

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 14 January 2019 at 6.20pm.

PRESENT: Councillor A H Laird (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor C Bowden (Ex-officio)
Councillor S Best
Councillor Mrs A Hawkins
Councillor Ms J H Bolton
Councillor A Humphries
Councillor W T Moy

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors R G Beale, G R Brookes, A Roberts, G Duffy, A Sinton and R Murphy

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Mrs S Harris and Mrs K Tomalin, Committee members, also Councillors T Noyes and R Morris.

180. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor A Sinton & Councillor A Humphries declared an interest in agenda item 8, Wychavon Community Recognition Awards.

181. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2018

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 November 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

182. ESTIMATES 2019/2020 AND REVIEW OF CHARGES

The Committee considered the Council's Estimates 2019/2020 for services, fees and charges within its remit. It was noted that the Committee was invited to make recommendations thereon for consideration by Resources Committee at its meeting later that evening and thereafter by Council on 28 January 2019. The report had been reviewed by the Leader of the Council and Chairmen of the Council's Standing Committees. The Town Clerk advised upon the fees and charges applicable, also the income and expenditure details.

The revised proposals and budget for the operation of the Community Grants were discussed, with a decrease proposed from £15,000 to £7,500 and for all requests for sponsorship of Events and Festivals to be applied for and scrutinised by the Panel as per other requests for financial assistance, and accordingly with the threshold for the allocation of grants to be lifted. The Town Clerk advised how the £7,500 taken from the Grants and Sponsorship fund was to be reserved for a community event to celebrate the Mayflower 400 in the summer of 2020. Information to date on these Events was:

EVENT	DATE(S)
St Richard's Festival	4-6 May 2019
Food & Drink Festival	22 & 23 June 2019
Arts Fest	July/August 2019 for three or four weeks
Youth Fest	Unknown – to be incorporated into Arts Fest?
Salt Fest	Unknown – to be confirmed by WDC in due course
Christmas Lights Switch On Event	23 November 2019

- RECOMMENDED 1. That as from 1 April 2019 the Council's Fees and Charges be unchanged and therefore remain as follows:

ALLOTMENT RENTAL		
£5 Reduction for senior citizens or registered disabled who are Allotment Plot tenants		
Chawson Lane	£35	
Copcut Park	£35	
Westwood Lodge	£35	£25 for a half-plot with full discount applicable
Vines Lane	£25	Nb no water

COMMUNITY HALL HIRE OF ROOM		
20% Discount for Registered Charities		
Main Hall	£20 per hour	£150 full day (inc evening)
John Corbett Room	£15 per hour	£90 full day (inc evening)
Small Meeting Room	£10 per hour	£60 full day (inc evening)
ST RICHARD'S HOUSE HIRE OF CHAMBER		
20% Discount for Registered Charities		
Council Chamber	£25 per hour	£150 full day (inc evening)

- That the 2019/2020 Grants Budget for the Grants Appraisal Panel be set at £7,500 as detailed in the Estimates to enable reasonable financial assistance for Community Groups, Festivals and Events.
- That £7,500 be allocated from the Event Budget with continuation of this arrangement considered over two years for the Mayflower 400 project celebration in June 2020.

4. That the budgets pertinent to the Community & Amenities Committee as shown within the Estimates for 2019/20 be approved.

183. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON, NOVEMBER 2019

Following last year's very successful arrangements, details for planning the 2019 event were considered. It was proposed that the event in 2019 be moved forward a week from the last Saturday in November which in 2019 falls on the 30th to enable the lights to be switched on for the optimum amount of time. It was anticipated that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Assistant Town Clerk for Community & Amenities would start to make the provisional arrangements during July and August 2019.

RESOLVED

1. That the arrangements for the 2019 Christmas Lights Switch On event be delegated to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Assistant Town Clerk – Community & Amenities, as in previous years.
2. That the Christmas Lights switch on event will be held on Saturday 23rd November 2019.

184. WORCESTERSHIRE FARMER'S MARKET & CHARTER MARKET

The Town Clerk updated the Committee with reference to conversations held with the Worcestershire Farmer's Market Group. A provisional proposal has been put forward by the group for the Council to take ownership of the trailer and stands, to be stored at Copcut's secure lock-up. This would enable the Farmer's Market to continue to run monthly in Droitwich Spa with the stalls also being used for Town events and the possibility of a weekly Charter market returning in the future.

RESOLVED

The Committee agreed in principle for the Town Clerk & Assistant Town Clerk – Communities & Amenities to continue discussions with the group further and to look in to suitable insurance liabilities and logistics. A further report will be presented for consideration in due course.

185. BENCH FOR MEDICAL CENTRE

Councillor Humphries updated the Committee regarding arrangements for the bench at Ombersley Street medical centre. He confirmed with the Committee that the medical centre had secured further funding from The Rotary Club and together with the grant allocation from the Council were now in a position to purchase two benches for their patients. Suitable insurance liabilities had been arranged by the centre and the benches were anticipated to be in place towards the end of February.

186. WYCHAVON COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Council were reminded to forward any nominations for the awards together with all relevant details to the Assistant Town Clerk so they may be nominated before the deadline of February 1st 2019. Councillor Humphries verbally put forward a nomination and all were in agreement.

The meeting concluded at 6. 45pm.

Chairman of Committee
4 March 2019

Chairman of Council
28 January 2019