

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting held on Monday 13th June 2022

PRESENT: Councillor P Aves (Chair)
Councillor G Ellis (Vice-Chair)
Councillor C Houghton
Councillor S Mortimer
Councillor J Oatley
Councillor T Price
Councillor S Rabey

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor C Goodhind

OFFICERS: Patsy Clover Deputy Town Clerk
Christine Hunter Committee Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: One member of the press and one member of the public were present. Three members of the public attended virtually.

Adrienne Westbrook explained that concerns were raised in January about future proofing the Food and River Festival. She reported that volunteers worked for thousands of hours on admin time to support the event and that the town council need to help administratively i.e. by keeping passwords to enable the event to continue. She asked for help from the Town Council staff and Amenities team to support the events, which would have financial implications for the town council.

Councillor Aves replied that more volunteers were needed and asked the Melksham Independent News to publicise this.

47/22 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Lewis who was substituted by Councillor Rabey.

48/22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

49/22 Minutes

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of 7 March 2022, having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, Councillor Aves.

50/22 Presentation from Paul Weymouth of Light Fantastic Event and Entertainment

Paul Weymouth of Lights Fantastic Event and Entertainment explained that the large Christmas Tree purchased by Melksham Town Council is now harder to find with the nearest one being an 8-hour round trip to the nearest tree supplier and cost approximately £3,500. Paul proposed that he produces an in house interactive digital light tree as an alternative. Initial costs would be high but the tree would last considerably longer and was a more eco-friendly option. He explained that the grant funding plus the £1,200 that the Council contributed to last year's Christmas Tree, would cover the cost of the digital tree and the Christmas Lights Event.

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Light Fantastic Event and Entertainment be asked to replace the live Christmas tree with a digital Christmas Tree. The Christmas Lights grant fund would cover the production of a Melksham digital Christmas Tree and the Christmas lights event.

51/22 Supporting Main Community Events in Melksham

The report of the Community Development Officer was received.

Councillors Rabey and Price stated that the Council staff should support such events and suggested that Councillors should get involved on a volunteer basis supporting the staff. The committee suggested that the Amenities team be contacted to ascertain if they could support events with paid overtime and to notify organisers of events of help that could be provided.

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve in principal the recommendations in the Supporting Main Community Events in Melksham report that the Town Council would provide support at the hours outlined for the Food and River Festival, Party in the Park (Melksham Music Festival), Melksham Carnival and Christmas Lights Fayre.

52/22 Climate Fest 2022

The report of the Community Development Officer was received.

The Deputy Town Clerk explained that two applications have been made for external funding to cover the cost of Climate Fest for a total of £3,500. The initial grant application is at the first stage interview for discussion on 7 July 2022.

Councillor Rabey confirmed that the Council are in contact with local businesses to obtain support for Climate Fest.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Mortimer and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the recommendation in the report that the Town Council would work with the volunteers of the Environment and Climate Working Group work to host a Climate Fest event on 17 September 2022.

53/22 Virtual Hub Specification

The specification for a Melksham Virtual Community Hub was received.

Councillor Oatley explained that the specification had come to this Committee and had not been seen by the Virtual Hub Working Group.

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to forward the Melksham Virtual Hub specification to the Virtual Hub Working Group to be reviewed and returned to this Committee for approval.

54/22 Motions from Councillors

54/22.1 Global Events Working Group

The Motion from Councillor Price to set up an Events Working Group was received.

Councillor Price suggested that the Events Working Group should manage events within itself rather than coming back to this Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Price, seconded by Councillor Rabey and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that an Events Global Working Group be formed with membership being Councillors Oatley, Aves, Houghton, Price and Goodhind, working with groups and officers to manage community events being held in Melksham.

54/22.2 Melksham Maypole

The Motion from Councillor Aves for the provision of a Melksham Maypole was received.

Councillor Rabey asked if any research had been carried out into how many groups would use the Maypole.

It was agreed that Councillor Aves and Mortimer would investigate

further which community groups would use the maypole and bring the motion with further information back to the committee for consideration.

54/22.3 Christmas Carols Event

The Motion from Councillor Aves for the introduction of a Melksham Christmas Carols event was received.

Councillor Aves explained that a successful Christmas Carols event was held last year that was linked in with the radio from which a suggestion arose to hold a Carols event.

Councillor Rabey suggested the event start at 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm rather than 5.30 pm, and the carols event could be expanded with food and drink stalls to form another Christmas Fayre/Market event, possibly over a weekend. The committee discussed the Christmas Lights group becoming involved to create a magical event in Melksham Market Place.

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Global Events Committee be asked to investigate the production of a Carols Concert/Christmas Fayre/Market taking into account officer time required. The recommendations to be brought to the next Community Development Committee meeting scheduled for 5 September 2022.

Meeting Closed at: 8.20 pm

Signed:

Dated: