

**CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY WELLBEING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 7.00pm via Zoom Link.

**Present** Cllr S. Exell  
Cllr D. Patey  
Cllr P. Exell  
Cllr J. Yeowell  
Cllr S. Henderson

**Officers** A Reeves (Parish Clerk)  
A Webb  
G Barr  
A Cripps  
J Smart  
A Briggs

**386 Apologies**  
**Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**

No declarations were received.

**387 Minutes of previous meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 were confirmed as an accurate record.

**388 Finance – Community Wellbeing Revenue & Capital Budget Approval**

The Head of Finance & Governance presented the proposed 2021/22 revenue budget projection to be submitted to FGP on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The total proposed budget is £236,054.

The major cost centres of note are:

£20,000 for the Adults Covid Programme  
£5,000 on Community Enhancements  
£30,000 on Community Officer Salaries  
£7,000 Disabled Youth initiative  
£71,000 of Library Salaries  
£10,000 for Library Community Events

The Clerk went through again the Adults Covid Programme and presented a slide outlining the NGB partnership options which we hope to commence from Summer 2021.

Cllr S Exell sought clarity on whether some additional staffing resource could be made permanent should demand require it. The Head of Finance & Governance advised that it could.

The Head of Finance & Governance then went through the proposed Capital programme.

Highlights included in the request include:

Penhill Community Requests  
17-seater Minibus  
Pembroke Gardens Youth service  
Moredon CC alterations

Cllr S Exell asked whether the proposed minibus would be adequate. The Clerk responded that the illustrated quote is second hand but mileage would be low and a brand new minibus would be in excess of £40,000 which may render the request liable to deferment; unless Councillors can produce further evidence of demand.

Cllr D Patey advised he would check if there are any electric vehicles suitable within his fleet. The Clerk thanked Cllr D Patey and advised he could not find any and had researched extensively. Cllr D Patey would get back to Councillors.

The Community & Youth Officer proposed investigating sponsorship opportunities to fund the revenue costs of the minibus. All agreed the Community & Youth Officer can look into this further.

**NOTED:** Councillors note, again, the proposed revenue and capital budgets to be presented to F&GP on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### **389 Grants Manager Update**

The Grants Manager presented the 2020/21 Grants Matrix update.

One application to note is the *Reaching Communities* bid and invited Councillors to attend the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 with the Lottery.

The Grants Manager is exploring options for Disability Youth & Inequalities Funding as well as £30,000 for up to 3 years to help fund the Youth Forum project.

An idea of whether to set up a bespoke Moredon Sports Hub website was suggested for future consideration, more will be known on project progress later in January/February where this can be considered. Cllr J Yeowell asked if British Cycling could fund this website. The Grants Manager advised we would want something Moredon centric rather than generic for the UK.

Cllr S Henderson reminded the committee of ensuring funding work is 'beneficiary led' and this application ethos should run through all externally funded applications.

Cllr S Exell asked the Grants manager to ensure electronic invites are applied where invitations are extended for funder meetings rather than embedded into an explanatory email. The Grants Manager agreed.

### 390 Community & Youth Officer Update

The Community Officer described the current initiative which he will continue to update Councillors on, although not exhaustive this includes:

- a. Working with SBC on NDTi Community Mapping initiative
- b. Communal Mental Health Allotment plots with specialist growing support.
- c. Arval sponsored 52 Christmas gift and food hampers delivered to vulnerable families in December; with assistance from Glinn Hambidge and Swindon Wildcats.

The Community & Youth Officer advised that the regular all year Lunch Club support is better prepared for subsequent lockdowns as the enrolment process has been improved. It's envisaged that covers could further increase through 2021 and this will be reported back.

The Parish Clerk asked that in order to deliver these projects that Councillors approve a plan from the Community & Youth Officer to respond to a potential full winter CV19 lockdown into April 2021. This will be considered when it came to a motion.

Cllr S Exell asked how 'safe places' could be provided for young people in dark winter months who may not be or feel safe or content at home.

The Community & Youth Officer concurred and recognised Online Zoom youth sessions worked initially but interest has waned. In response Cllr S Exell was advised Officers had attended a Webinar with the National Youth Agency which went through the impact of youth work during Tier 4 or Tier 5 restrictions who has raised the issue with Central Government.

The Community officer advised that a group of up to 15 young people can operate indoors in some circumstances and this number includes youth workers. The Community worker advised that some form of youth sessions will continue at Pinetrees Community centre.

