalling etc. It was considered reasonable for participants and supporters to pay for their own car parking.

Councillor Nash had contacted Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader of Wiltshire Council, with evidence of the agreement for free event parking dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022, but no response had been received. There was concern that the financial information supplied by Wiltshire Council seemed somewhat arbitrary.

The Committee acknowledged that this was a major international event that significantly raised the profile of Devizes, and after some discussion it was proposed by Councillor Geddes, seconded by Councillor Oliver and AGREED

THAT the Committee would support its Unitary Councillors to negotiate the withdrawal of fees for use of the car parks, but if that were not successful, the Town Council would underwrite the use of the Couch Lane and Wharf car parks at the costs quoted by Wiltshire Council by e-mail to officers, being £389.55. Participants and supporters would be required to pay their own car parking fees.

**581. FOR INFORMATION – RESPONSE FROM DANNY KRUGER MP ON THE ONGOING UKRAINE CONFLICT**

Members received and noted the report, observing that Danny Kruger had attended the recent meeting set up to seek help for the Ukrainian people.

**582. QUESTION TIME**

Councillor Bridewell had received an e-mail regarding the ongoing inaccessibility of the Leisure Centre squash courts, which were now being used solely for storage. Approximately 100 local squash players were consequently currently unable to use the facilities. As a stakeholder in the Leisure Centre, it was considered that the Town Council should contact Wiltshire Council to query the justification for this, and officers agreed to investigate accordingly.

Councillor Greenwood suggested a small group of Councillors should be set up to provide a prompt response to social media concerns regarding the recent pollution of the Crammer. Officers confirmed that the Council had already published its response, and that if further intervention was requested by members, it would need to be presented as an agenda item for full consideration.

CHAIRMAN