

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting held on Monday 13th September 2021

PRESENT: Councillor J Oatley (Chair)
Councillor S Crundell (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P Aves
Councillor C Goodhind (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor C Houghton
Councillor L Lewis

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: One member of the press was present.

OFFICERS:	Linda Roberts	Town Clerk
	Miriam Zaccarelli	Community Development Officer
	Christine Hunter	Committee Clerk

25/21 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Price and Councillor Mortimer. Councillor Mortimer was substituted by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind.

26/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

27/21 Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Houghton and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Development Committee Meeting held on 7 June 2021, having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, Councillor Oatley.

28/21 Terms of Reference

Councillor Oatley suggested that CCTV and Business Support such as Car Parking Refunds should come under the delegation of the Economic Development and Planning Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Lewis and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to amend the Terms of Reference as follows:

- to remove reference to CCTV and Business Support such as Car Parking Refunds as this would come under the delegation of the Economic Development and Planning Committee.
- add the wording “To work with and support existing and new community groups, clubs and centres”.

The amended Terms of Reference for the Community Development Committee were recommended to the Full Council meeting to be held on 27 September 2021, for approval.

29/21 Virtual Community Hub

The report of the Community Development Officer was noted.

The Committee discussed costs for progressing a Virtual Community Hub and the use of volunteers.

The Town Clerk suggested that Council would need to understand the implications, and the amount of financial cost or staff time that would be necessary to maintain a suitable level of service for a Virtual Community Hub. Therefore, it was suggested that a slow approach be taken to understand what could realistically be achieved by collaborating with existing groups, working with the technology already in house and report back to the Virtual Community Hub Working Group. The proposal could then be re-assessed as to whether further resources and/or investment in bespoke software would be required.

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Houghton and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Council:

- continue improving the existing website and social media to provide community information.
- work with and collaborate with existing external Melksham resources to keep them all updated rather than invest in a new digital resource.
- set up a working group to examine the options further.

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Houghton and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to set up a Virtual Community Hub Working comprising of five Councillors. Councillors Oatley, Houghton, Aves and the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind were appointed as members, with an invitation for membership extended to a Councillor not a member of this committee.

30/21 Public Arts Project

The report of the Community Development Officer was noted.

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Aves and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the recommendations in the Community Development Officer's report be adopted as below:

- that the Community Arts Project Working Group would be re-established.
- that Councillor Aves would become a member of the Community Arts Project Working Group. Further membership of the Working Group would be agreed at the Full Council meeting to be held on 27 September 2021.
- that the Community Arts Project Working Group would meet to progress three of the six projects identified.

31/21 South West in Bloom Competition

The report of the Town Clerk was noted.

32/21 Community Garden

The report of the Community Development Officer was noted.

The Committee discussed fencing the area. The Community Development Officer confirmed she would check with Wiltshire Council whether a hedge would be acceptable.

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Aves and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Town Council apply for a 'Garden License' from Wiltshire Council to enable the Melksham Bloomers and Melksham Business Growth Group to begin cultivating the area at Semington Road, adjacent to Hornbeam Crescent.

33/21 Jubilee Trees

The report of the Community Development Officer was noted.

Councillor Aves asked if the previously agreed scheme to give members of the public the opportunity to plant trees would continue. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council would be applying for funding from the Woodland Trust to repeat the project.

The Community Development Officer suggested that the scheme should be an all-encompassing, holistic scheme, working with volunteers and environmental groups covering the whole of Melksham.

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- to recommend to Full Council on 27 September 2021 that £,4000 is allocated from the Green Space Earmarked Reserve to support any funding applications.
- additional funding for tree planting would be applied for from other providers.
- investigations into suitable areas of land for tree planting would continue, and

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Aves and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council on 27th September 2021 that the Environment and Climate Working Group be re-established of five Councillor members. Councillors Aves and Lewis agreed to be members. Membership of the Working Group would be extended to up to three Councillors not members of this Committee.

Meeting Closed at: 7.46 pm

Signed:

Dated: