

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

5th September 2022,
The Guildhall

Present:

Cllr Rowlands
Cllr Reynolds

Cllr Irwin
Cllr Jackson

Cllr Williams
Cllr Perkin

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

Public Questions

None

015. Apologies for Absence

None.

016. Declarations of Interest

None

017. Minutes

Cllr Rowlands proposed, seconded by Cllr Williams and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Community Committee dated 4th July 2022.***

018. Community Engagement Strategy

Cllr Jackson asked about the new noticeboard and plans for installation are in hand. The existing noticeboard is awaiting new Perspex.

Councillors asked for a budget infographic of money spent within the community. It was noted that the demographic for Facebook followers on the Town Council pages were almost 70% women, aged 25+ and similar for Instagram. There was a brief discussion about TikTok, which is another medium officers are exploring.

019. Community Events and Awareness Calendar

Cllr Perkin noted she was working with several people on ideas to mark Black History Month in October. The exhibition space in the Town Hall will be available for the first two weeks, as the latter part of October will see an exhibition on Nelson in the Swale, for Trafalgar Day.

Other events noted were the Howl-o-ween event for dogs and families. Proposed future events included a medieval weekend and a celebration to mark 50 years of the Town Council in 2024.

Cllr Perkin confirmed she will continue to provide graphics to mark awareness days.

020. Working with Vibe

Cllr Jackson raised concerns that certain age groups were not engaged at the recent events run by Vibe and also the lack of outreach work. It was questioned how young people were selected to attend the Flip Out session. A progress meeting had been scheduled with Vibe for later in the month.

Cllr Rowlands noted the research being undertaken regarding a skateboard ramp at the Mount. Early indication of costings were around £50,000 and this was not something available in the budget. The Mount is a sloping site which may have added to the high cost of groundworks, Cllr Irwin suggested looking at Lionfield, which was a more level site. Cllr Irwin felt as it was the first time a group of young people had approached the Council for something, they had a duty to explore it further.

It was agreed to request a meeting with Graeme Tuff of SBC.

021. Christmas Light Switch On Event

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

Cllr Rowlands proposed, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the Night Market event to support the Christmas Lights Switch On, subject to getting further costings for bands***

022. Energy Efficiency

Cllr Perkin raised her concerns over energy costs and noted she had met with groups to discuss a cost of living summit to find a way of working together. The Town Clerk's report was noted on warm banks and a pay it forward system and a discussion on possible solutions took place.

Cllr Irwin noted that a meeting of Faversham Charities Networking group was taking place and it was agreed that the Town Clerk should attend.

Cllr Rowlands proposed, seconded by Cllr Williams and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the recommendations to:***

- ***Set up discussions with local community and voluntary sector organisations with a view to establishing warm bank projects with the aim to offer a range of sites, activities and times across the week during the coming winter.***
- ***Set up discussions with local hospitality businesses with a view to establishing a Faversham PiF scheme.***
- ***Collate information on available support.***
- ***Agree a program of social media posts and articles for the newsletter.***
- ***Call on Swale Borough Council and Kent County Council to support initiatives to provide warm and welcoming spaces with appropriate funding.***

023. Faversham and District Community Lottery

The lottery report was noted.

024. Items for Report

Cllr Irwin noted the campaign 'Are you ok?' regarding street harassment. The Town Clerk confirmed she had also seen it and would share it on the Council's social media channels.

Cllr Rowlands noted that he had received information from The Mayor that evening, following a meeting with UK Finance, discussing the way forward with the lack of banks in the town. Link Network had an innovative pilot project and will be consulting with residents and businesses in the near future. Groups were invited to email the Mayor if they wished to participate. A press release was expected the next day.