

## **Melksham Town Council**

### **Minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting held on Monday 12th June 2023**

**PRESENT:** Councillor C Houghton (Chair)  
Councillor S Rabey (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor P Aves  
Councillor J Crundell  
Councillor C Goodhind  
Councillor S Mortimer  
Councillor J Oatley

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor S Crundell

**OFFICERS:** Linda Roberts Town Clerk

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** No members of the public or press were present.

#### **73/23 Apologies**

There were no apologies.

#### **74/23 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **75/23 Minutes**

The minutes of Community Development Meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023, having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, Councillor Houghton.

#### **76/23 Melksham in Bloom**

The report of the Community Development Officer was noted.

The Chair, Councillor Houghton stated that it is a great event and would not want to see it go, the council should investigate what sponsorship can be attracted to the event. We should take up the offer from Terri Welch to work alongside the working group Terri has established.

The judging day would be Wednesday 19 July 2023, the week prior to the Open Gardens weekend.

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to run the Melksham in Bloom event in conjunction with the Bloom Working group. Councillors Aves, Rabey and Mortimer were appointed to work with the Bloom group.

**77/23      Community Arts Projects**

**78/23      Action on Underpass**

The report on actions and ideas back to 2020 on the Underpass project was noted.

**79/23      Presentation from Natalie Remington**

Natalie Remington presented to the committee some fledgling ideas about artwork in the underpass; Natalie suggested one idea which was to involve the local schools, each pupil would decorate a tile which would build a lovely mural. Natalie advised that to float ideas a public consultation/survey could be conducted to see what residents would like to see, it would be important to include as many young people as possible in the consultation. Workshops could be organised which may be funded from sponsorship. Councillor Mortimer advised that she believed the Coop had pledged money some time ago. It was then suggested that the local nursing and care homes could get involved.

Councillor Aves reminded members that artists worked with residents on the George Ward estate and there are several art installations around the estate.

Councillor Rabey suggested that Natalie and the Town Clerk meet up to discuss moving the idea forward and to also investigate sponsorship for the workshops and art work.

**RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow the press (Joe McCann) to address the committee.

Joe suggested approaching house building companies and some of the larger employers on Bowerhill Industrial Estate.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk starts negotiations with Natalie Remington to move the project forward.

**80/23      Events Working Group**

The notes of the Events Working Group meetings held on 2 February, 2 March 2023, 21 March 2023, 6 April 2023, 4 May 2023 and 1 June 2023 were noted.

**81/23 Christmas Market Stall Prices**

It was proposed by the Chair Councillor Houghton, seconded by Councillor Aves and to approve the recommendation from the Events Working Group to increase stall prices at the Christmas Fayre.

It was noted that Evie's Mac & Cheese, the proprietor working outside of the pavilion in KGV would have a pitch on a 10% percentage of receipts on the day.

**82/23 Events Strategy - Appointment of Bricks**

The letter of appointment to Bricks was noted. Members felt it would be good to build events around what the community wants.

The Town Clerk advised that the first draft of the survey had been received and once finalised would be circulated to all members and community groups.

*Councillor Mortimer left the meeting.*

**83/23 Christmas Event**

The draft of the itinerary for the Christmas Event was noted and the importance of the event for Melksham.

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley seconded by Councillor Rabey and

**RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council an increase in the Christmas Event budget of no more than £5000 to be met from the General Reserve.

Members discussed arrangements for the Christmas Grotto and several ideas suggested including, the Assembly Hall Stage, Assembly Hall dressing rooms and to revisit the Art House Café.

Officers and the Events Working Group would bring back some firm plans to the next meeting.

Meeting Closed at: 7.50 pm

Signed: .....

Dated:

