

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 27TH NOVEMBER 2023

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 6PM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE ROOM LOCATED IN THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON

PRESENT: Councillors Birch (Chair), Holland-Delamere, Ashraf, Alwahabi, Hallam, Hibbert, Miah, Lane and Soan.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr S Carter (Town Clerk), Mrs J Thorneycroft (Assistant Town Clerk), Mr C Osborn (Community Engagement Officer) and Miss F Barford (Democratic Services Officer)

OTHERS PRESENT: Two representatives (Hazel and Helen) from the Outside in Theatre group were welcomed to the meeting.

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Russell and Ismail.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of non-pecuniary interests were submitted by Lane & Hallam. Ashraf and Alwahabi.

34. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 25TH SEPTEMBER 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 25th September 2023 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

The Town Clerk stated in relation to the Bleed Kit Update on the minutes of the previous meeting that the final bleed kit would be installed tomorrow. Councillor Hibbert's apologies were included on the previous meetings minutes.

35. TO RECIEVE THE MINUTES OF THE GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 15TH NOVEMBER 2023

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee meeting held on 15th November 2023 were received and adopted.

The Chair explained there was a high volume of grant applications had been reviewed at the Grants Sub-Committee meeting held on 15th November 2023. The General Community Grant applications were partially funded and some applications were declined. The Chair raised that we had already funded an advice surgery at the Northampton Bangladeshi Association and commented this appeared to be a duplication of work that had already gone ahead successfully.

Councillor Hallam stated that the Rowen Tree project had gone successfully in both wards.

36. TO REVIEW ADDITIONAL COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS CCF211, CCF222 & CCF223

- a) **KINGSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL** – CCF221 - £750 – Resources to Improve Vocabulary in Early Years – Cllr Russell – Kingsley Ward
- b) **CYNTHIA SPENCER HOSPICE** – CCF222 - £400 – Spencer Easter Trail 2024 – Cllrs Hallam & Lane (£200 each) – Parklands & Boothville Wards

- c) **NORTHAMPTON HOPE CENTRE** – CCF223 – £1,190 - Defibrillator – Cllrs Alwahabi, Haque, Ismail, Tarasiewicz and Ashraf - Castle, St James & Abington Wards

It was **RESOLVED** that the above applications CCF221, CCF222 and CCF223 be **APPROVED** to the sums outlined above.

37. EVENTS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

An Events and Projects report was circulated with the meeting agenda. The Chair requested if there were any questions in relation to items within the events and project report.

The Chair highlighted that approximately 18,000 people had attended the recent Fireworks Event held at the Racecourse in November.

A Councillor commented that parking in the Racecourse area at the time of the event was difficult. Officers are working hard to establish a Park and Ride scheme in 2024. Park and ride for fireworks 2023 was almost achievable but unfortunately permissions were received too late in the day.

A feedback meeting for the Remembrance event to be held. All partners to be invited.

Christmas Light Switch-On

The Chair provided a vote of thanks to the Events team for organising the Christmas Lights switch on event which was very well received. In response to a question, the Chair explained the ice-skating rink was due to be moved to Commercial Street. A Councillor stated the Becketts Park location was very successful and worked well for the Families attending.

38. BUDGET PRINCIPLES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25 – COMMUNITY SERVICES ELEMENT

Following discussions on the Budget Principles Report, the Chair explained that all agreed recommendations would be present at the next Policy & Finance Committee meeting.

Please see the full details of the agreed budget principles for Financial Year 2024-25 attached as Appendix A.

As part of the discussions the following councillor comments were noted.

A Councillor suggested whether funding for the Weston Favell 50th Anniversary Celebrations could be sourced from elsewhere. In response the Councillor stated he had been in touch with a local group who would be showcasing the area and the new town development 50 years on, it was confirmed that discussions had taken place around Lottery Funding being sourced for match-funding.

The Chair proposed that the Heritage Budget Codes were amalgamated into one heritage budget line and a Heritage Sub-Committee be formed to provide some more support from Councillors and guidance. In response to a question, the Chair clarified that a Heritage Sub-Committee would fall under the Community Services Committee similar to the Grants Sub-Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to set up a Heritage Working Party to be chaired by Cllr Birch with the following members Councillor Alwahabi, Holland-Delamere, Lane and the relevant Officers.

A Councillor suggested that West Northamptonshire Council be approached to partner up and provide some funding towards the Market Square Heritage Film project.

With regard to the councillor community funding budget the Chair commented that Mr Osborn could assist with pin-pointing areas that are of need for funding.

Some discussion regarding unspent councillor community funding took place, it was agreed that the Clerk would undertake some research and report back regarding the fairest process of allocating and redistributing funding at the end of each financial year.

Van Hire – In response to a question, for transportation to and from the event. A Cllr commented that staff were loading their own cars for events and it was unfair to expect them to use their private vehicles. The Town Clerk stated that enquiries to hire a van for the Christmas Light Switch were made but the only vans available were too large. In response to question, the clerk stated that a long-term lease was looked into however, at the moment there isn't a requirement for it.

St Georges Day – Cllr suggested that the budget be increased to £10,000. The Town Clerk stated we support Carnival and Diwali as they have committees who undertake the majority of the organisation. The Chair suggested that a committee be formulated for St Georges Day to drive the task forward as it school outreach would require a large amount of resources. Cllr Holland-Delamere explained that he would be happy to assist on the St George's Day project however, there was a short period of time to organise an event for April 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Soan and Holland-Delamere work with the events team to organise the St Georges Day event. Budget to be uplifted to £7,500 as per the budget principles plan.

