

ASHBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2024 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall.

Present: Councillors: Cllr's Mr A Bates; Mrs D Brown; Mr E Brown; Dr G Clark; Mrs Cooper; Ms J Keyne; Ms B Michalek; Ms S Moore; Mr M Spencer and Mrs A Smith

In attendance: Carole Dean; Town Clerk; Samantha Higton; Assistant Clerk.
Mr Clayton and Mr Warren; FoAP

A/24/1705 Apologies for absence

Cllr Mr P Chell

A/24/1706 Variation of Order of Business

Cllr Mrs Brown asked that a letter be sent to DCC and DDDC regarding the unlawful encampment in Ashbourne. It was RESOLVED to add this as agenda Item 9 (a)

The Clerk asked that an additional item relating to Christmas 2024 event: assistance with getting barriers out of the cellar on Thursday for the event on Saturday 16 November

It was RESOLVED to add this as agenda item 7(h)

A/24/1707 Declarations of Members Interests

None received

A/24/1708 To receive and approve requests for dispensations from members on matters in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

None received

A/24/1709 Public Questions and Comments – (3 Minutes per speaker a maximum 15 Minutes in total)

Cllr Moore stated that the grit bin on Lodge Avenue green space had been cleared of water and rubbish; however, a resident had asked that it remain. Cllr Moore suggested leaving it in situ for this winter to see if it was used

Cllr Bates stated that an email had been circulated to DDDC ward members advising that the responsibility of evicting the travellers was the responsibility of DCC as it was their land. He added that an eviction notice had been sought; however, it would take a while to enforce.

Cllr Bates stated that the Levelling Up works would start on the 6 January; and St John Street would be closed for 19 weeks starting after Shrovetide

Cllr Mrs Brown asked that residents concerns regarding the works to Henmore Bridge be raised with Ashbourne Reborn

A/24/1710 Presentation by FoAP on their proposed 'tree lined walkway' across the recreation ground

Mr Clayton thanked members for the opportunity to give the presentation; he stated that the proposal had been circulated to all members. Mr Clayton explained how and why the idea has evolved following meetings with groups who use the recreation ground on a regular basis. Mr Clayton said that the proposal had been costed and £15,000 had been offered by Ashbourne Partnership Trust and the remaining money be raised through a go-fund me page.

Members raised questions and concerns about whether the tree-lining of the path; including whether it would impact on the proposed extension to the pavilion or on Town Council events held on the space.

The Assistant Clerk asked why Ashbourne Partnership Trust were insisting on the path being tree-lined, and that when the path is put in place it would show whether the ground was suitable for planting and growing trees: Mr Warren stated that they wanted it to be part of the heritage of Lady Cokayne. Mr Clayton stated that FoAP were looking for the Town Council's support of their proposal. It was RESOLVED that a letter supporting the proposal in principle be agreed.

A/24/1711 Christmas 2024 update on the event

a) Members to note that all Town Council events are to be marshalled by Councillors as per the Risk Assessment and Insurance

The Clerk advised that it was noted that fewer Councillors were assisting with marshalling Town Council events: and if this is likely to be the case going forward the Risk Assessment and Insurance would have to be altered to reflect it.

Members questioned what affect this might have; it was noted that additional security may be needed which would have an additional cost. Members RESOLVED to adjust the Risk Assessment and Insurance to show eight (8) Councillors as marshalls for the event

b) Update from Christmas Committee meeting on Wednesday 23 October

The Clerk advised that there had been an issue with the delivery of the Christmas brochures: and all other aspects of the event were going to plan

c) Members to confirm availability to assist on the night

Cllr's Mr A Bates; Mrs D Brown; Mr E Brown; Dr G Clark; Ms J Keyne; Ms B Michalek; Ms S Moore; Mr M Spencer and Mrs A Smith were available to assist on the night. It was noted that Cllr's P Chell and Mrs Spencer would also be available to assist

d) Members to confirm availability to assist with food vendor locations (appx 4.30pm on the night)

Cllr Clark suggested that some-one should be appointed as a co-ordinator based in the Town Hall and advise Members where assistance was required

e) Members to advise availability to assist with putting out road closure, diversion signs and barriers (5.00pm on the night)

Cllr's Mr E Brown; Mr P Chell; Dr G Clark; Ms B Michalek and Ms S Moore and stated that they would assist with putting out road closure, diversion signs and barriers in place at 5.00pm on the night

f) Members to advise availability to assist with collecting the road closure, diversion signs and barriers and taking them to Town Hall (appx 8.35pm)

It was noted that Cllr Chell had stated he would assist with collecting road closure, diversion signs and barriers and taking them to Town Hall at appx 8.35pm on the night.

Members stated that it might be worth looking at getting a business to assist with this from next year with the cost being factored into the event

g) Members to note the Lost & found will be located in the Town Hall (Tim Baker & Denyse Donnelly to cover)

Members noted the information

h) Members to advise availability to assist with getting the barriers from the cellar for the Christmas Light Switch-On Event on Saturday 16 November

Cllr's A Bates and E Brown stated that they would get the barrier from the cellar on Thursday 14 November ready for the event

A/24/1712 To inform Members of a request for a Skatepark in Ashbourne, enquirer advised to contact DDDC

The Clerk advised that this would be the responsibility of DDDC; Members asked that the content of the letter be passed on to DDDC

A/24/1713 Members to consider and decide on whether a ‘time capsule’ should be buried within the Millenium Square project

Members raised no objection to a time capsule being buried within the Millenium Square project

A/24/1714 Cllr Mrs Brown – Consideration of writing to DCC and DDDC in relation to the travellers on Watery Lane

Cllr Mrs Brown asked that the following be sent to DCC and copied to DDDC.

Ashbourne Town Council strongly recommend that DDDC & DCC commence legal action to evict the travellers illegally camped on the old highway’s depot, Watery Lane, Mayfield Road, Ashbourne.

Ashbourne Town Council is led to believe that the travellers unlawfully accessed this site by breaking and entering. The process for an eviction notice needs to be started immediately along with police action for breaking into the land. Ashbourne Town Council would like to be kept updated with when the process is started.

It was RESOLVED that the content of the letter be agreed and sent

A/24/1715 Chair to sign the Minutes (Previously approved and ratified)

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be signed by the Chair

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Chairman.....

Date.....