

## **Melksham Town Council**

### **Minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting held on Monday 5th September 2022**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor P Aves (Chair) Councillor G Ellis (Vice-Chair) Councillor C Houghton Councillor S Mortimer Councillor T Price	
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Councillor S Crundell Councillor C Goodhind	
<b>OFFICERS:</b>	Linda Roberts Miriam Zaccarelli Christine Hunter	Town Clerk Community Development Officer Committee Clerk

#### **55/22 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Lewis and Oatley.

#### **56/22 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **57/22 Minutes**

Councillor Price asked for the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2022 to be amended to show Councillor Rabey in attendance.

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the minutes of 13 June 2022 having previously been circulated, were amended to show Councillor Rabey as being present, and were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, Councillor Aves.

#### **58/22 Digital Christmas Tree**

Councillor Aves explained that Paul Weymouth of Light Fantastic had confirmed that work was progressing on the digital Christmas tree but that sourcing parts had proved difficult.

The Town Mayor, Councillor S Crundell raised the following concerns:

- information previously given in support of a digital Christmas tree regarding the ecological impact of how the live Christmas tree had been sourced and disposed of.
- the validity of the energy savings quoted when the digital tree had been discussed previously.
- Christmas trees are a farmed crop which provide employment.
- leaving the tree root to rot in situ improved the carbon footprint.
- an artificial tree would need to be kept 20 years to make it ecologically friendly.
- the Council may find that the public were in support of a live tree.

The Town Mayor, Councillor S Crundell suggested sourcing a smaller tree more locally with a chipper being purchased. The chippings could be used to reduce costs of mulching in the park and help to keep the town tidy. Councillor Aves suggested a small charge could be made for residents to use the chipper to offset the cost of purchase.

## **59/22 Climate Fest 2022**

The report of the Community Development Officer was received, and an update on the Climate Fest events planned for 17 September 2022 provided.

## **60/22 Virtual Hub**

The draft notes of the Virtual Hub Working Group meeting held on 30 June 2022 were received.

Members discussed the timeline and the tender process for the implementation of the Virtual Hub.

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders for public participation.

Joe McCann of the Melksham Independent News asked whether the Council had considered the impact of the Virtual Hub on businesses within the town who relied on providing advertising services for revenue?

Councillor Goodhind replied that the idea of the virtual hub was to provide a link to other information available for local businesses as a starting point but that the impact on local businesses should be considered.

Councillor Houghton explained that this area of the Virtual Hub would be specifically showing businesses' contact details. The Town Clerk stated that the Town Council could not be seen to endorse local businesses.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Councillor Ellis suggested that the companies involved in the tender process be invited to give a presentation with their bids.

The Town Clerk suggested approving the Virtual Hub specification with the removal of the local directory of businesses to be reviewed and added at a later date.

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

**RESOLVED** to accept the Virtual Hub specification with the removal the directory of local businesses, to be reviewed and added at a later date.

#### **61/22 Christmas Carols/Fayre/Market**

The report of the Community Development Officer was received.

Councillor Aves confirmed that the date for the Christmas Carols was 16 December 2022 and that a meeting would be held with the Vicar to finalise arrangements. Councillor Goodhind suggested that Paul Weymouth be asked to provide lighting and to project the carol wording.

Councillor Price confirmed that the Events Working Group had suggested that the Town Council hold a larger Christmas event this year, with live music in lieu of fireworks. He explained that suggestions for the event included the provision of more market stalls, involving local businesses, proposed road closures, increasing revenue, funding and help needed. The Town Mayor, Councillor S Crundell, asked whether there would be scope for additional admin support to be provided to the Community Development Officer. The Town Clerk confirmed that temporary support could be investigated.

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that £5,000 be allocated from General Reserve to hold a Christmas Fayre and Lights event. There must be a recommendation to Full Council, only Full Council can agree expenditure from the General Reserve.

#### **62/22 Events Working Group**

The Notes of the Events Working Group meeting held on 28 July 2022 were received.

Councillor Price gave an update on the first Events Working Group meeting.

#### **63/22 Melksham Maypole**

Councillor Aves explained that:

- the motion was raised in June and that Councillor Mortimer and herself were tasked with investigating which community groups would be interested in using the Maypole.
- work was ongoing and that groups and schools who might be interesting in using/hiring a Maypole would be contacted.
- until evidence to support the event was collected the purchase of a maypole would be deferred.
- a report would be brought to the next Committee meeting for consideration.

Councillor Mortimer suggested holding a maypole event where groups brought their own maypole. Councillor Houghton stated that unless other groups were willing to attend an event with their own maypole he could not support the purchase of one maypole.

The Town Clerk suggested hiring a maypole to demonstrate the skill and generate interest to start off the process.

Meeting Closed at: 7.58 pm

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:**