

MACCLESFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12th April 2016 at 7pm at Macclesfield Town Hall.

In attendance: Cllr Philip Bolton
Cllr Liz Durham
Cllr Gareth Jones
Cllr Beverley Dooley
Cllr Janet Jackson
Cllr Neil Puttick
Cllr Ainsley Arnold

Also in attendance was the Town Clerk, Pete Turner

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Martin Hardy

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Gareth Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in items relating to allotments as an allotment holder in the town.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No members of the public wished to address the committee.

3. MINUTES OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9TH FEBRUARY 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes are accepted as a true record of the meeting

4. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Cllr Dooley gave an overview of the circulated report and highlighted the work carried out researching the provision of Christmas Lights, the need for renewal due to the increasing costs of replacement and repair of old stock, the obligation for investment in infrastructure and the opportunity to extend the town centre Christmas Lights display.

Members asked that the Town Clerk write to all town centre businesses to seek financial support for the provision of Christmas lights in the town centre.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the report statement is received
- ii. That leasing of the light displays is the preferred option for provision
- iii. That, subject to seeking competitive pricing, the provision of Christmas Lights is moved to leasing contracts with appropriately qualified and experienced service providers.
- iv. That additional provision is commissioned, subject to seeking competitive pricing, and this task is delegated to the Town Clerk, the Mayor and Cllr Dooley, to be achieved within budget, allowing for the provision of a Christmas Lights Switch On event and town centre Christmas trees.
- v. That authority of Full Council is sought to draw down the underspend of 2015/16 to fund the immediate inspection, testing and, where necessary, replacement of the Christmas lights anchor points and infrastructure, in line with current regulations.

5. ALLOTMENTS

The Town Clerk presented a report associated with progress towards transfer of the allotments from Cheshire east Council to Macclesfield Town Council.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the report statement is received
- ii. That the Town Clerk is authorised to continue negotiations with CEC to the point of draft contracts, to be considered by this committee when available.
- iii. That the Town Clerk is authorised to continue negotiations with the allotment associations with regard to model leases and allotment plot occupancy agreements.

6. WEBSITE & COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY WORKING GROUP (WCSWG)

Cllr Puttick gave a verbal update on the work of the communications group. This included reference to the use of the town council's gazebo on 24/4/16 at the Treacle Market to engage with the community. Cllr Puttick also went to explain that the council's website was capable of expansion and work was underway to add pages associated with the council's projects such as the 90tress for the Queen's 90th birthday.

7. ASSET & SERVICE PROVISION

7.1 Street Furniture

Deferred

7.2 The Brick Project

Cllr Puttick updated members on the progress of this project, detailing that artists and schools were booked for the event (23/5/16 to 1/6/16). Cllr Puttick also clarified that he was continuing to contact schools to and community groups to enhance the delivery of the project.

Members sought clarification on safeguarding arrangements and it was agreed that these would be detailed and in place prior to the event.

Cllr Puttick also clarified that CE Highways were supportive of the event and had been engaged to prepare the space and possibly treat the installation once completed to avoid vandalism.

Members thanked Cllr Puttick for his work so far on this project.

7.3 Floral Displays

The Town Clerk presented the circulated report statement. Members suggested that allotment groups are engaged for future delivery and commented on their support for enhancing the floral displays of the town.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the report statement is received
- ii. That the Town Clerk, with the support of Cllrs Jackson, Dooley and Durham, is authorised to identify additional opportunities to enhance the town's floral displays, within budget for 2016/17.

7.4 Queen's 90th Birthday permanent provision

Members were reminded that the planting of the Queen's 90th birthday tree takes place at around 12.45pm on Sunday 24/4/16 in St Michael's and All Angels' churchyard, to be planted by the Mayor and blessed by Revd Whiteman.

Members discussed at length the means of allocating the 90 trees for the town, the mechanism to be detailed by the WCSWG, including getting the community to request the trees, ensuring that the trees are planted in community accessible locations and planting one oak tree in each of the town's parks. It was agreed that ward members should seek applications from the community in their respective wards.

7.5 Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons

Cllr Puttick gave an overview of the work he had carried out so far for the delivery of the beacons, but was not able to confirm details of practical community support for the project. The Town Clerk informed the committee that due to the lack of opportunity to properly engage with the national beacons project, there would be no beacons in Macclesfield on 21/4/16. However, Cllr Puttick was keen to see if it would be possible to light two beacons at high points around the town on the Queen's official birthday in June. Further information will follow if this is possible.

7.6 Queen's 90th Birthday Clean for the Queen

Members shared their thanks to the community for helping with this project and reflected the positive impact of the work carried out by members and volunteers. It was agreed that the Clean for the Queen event was a success in terms of litter clearing and community engagement.

Members also reflected on the opportunities for greater provision of waste bins in the town to prevent littering as well as the need for more education and responsibility for littering.

8. ASSET AND SERVICE DEVOLUTION

The Town Clerk clarified that he was proactively seeking the transfer of the Weston Community Centre from Cheshire East Council. It was again highlighted that a third sector partner has been identified and is committed to taking on the building, subject to timescales. The Town Clerk reiterated that as soon as a draft contract was available it would be brought to committee or council, whichever is most efficient.

RESOLVED:

- i. Receive the report
- ii. To accept the draft Heads of Terms as they relate to Weston Community Centre
- iii. To agree the site boundary of Weston Community Centre.

9. MORTON HALL

The Town Clerk gave a brief overview of the circulated report, clarifying that it stemmed from an informal officer approach from cheshire east Council and did not represent a formal offer transfer.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the report statement is received
- ii. That the MTC ward councillor (Cllr Bolton) and the Town Clerk are authorised to continue negotiations with regard to any proposals for transfer until such a point as a formal recommendation can be considered by this committee.

10. MAGISTRATES COURT

The Town Clerk gave a brief overview with regard to the circulated report and the suggestion of a joint resource centre for Macclesfield.

Members highlighted the importance of the Town Council being based in the Town Hall and the available commercial office space.

It was agreed that members did not want to pursue any further investigation relating to uses for the magistrates court and as such the item was dismissed.

CLOSED SESSION

Due to the confidential nature of business, public and press will be excluded from the meetings under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

11. LOCAL COUNCIL SERVICE DELIVERY

Members discussed at length the circulated report and supporting information, with consideration to the council's strategic approach to local service delivery.

RESOLVED:

See Closed Session Resolution File Note SC/120516/Item 11/RES – Confidential until such a time as it is completed in relation to personnel matters.

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Services Committee will be held on 20th June 2016 at Macclesfield Town Hall.