Cllr J Yeowell asked if there were signs the Government had distributed the ICT hardware for lockdown periods as promised. The Community & Youth Officer responded that some had been received but this would be a matter for the Multi Academy Trust to take up with the DoE.

Cllr S Exell asked if spend was available for casual staff if needed. The Clerk advised that £3.5k was made available for casual staff and none of this has yet been drawn.

The Clerk recommended that the Community & Youth Officer creates a timeline for the next meeting of CV19 related activity during the anticipated lockdown between January-April 2021; taking into account the legislative restrictions highlighted from the NYA conference update on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. In addition to permit the Clerk to provide up to £500 towards the food project as a last resort where external supplies may be exhausted.

The Community & Youth Officer advised that reluctantly the Disabled Youth programme won't be able to progress until after Lockdown.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community & Youth Officer creates a timeline for the next meeting of CV19 related activity during the anticipated lockdown between January-April 2021; taking into account the legislative restrictions highlighted from the National Youth Agency conference update on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. In addition to permit the Clerk to provide up to £500 towards the food project as a last resort where external supplies may be exhausted.

### **391 Social Care Legislation**

Cllr S Henderson advised he had sent an email briefing as the meeting started in relation to 'Care Act Easements'.

The changes relate mainly in how resident's qualify for care and some changes to the ways LA's provide financial assistance. LA's now have the powers to charge costs retrospectively.

Cllr S Exell drew Councillors attention to an article in the national press where the funding bar is set exceptionally high and this is affecting residents, particularly in rural areas.

It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Andy Stevens to discuss the impact of care changes in Swindon specifically.

**NOTED:** Councillors agreed to note Cllr S Henderson's email and verbal update.

### **392 Accessible Play Areas**

The Estates Manager presented the agenda for the Play Area working group meeting to take place on January 7<sup>th</sup> and invited Committee Councillors to make comment on this.

The Estates Manager subsequently advised on the progress of the Play Area DDA reports and committed to reporting the outcome back through this committee. Completion date is uncertain given current restrictions of movement.

The Clerk advised that the audit should condition the capital spend set against play areas. Recommendations should have the ability to be implemented.

Cllr J Yeowell asked for a sensory area and wanted it to be considered in future refurbishments. Cllr S Exell reiterated the importance of sensory areas and asked that the Council becomes a 'sensory area exemplar'.

Cllr S Henderson advised of the ongoing issues in the quality of the Nightingale Rise/Bates Way play area, a space outside the auspices of the Parish Council. The Estates Manager committed to contacting the site manager of the management company to discuss the concerns.

Cllr S Henderson again expressed his frustrations at the separate arrangements in areas with management organisations and how the added layer of bureaucracy slows down the resolution of resident concerns.

**NOTED:** Councillors agreed to note the Estates Manager's verbal update.

### 393 Communications Update

Cllr S Exell mentioned that Communications are always the last item. The Clerk advised that in February he will ensure Communications are first on the agenda.

The Press Officer reiterated the need for a newsletter to promote the extensive good work of Councillors, even during Covid. The Clerk advised that this will be the case and we were forced to dispose of the previous newsletters already printed on legal advice.

Cllr J Yeowell asked if Royal Mail deliver the newsletters and asked the proposed publishing timeline and a list of useful numbers in the newsletter. The Clerk advised Royal Mail do not deliver.

The Press Officer advised he intends to complete the newsletter draft within the next two weeks.

The Community officer asked if a yearly project of 'Parish Pride' could be considered, in a similar context to Pride of Swindon.

Cllr P Exell asked if a Community Spotlight could be included in the newsletter. The Press Officer confirmed he would look into this and report back in February.

Cllr S Henderson raised that the Press Officer raised at a 121 with the Chair that he did not have the right AV equipment and needed to purchase more. The Press Officer advised he had purchased the equipment already after speaking with the Clerk.

The Press Officer advised he would be setting up further Ward Meetings in relation to Capital spends. The Press Officer advised that over the next 10 days he will be contacting all ward members to set these up.

The Press Officer advised he will help the Clerk & Grants Manager craft the Community Plan & Vision and will attend the working group in January.

Cllr S Exell asked that the layout be aligned with the multi layered Plymouth model previously agreed. The Press Officer confirmed this is the case.

**NOTED:** Councillors agreed to note the Press Officers verbal update.

**Cllr S Exell closed the meeting at 20:58 and thanked all involved. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021**