

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 25th SEPTEMBER 2023

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 6PM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ROOM LOCATED IN THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON

PRESENT: Councillor Birch (Chair), Alwahabi, Holland-Delamere, Hallam, Miah, Soan and Ismail.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr S Carter (Town Clerk), Miss F Barford, Miss J Haines and Mrs L Hannam-Jones (Events and Projects Officers).

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Cllr Marriott, Russell and Lane.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair declared an interest in the Friends of the Racecourse Councillor Community Fund application as listed.

24. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 19TH JUNE 2023 AND ASK QUESTIONS TO THE PROGRESS OF ANY ITEMS

RESOLVED: The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th June 2023 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

The Chair advised that the Cultural Compact Partnership had not yet replied in relation to reorganising the presentation mentioned in the minutes of the 19th June 2023.

25. TO RECIEVE THE MINUTES OF THE GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON:

a) MONDAY 31ST JULY 2023

A Councillor raised that item g) of the minutes should read £1,500 rather than the £320. The Democratic Services Officer explained she had checked the grant spreadsheet and can confirm it was £1,500 and has made this amended on the minutes.

The Chair explained that there was the provision of a three-year grants for those organisations who complete exceptional work and continually re-apply. The Chair added that she had attended a meeting with Public Health West Northamptonshire and believed it be beneficial to share the details of the initiatives we have supported via our various Grant Schemes.

ACTION: Check the approval of the united women and youth programme that occurred in June.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee meeting held on 31st July 2023 be approved and adopted.

b) THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2023

The minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee were circulated at this meeting.

In response to a question, a Councillor explained the Albanian Cultural Association that application consisted of funds to purchase traditional clothing from Albania and hire a driver transport them to the United Kingdom and therefore not deemed suitable.

A Councillor explained there was significant link between Parklands and Kings Park as there was a close proximity between the two areas. He continued the group have completed great work and a reputable

organisation who would spend the funds wisely. In response to a question, it was explained that the Briar Hill Wellbeing Café has been a success for primary and secondary school aged children.

RESOLVED: That General Community Grant Scheme application CGF75 be funded to the sum of £10,000 rather than £4,200 outlined in the Grant Sub-Committee minutes held on 21st September 2023.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee meeting held on 31st July 2023 be approved and adopted.

26. CHRISTMAS 2023 UPDATE

For full details please refer to the full Christmas 2023 update circulated with the Community Services Committee meeting agenda. Christmas planning meetings are ongoing with the Business Improvement District and other partners to manage both the Christmas event on Saturday 25th November and the overall Christmas in Northampton programme. New aspects of the full programme are still being investigated, once the detail is clarified items will be agreed and signed off by the Christmas Working party.

The Chair thanked the Events Team for their dedication and work on the Christmas Light Switch-on as it had been a challenge with the current regeneration works that are taking place across the Town Centre. A Councillor stated that the Town Council would continue to work with partners on other events that would take place in the Town Centre over the Christmas Period. Miss Haines explained in response to a question, no Christmas lighting or tree would be installed on the Market Square due to the ongoing regeneration works taking place at the site.

A Councillor suggested that it was hoped a member of Northampton Town Council could be more involved with the Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID) and perhaps be offered a place on the BID Board to represent the town council.

NOTED

27. EVENTS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

The Events and Projects update circulated with the meeting agenda was noted.

A Councillor stated that the Northampton Music Festival went very successfully. A Councillor provided some feedback on the music festival to say it was a good event but some of the bins had overflowed, please could this be noted for next year.

Mrs Hannam-Jones informed the committee that to date there had been 120 downloads of the Explore Northampton App, Snapshots in Time and next year the app would be expand to include the new Market Square. A Councillor stated the app was great however, seems to work better on an Android phone rather than iPhone.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

It was resolved that the additional expenditure - £350 for Morris Dancer and £110 for Alan Larsen (additional props) to be paid from Budget Code 315 4524 Heritage Open/Projects.

