

ASHBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 13 August 2024 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall.

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

In attendance: Carole Dean; Town Clerk; Samantha Higton; Assistant Clerk.
Cllr R Currie; four members of the public.

A/24/1668 Apologies for absence

None received.

A/24/1669 Variation of Order of Business

The Clerk asked that an Agenda Item deferred from the Finance, Town Hall & HR Committee be added to the agenda due to timescales. Members to decide and agree whether to appoint a Councillor as the representative on the Town Team 'BID' panel.

It was RESOLVED to add this as Agenda Item 7 and move the rest of the Agenda on.

A/24/1670 Declarations of Members Interests

Cllr Moore declared a conflict of interest in Agenda Item 7.

A/24/1671 To receive and approve requests for dispensations from members on matters in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

None received.

A/24/1672 Public Questions and Comments – (3 Minutes per speaker a maximum 15 Minutes in total)

Cllr Currie stated that he felt Agenda Item 6 had already been discussed by Members and it served no purpose in being discussed further.

A member of Proud of Ashbourne stated that the group had invested a lot in the town; they were often stopped and thanked for the work they carried out. They felt that keeping the weeds and hedgerows down was a natural extension to litter picking and it was very important.

They added that the place looked a 'tip' and many of the group spent hours on their hands and knees weeding.

Cllr Bates stated the consultation on car parking was now open and urged people to complete the survey. Cllr Bates stated that the Monitoring Officer at DDDC had tendered their resignation and would be leaving at the end of October.

Cllr Bates stated that the designs for the levelling up project had been agreed with the exception of Shrovetide Walk.

A/24/1673 Spraying of Weeds and Hedge Cutting.

a) Members to discuss answering questions and comments raised by DDDC Cllr Lees regarding weed spraying in public areas and hedge cutting on private land.

Cllr Moore stated that she was surprised at the agenda item as Proud of Ashbourne had not received an invitation to attend the meeting or had any prior contact raising any concerns.

Cllr Moore stated that the wording of the Minutes had been 'sensationalising and half-truths'.

Cllr Moore stated that Proud of Ashbourne were best known for litter picking; however, in May they had cleared the flood on the Tissington Trail and an extension of the work they carry out is weed clearing and cutting back hedges.

Cllr Moore stated that the weed spraying was done late at night when fewer people were around, and they had only done it once this year; they also weeded between the cobbles.

Cllr Moore stated that the cutting back of hedgerows was done in areas where landowners aren't doing it; she added that DDDC did not have the resources to do the work DCC did not do the work.

b) Members to agree and decided whether any regulations / policies or laws have been broken and agree on any course of action (if applicable).

Cllr Mr Brown stated that he wasn't aware of any Town Council regulation or policies that had been broken; however he suggested that the group were on the side of caution.

A/24/1674 Members to decide and agree whether to appoint a Councillor as the representative on the Town Team 'BID' panel.

The Clerk advised that it had been agreed that Cllr Currie and Cllr Mrs Spencer would be the appointed members from Town Council however the Town Team now asked for it be one member to be on the 'BID' panel.

Members RESOLVED that if Cllr Currie was happy to continue as the Council representative he be appointed. Cllr Currie stated that he was happy to be the representative.

A/24/1675 Christmas 2024

a) Update from Cllr Bates on the Christmas Committee meeting on Tuesday 23 July.

Cllr Bates stated that Ashbourne Arts were having difficulty with finding a location to hold the Lantern workshops: the group were looking into entertainment for the event including after the parade. He added that the brochure was in the process of being drawn up and a new graphics designer was assisting with this. The Assistant Clerk stated that the TEN's, Road Closures and use of the Market Place had all be applied for and Security; First Aid and Dove Radio had been booked for the event.

The Rugby Club had confirmed they would do Santa's grotto which will be in the Greenman yard.

b) Members to consider whether to have Solar Christmas Tree's as in previous years.

Members RESOLVED to have the same number of Solar Christmas trees on Derby Road as per last year. The Assistant Clerk advised that the cost was the same £890.00+VAT which includes delivery and installation. The Assistant Clerk advised that she had received the quotation for the Market Place Christmas tree, £920.00+VAT and £750.00 +VAT for delivery and installation and this would be delivered on Friday 8th November.

c) Update on Charity Stall's, Commercial Stalls and food vendors for the event.

The Assistant clerk stated that the Christmas Committee had asked to review and possibly amend the letter that is sent out to charities asking if they wished to attend the event. To date there were three enquiries from charities who wished to attend and four enquiries from traders.

Super Nosh; Klassic Donuts; Amaze and Alvis Curries had confirmed they wish to attend the event and enquiries had been sent to a Taco Van and Woodfire pizza company.

A/24/1676 Members to consider whether to update and or amend the Town Council's Heritage Maps.

(An A1 size map will be available at the meeting for Members to suggest any updates or amendments).

The Assistant Clerk stated that she had found ten amendments to the original design.

The Clerk advised that if Members wished to update the map including new additions an estimate would be need for it to be included in the budget for 2025/26.

It was RESOLVED to ask for a quotation for 30 amendments.

A/24/1677 Members to consider and respond to an event enquiry for Ashbourne Cricket Club Junior Presentation & Sponsor's Day to be held 15 September; 11.00 – 19.00 includes set up and take down times.

Members raised No Objections to the event.

A/24/1678 Members to consider and respond to an event enquiry for Ashbourne Rugby Club Golf Fun Day to be held 1 September; 12.30 – 18.30 includes set up and take down times.

Members raised No Objections to the event.

A/24/1679 Update from Members on the outline events for the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII.

Members agreed to defer the item and asked that the date for the National Event be advised at the meeting in September.

A/24/1680 Chair to sign the Minutes (Previously approved and ratified).

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be signed by the Chair.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman.....

Date.....