Earmarked Reserves FY24

It was suggested that the Community Needs (budget code 4221) be reduced by £50K to allow funding for out of town projects such as the Weston Favell 50th anniversary. A new budget code will need setting up to cover out of town projects.

39. HERITAGE – 2 X PROJECT PROPOSAL FORMS WERE CIRCULATED WITH THE AGENDA FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

(a) Showing of the Gunpowder plot film – A Northamptonshire Film Conspiracy

The Assistant Town Clerk stated the costings included leafletting and staffing costs and a right-free film to pair alongside it. A Cllr commented that he did not the short-film commissioned originally. A Cllr stated he had enjoyed the film was very informative to the point.

It was RESOLVED to allocate the requested £1000 to this project – Heritage Budget Code 4509

(b) Film showing of Market Square historic reels made into 1 film to coincide with the opening of the Market Square

It was commented that the film should go ahead and enquiries be made as to whether WNC might wish to partner/part fund towards the project.

It was RESOLVED to allocate the requested £8500 to this project – Heritage Budget Code 4509

40. ITEMS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

That St Crispin Day and St George's Day be discussed as a separate agenda item.

MEETING CONCLUDED 7:02PM

X

Councillor J. Birch
Chair of the Community Services Committee

Committee: Community Services				Community Services			Community Services	
301	301	Community Grants						
301	4170	Community Grant Scheme		leave as is	£ 100,000			£ 100,000
			Total Overhead Expenditure		£ 100,000			£ 100,000
			Net Income over Expenditure		(100,000)			-£ 100,000
310	310	Community Services						
310	4171	Councillor Community Funding		leave as is	£ 75,000			£ 75,000
310	4221	Community Needs Analysis		leave as is	£ 50,000			£ 50,000
310	4225	Community Projects		leave as is	£ 50,000			£ 50,000
			Total Overhead Expenditure		£ 175,000			£ 175,000
			Net Income over Expenditure		(175,000)			-£ 175,000
315	315	Public Events						
315	1155	WNC Transfer		Reduce to 0 for FY25 onwards	£ 83,979			£ -
315	1536	Contribution to Service		increase to £12k from FY25 and onwards	£ 5,000			£ 12,000
			Total Income		£ 88,979			£ 12,000
315	4015	Travel and Subsistence		Leave as is.	£ 300			£ 300
315	4140	Advertising and Marketing		Proposed increase to £12k from FY25 take £1000 from 4140 Civic and 4140 P&F	£ 10,000			£ 12,000
315	4500	Diwali		continue as is for future years	£ 10,000			£ 10,000
315	4501	Christmas Event		Apply 5% uplift year on year NB some Christmas lights are end of life as is the light switch on button	£ 200,000			£ 210,000
315	4502	Fireworks		Apply 5% uplift yoy	£ 55,000			£ 57,750
315	4503	Bands in the Park		Apply 5% uplift however, in FY25 add £1500 for purchase of new chairs and add further £1000 for solution to WNC park rangers not being able to assist	£ 10,000			£ 13,000
315	4508	Ukraine Art Exhibition		Reduce to 0 for FY25 onwards	£ 5,000			£ -

315	4509	Virtual Heritage Tour
315	4510	General Events
315	4511	EID
315	4512	NMF22 / NMF23
315	4513	Northampton Carnival
315	4514	Party in the Park/Balloon Fest
315	4515	Pride
315	4516	Queens Jubilee/Kings
315	4517	Remembrance Day
315	4518	Town Festival
315	4519	Armed Forces Day
315	4520	Beer Festival
315	4521	Van Hire (Events)
315	4522	St Georges day

From FY25 change the description name to a Generic Heritage and include HOD - move 4524 Heritage Open / Projects to Virtual and change code to Heritage so we have one code for all things Heritage? Also £8500 added to FY25 following CS meeting 25/09/23 for Great Fire of Northampton 350th Anniversary	£ 7,000			£ 22,000
	£ 49,800		Need to offset any event spend approved post budget also change name to Events Contingency?	£ 23,000
continue as is for future years	£ 10,000		See EMR comment!	£ 10,000
Increase to £15k in FY25 NBI Need to determine if budget should be moved to Grant 4170?	£ 10,000			£ 15,000
continue as is for future years	£ 20,000			£ 20,000
Budget to be increased from £5,000 to £10,000 using Town festival budget code 4518 which is £5,000, remove Town Festival from Events plan	£ 5,000			£ 10,000
continue with £4000 and apply 5% uplift	£ 4,000			£ 4,200
Reduce to 0 for FY25 onwards	£ 15,000			£ -
Move to Remembrance in Civic - No! leave in Public and create same code 4517 in Civic	£ 10,000			£ 10,000
budget removed and added to 4514 Balloon Festival	£ 5,000			£ -
Move to Remembrance in Civic - No leave in Public and create same code 4517 in Civic	£ 5,000			£ 5,000
continue as is for future years	£ 5,000			£ 5,000
continue as is for future years	£ 2,000		Ear marked any unspent for future possible van purchase	£ 2,000
Propose to increase to £7500 in FY25 but then increase to £10k from FY26				£ 7,500

315	Need code?	Out of Town Events (take £50k from EMR 4221 and reduce to £99,900)	Propose £10k for WFA - CSC also propose to utilise EMR 4221 and increase this £10k to £50k reducing EMR 4221 £99,900			£ 50,000	
315	4524	Heritage Open / Projects	Do not use for FY25 anything heritage related should go to 4509			£ -	
Total Overhead Expenditure				£ 438,100		£ 486,750	
Net Income over Expenditure				-£ 349,121		-£ 474,750	