BANDS IN THE PARK

A Councillor stated that 25 Bands had performed at the Band Stand in Abington Park with two sponsored by the Abington Park Café. It was raised by a Councillor that a trunk had been installed to safely store the chairs. Mrs

Hannam-Jones stated that the chairs would need to be replaced and requested the BITP budget be amended to reflect this increase. It was agreed that an increase in the budget line 315 4503 would be considered at the Community Services budget setting committee on 27th November

As per the report Northampton Town Council can no longer rely on the support of the Park Rangers team at WNC for policing vehicle movement and band set up on each event day due to limited resources on site. Alternatives plans need to be considered and costed on how this can be staffed in 2024 with either casual event staff or volunteers and budget allocation discussed.

DIWALI

Please refer to the report – no further comments were made.

FIREWORKS

The events and projects officer stated the additional lighting had been installed through sponsorship that has funded them. The Chair stated that re-enactors were deferred from the last meeting and a Film be commissioned by Northampton Film Festival to demonstrate Northampton's involvement with the Gunpowder Plot. In response to a question, Miss Hannam-Jones stated the copyright would be held by Northampton Town Council, is short in length and can be shared via social media channels.

The Chair stated that it was proposed an additional marquee bay to expand the capacity of the pre-existing marquee to facilitate stalls for local organisations who have enquired.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Town Clerk explained that invitations would be issued within the next week.

BLEED KIT MINI UPDATE

Further to the report Mrs Hanam-Jones stated there is discussions with WNC to gain permission to install on their building located on Grafton Street. Difficulty with gaining permissions to install on Wellingborough Road. A Councillor stated a recent stabbing in Kingsthorpe recently the weekend had used a Bleed Kit installed by Off the Streets and has served its purpose.

Great Fire of Northampton 350th Anniversary

Further to the Events and Project report the Chair explained the Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire wished to host activities to mark the 350th Anniversary of the Great Fire of Northampton. Mrs Hannam-Jones stated it was intended to use the Explore Northampton app to show the buildings that survived or sadly succumbed to the fire. She continued, that the former Northampton Borough Council had completed a plaque trail. A Councillor stated he would prefer real life actors as this would better demonstrate the history of the Great Fire of Northampton. Mrs Hannam-Jones stated this would be funded from the 2025 Financial Year where there would be a large Oak Apple Day Celebration.

RESOLVED: to progress with **Option 1** at a cost of £8500 as outlined in the report - Actors together with animation to demonstrate the detailed elements.

28. FILM COMMISSION FOR FIREWORKS EVENT AND HERITAGE PROJECT

Story of the Gunpowder plot

RESOLVED: It was resolved to allocate funds (£5,335) to commission the story of the Gunpowder plot. Heritage Budget Code 4524.

29. EVENTS CALENDAR 2024

The Chair explained this would be an opportunity to think about the events we support and the volume prior to budget setting. A Councillor raised that the EID Event would take place on 19th May 2024 rather than the 16th May 2024 as stated within the report. Mrs Hannam-Jones stated all the date included within the report were provisional.

A Councillor stated that the Balloon Festival made a great comeback and had a great format enjoyed by families. A Councillor highlighted that an improved highway management plan be needed due to the traffic. Another Councillor stated that the pedestrian at the White Elephant was risky for pedestrians and should be monitored closely for Fireworks.

30. COVID-19 MEMORIAL INSTALLATION UPDATE

The Chair explained that local professionals had provided their services free of charge and currently working on refining the plans and costings.

31. ITEMS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION FOR A FUTURE MEETING

A Councillor suggested a discussion be held on the increase to the Councillor Community Fund allowances and potential distribution of any unspent funds. The Chair stated that only 16% of Councillor Community Fund has been spent with £83,000 remaining.

The 50th Anniversary of Weston Favell Shopping Centre, a date and time for a meeting to be confirmed.

MEETING CONCLUDED 7:26PM