

MACCLESFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes for the meeting to be held on Tuesday, 20th October 2015 at 7.00pm at Weston Community Centre, Earlsway, Macclesfield SK11 8RJ.

In Attendance: Cllr M Hardy
Cllr B Dooley
Cllr A Arnold
Cllr P Bolton
Cllr G Jones
Cllr N Puttick
Cllr J Jackson
Cllr L Durham (Mayor)

Also in attendance were Cllrs Harewood and Schofield and the Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare pecuniary & non-pecuniary interests in relation to any item on the agenda.

Cllr G Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest, as an allotment holder, in discussions relating to allotments.

Cllr A Arnold declared a pecuniary conflict of interest as a Cabinet Member of Cheshire East Council and left the meeting for item 11 on the agenda and took no part in the discussions or resolutions.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chairman of the meeting will adjourn the meeting to allow questions from members of the public.

After the questions the Chairman will reconvene the meeting.

The chairman, Cllr Hardy, allowed for questions and comments from the public in attendance wishing to speak on allotments to be heard prior to that item on the agenda to ensure the issue was fresh in the minds of the members of this committee.

i. Mr David Jones requested that the council draws up draft tenancy agreements prior to the transfer of allotments to the Town Council and welcomed the opportunity to support this process and a process of consultation with the allotment associations.

ii. Mr Nick Mannion of Moss Lane Allotments Society expressed that society's support for self-management of allotment sites. But sought definitions for eligibility criteria. Mr Mannion also highlighted that the dilapidation of fencing associated with the allotments at Moss Lane should be addressed by CEC prior to transfer.

Councillors clarified that Macclesfield Town Council does not have the financial capacity to address all the maintenance requirements of the allotments sites in Macclesfield and would seek to encourage CEC to carry out all essential maintenance work prior to transfer.

Mr Mannion also pointed out that he believed that the allotments in Macclesfield generated a small profit for CEC

iii. Mr John Russell of Broken Cross Allotment Society expressed that that society accepted the principle of self managed sites with an over-arching federation. However, he expressed concern as the society did not have sufficient funds or income to carry out the required maintenance to site and that he believed the responsibility lies with CEC.

Again councillors explained that Macclesfield Town Council does not have sufficient funds to carry out complete repairs on all the allotment sites in town and when the sites transfer there will not be a wholesale refurbishment of the sites.

iv. Clive from Baron's Lane Allotments raised the issue that as yet ANSA have not given an indication of the rents for 2015/16 which means that this society is collecting rents based on the assumption of the rents remaining the same. They are seeking clarification as to when charges will be confirmed by ANSA.

3. MINUTES OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21ST JULY 2015

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

4. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Cllr Dooley gave a verbal update on the progress for planning of the Christmas Lights Switch On event in the Town Centre. It was clarified that CEC's Town Centres Manager will be leading on the management of the event delivery and that Macclesfield Town Council had approved spend from the Christmas Lights Budget on 6th October 2015. The date of the lights switch on was also confirmed at Saturday 28th November.

The update was noted by the committee.

5. ALLOTMENTS

Members discussed at length the issues raised by members of the public, including requesting that Cheshire east Council carries out all necessary works prior to transfer of the sites to Macclesfield Town Council.

Members welcomed the work that had been done at Byron Street Allotments by the volunteers there to move the site towards self-management and indicated that Macclesfield Town Council would work with them to ensure that their work over the past 12 months was not undone by transfer to the Town Council.

It was clarified that the condition report would inform the negotiations with Cheshire east Council and that further photo evidence would be gathered. It was clarified that no monies were expected to be provided by Cheshire East Council at the point of transfer and that Macclesfield Town Council would be wholly responsible for financing the sites.

It was also clarified that the Town Clerk is the main point of contact within the council for allotments.

Resolved:

- i. That the Town Council's strategic delivery of allotments would support and move towards each site being self-managed.
- ii. That this committee delegates the negotiation of the transfer of allotments to Macclesfield Town Council to the Chairman of this Committee (Cllr Martin Hardy) and the Town Clerk.

6. BUDGET SETTING

Members discussed the rough draft budget headings and values to inform the budget setting process. Members discussed all the budget lines associated with this committee and gave clear thought to the provision of grants, consideration of provision for potential future assets,

communications and service delivery. Amendments were made to the draft budget headings which will be shared with the Finance Committee to inform budget setting.

7. CONDITION SURVEYS

Members reviewed the circulated condition survey and made the following comments:

The current refurbishment of Churchill Way public Toilets may address the issues raised in the condition survey. Verification of what is being done and where is required from CEC.

Members sought for improvements in the external lighting of the Weston Community Centre; clarification as to when the flat roof was last refurbished/installed; a list of hirers and detailed income/expenditure (including Non Domestic Rates and utilities).

8. CCTV

Members welcomed the visit to the CCTV Control Room on the evening of Friday 25/09/15, which was agreed to have been very informative and helpful. Members also mentioned that more detail on how the full capacity of the system could be used would be helpful. It was also raised that the CCTV service seemed to support and benefit businesses and the night time economy disproportionately and that there is no additional levy on these businesses to recognise this.

It was clarified that the cost of CCTV services was calculated on a per-camera basis across the borough and each local council was billed on a pro rata basis.

Members sought clarification on if there will be a proposed increase for 2016/17 to account for inflation and the potential addition of cameras at Waters Green and Sparrow Park; and who is responsible for ensuring the cameras have clear line of site (e.g. the cutting back of trees).

Resolved:

- i. The spend from the approved budget for 2015/16 is noted
- ii. That this committee will review the provision for 2017/18 to clearly inform budget setting for that year.

9. AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILATORS (AED)

Members discussed the circulated correspondence from the North West Ambulance Service.

Resolved: That the Town Clerk progress finding appropriate sites for AED and following approval from this committee, applies for funding if possible.

10. CAR PARKS

Cllr Hardy gave a verbal update, highlighting that CEC's Car Parking Strategy is some time off completion (expected in around 18 months) and it would be appropriate to await this strategy before any formal strategic decision is made.

Cllr Dooley provided details on the rateable values for the car parks previously offered to the town Council by CEC.

	Hibel Road	Kennedy Ave	Princess Way
Rateable Value (£)	3,050	2,400	1,825
Payable (£)	1,464	1,152	876

Resolved: That the committee awaits a Car Parking Strategy or further detailed information from Cheshire East Council before considering the transfer of car parks to the Town Council.

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. ASSET AND SERVICE DEVOLUTION FROM CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Resolved:

- i. That the Town Clerk writes to the CEC Programme Manager detailing the view of the committee as laid out in 4. ii. of the circulated Town Centre Management review Panel notes.
- ii. That as part of the Town Council's developing vision, the Town Centre Management Review Panel develop a project plan for the delivery of a Town Centre Economic Development Strategy, to include time scales and expected costs, and return to this committee with its findings.
- iii. See Closed Session Resolution File Note SC/201015/Item 11/res iii – Confidential until such a time as it is completed.

- iv. That the Town Clerk commences work to develop a town centre comfort scheme to facilitate public access to toilets
 - v. That the Town Clerk progresses the transfer of Weston Community Centre.
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12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Services Committee will be held on 8th December 2015 at Macclesfield Town Hall.