

Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the COMMUNITY AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber at St Richard's House, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa on Monday 9 September 2019 at 6.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs C Bowden (Chairman)
Councillor RJ Morris (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor EJ Bowden
Councillor DM Craigie
Councillor NR Griffiths
Councillor AH Laird
Councillor CM Murray
Councillor WT Moy (Ex- officio)

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors RG Beale, GR Brookes, Mrs JM Chaudry, G Duffy and AM Sinton.

120. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Mrs K Fellows, A Humphries and R Hopkins

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none.

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121 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made.

122 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 JULY 2019

Cllr GR Brookes made reference to minute reference no. 77 to the effect that no update had been received from Councillors RJ Morris and AM Sinton following the Wychavon 'Droitwich Matters' meeting which took place on 8 July 2019. The Town Clerk advised that the subject of Japanese Knotweed would be covered as agenda item 8 of this meeting.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 1 July 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

123 TO RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GRANTS APPRAISAL PANEL ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Committee considered the recommendation for grant allocation of £1000 to King George V C.I.C. Ltd. Councillor GR Brookes asked for members of the Community and Amenities Committee to consider establishing ownership of the shed which was mentioned

in the application before resolving to allocate the funds. It was subsequently confirmed with the applicant for the grant that the storage shed is owned by King George C.I.C.Ltd.

RESOLVED That the Assistant Town Clerk would contact the applicant to determine ownership of the property and that the grant would be allocated if it belonged to King George V C.I.C. Ltd.

That the following grant be approved,
King George V C.I.C. Ltd – £1000.00

Fund Available = £5100.00

Total approved recommendations 3rd September 2019 =£1000.00

Remaining fund = £4100.00

*Next Grants Appraisal Panel Meeting – 28th October 2019
(possible change to 29th October 2019).*

124 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE WESTLANDS UNDERPASS PROJECT FROM DAVID MANNING AND PETER ROSE

A power point presentation was received from Mr Peter Rose of Tiller Research Ltd. outlining options for artwork in Westlands and beyond. This is a preliminary feasibility study examining options for underpasses and bus shelter artwork in Droitwich Spa. The initiative has been commissioned by Wychavon District Council as a component of the wider West project and Mr David Manning (Community Programmes Manager, strategy and Communications) also attended.

Comparisons were made with a very successful project undertaken by Mr Rose in collaboration with Redditch Borough Council which has similar dynamics to the Droitwich Spa proposals. Key drivers and associated benefits from the Redditch Project include:

- Improved environment
- Community ownership of sites
- Community pride
- Reduced fear of crime/ASB
- Reduced vandalism

In general discussion it was agreed that these benefits and values would be well received in Droitwich Spa, together with many opportunities to engage with the community and particularly for younger people to become actively involved in the scheme.

The purpose of the power point presentation and wider discussion was to introduce the concept of the project. The consensus reached was very positive with an agreement for further more informed discussion at forthcoming Communities and Amenities meetings.

Mr Manning updated that there was a commitment from WDC to proceed in principle and subject to final feasibility options with 5 underpasses within the West Project catchment. These being ranked in order of priority as follows, A38 underpass/Roman Way, Hunters Way, Westwood Road, Paddock Hill and Crofters Hill. The anticipation is to improve these key routes and make the environment less intimidating for all users. It is hoped to progress this work during the current municipal year and WDC funding was indicated to be in place. The opportunity exists for the Town Council to be involved in a wider scope project including additional underpasses within the Town Centre area.

Some provisional background details were included in the presentation and the draft feasibility document for the additional locations. Mr Manning invited the Town Council to participate in the proposals including membership of the steering committee and stakeholder groups currently being considered for the wider project.

RESOLVED

- For Mr Peter Rose to provide a finalised feasibility study document for the Droitwich Spa options to the Town Clerk to enable a circulation to all elected members.
- Further informed consideration to follow as part of the agenda for the next Communities and Amenities Committee on 11 November 2019.
- Funding and budgetary requirements to be considered following receipt of final feasibility options and indicative costs.

125 MAYFLOWER 400 ANNIVERSARY COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION EVENT

The Town Clerk updated that following recent reports, Mrs Caroline Davies from OPUS events has been commissioned as consultant for the event in 2020. The first steering committee meeting for key stakeholders is scheduled for 19 September 2019. Further reports will be provided as the project evolves and the full programme is finalised.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

126 MAYFLOWER 400 ANNIVERSARY LEGACY PROJECT

The Town Clerk updated that following recent reports progress for the project now necessitated consideration of the following aspects. Professional advice and input from a suitable consultant in order to support additional external funding opportunities, as well as commissioning of an architect to advance the structural proposals to the next stage. Further reports will be provided as the project evolves.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

127 JAPANESE KNOTWEED – WESSTWOOD LODGE ALLOTMENT SITE – UPDATE

The Town Clerk updated that following recent reports an agreement in principle had been made to contribute the requested monetary value in order to enable WDC to proceed with a coordinated approach to eradicate the Japanese Knotweed from DSTC and WDC land at Westwood. A letter to affirm this position is in course to be issued by the Town Council solicitor to WDC.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

128 COPCUT PARK – UNAUTHORISED TREE-FELLING

The Town Clerk updated that following recent reports this matter had now been fully investigated. To this effect it is now understood that the incident originates from a boundary dispute for land at Copcut Park between the Town Council and WDC.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm

Chairman of Committee
11 November 2019

Chairman of Council
23 September 2019