

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held at the Town Hall, 1 – 2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone, CT20 1DY on Tuesday, 1st February 2022 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Abena Akuffo – Kelly, Ann Berry, Peter Gane, Nicola Keen and Roger West (Chair).

In attendance: Vicky Deakin, Communities & Events Officer

1172. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Councillors Paul Bingham were received and approved.

1173. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

1174. MINUTES

The Committee were asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 10th October 2021 and to authorise the Chairman of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th October 2021 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1175. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING AND FESTIVITIES

The Communities and Events Officer updated the Committee on feedback from the Christmas 'Big Switch On' event on 6th November 2021 and presented initial proposals for the 2022 event.

After some discussion Members suggested the following:

- That the annual Festive Parade include pre-recorded festive music and Carols with the C & E Officer pursuing the possibility of involving the Rotary Club of Folkestone with their Father Christmas & Float.
- Replace the cloth tote gift bags with branded smaller paper bags to include items such as small neon glow sticks, branded bubbles and crayons.
- FTC consider / pursue the viability of delivering a Christmas market on Guildhall Street for the full day on the date of the Christmas 'Switch On' event.

1176. TOURISM WEBSITE

The Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee regarding the overall performance of the Visit Folkestone and Hythe tourism website, which launched in May 2018, and the target audience reached in the last 9 months with the feedback which had been received. A soft relaunch is proposed ahead of the Easter holiday this year.

Members were informed of a tourism website content call - out that FTC are currently conducting and communicating to all local tourism service providers offering the opportunity to update existing images and copy or provide brand new content to be published free of charge.

1177. ANNUAL KWIK CRICKET TOURNAMENT

The Committee were asked to consider approving this annual sports event to be organised for 2022 after the success and gratitude from all schools involved with the 2021 tournament.

RESOLVED: That the annual event be organised for a date convenient for primary schools to take part in May 2022 funded by the Youth Facilities Budget.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane
Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1178. AIR SHOW / ARMED FORCES DAY BUDGET 2022 / 23

The Communities & Events Officer reported that the Council had agreed £22,800 for the Air Show / Armed Forces Day 2022 event, however FTC is developing an application to host the 2023 National Armed Forces Day and are therefore planning a small - scale event for 2022. Members therefore considered reallocating the currently agreed funds to new budget codes and

RESOLVED: That providing FTC's funding support is acknowledged on all projects including those led by F & HDC with the installation of plaques at The Leas flowerbed planting site(s), the £22,800 budget Council agreed for 2022/23 should be reallocated viring to new budget codes where required as follows:

Air Show (FHDC Match Funding)	£4000
Armed Forces Day	£3800
QPJ - Beacons Event	£3000
QPJ – Canopy for the Reign	£6000
QPJ – Leas Flowerbed (FHDC Match Funding)	£6000

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen
Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

Members asked that the C & E Officer pursue the possibility of those schools, community & faith groups, youth organisations etc. that do not have sufficient / viable space to accommodate trees as part of the 'Canopy for the Reign', instead to have a large pot planted with a Queen Elizabeth Rose (both provided by FTC) to acknowledge the Queens Platinum Jubilee to ensure a fully inclusive initiative.

The C & E Officer was also asked to pursue the viability of trees being planted in the verge on the Birkdale Drive roundabout as part of the scheme.

1179. ARMED FORCES DAY

The Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee on the plans for FTC to host a lunch for local Veterans, Cadets and Military charity representatives this to acknowledge this years Armed Forces Day on Saturday 25th June 2022, with an agreed budget of £3,800.

Noted

1180. SUMMER OVER STREET UMBRELLAS STREET PROJECT

The Communities & Events Officer briefed the Committee on a proposal for an over street umbrella installation on Guildhall Street supported by local businesses, the Town Team and championed by Cllr Mary Lawes. The project is estimated to cost £17,000 ex VAT in the first year and £13,000 ex VAT per annum.

RESOLVED: That £2,000 be released from the 2021/22 Local Projects Budget subject to FTC supporting the project in approving a Town Grant application received at the next Full Council meeting.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo - Kelly

Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1181. ARTWORK

The Committee considered providing support for an application from local business MPL Group to the District Council's High Street Fund to install a new piece of artwork on the rear and side of their property in Rendezvous Street.

Further to Members reviewing the artists impression of the draft artwork it was

RESOLVED: That FTC support the application in principle based on a less dramatic and more sympathetic design for Folkestone than that of the current proposal being installed.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1182. FOLKESTONE MUSEUM REPORT CS/22/304

The Committee received and noted report CS/22/304.

1183. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5th April 2022 @ 7pm (provisional)

Meeting concluded at 7.40pm