



TOWN CENTRE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Committee meeting held on Monday 22nd February 2021 at 19.00hrs.
Meeting held with remote attendance

Present

Chair: Councillor M Smith

Committee Members: Councillors: J Buzckowski, J Johns and J Lochhead

In Attendance:

Councillors: I Emmett

Officers: J Norris (Town Clerk), M Weston (Deputy Town Clerk)

Weekly Market Representative: S Robinson

Farmers Market Representative: S Jones

2 members of the public attended the meeting

TCED 72. Chair's Announcements

The Vice-Chair opened the meeting as the Chair wasn't present.

TCED 73. Apologies For Absence

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Andrews.

19:09hrs Cllr Smith joined the meeting and took the Chair

TCED 74. Declarations of Interests

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- (i) Cllr Smith declared a personal interest in agenda No 11 - CCTV - as he is Chair of the Town Team.

TCED 75. Public Participation

This agenda item allows members of the public present at the meeting to raise matters which are relevant to the work of the Committee.

Speaker 1

The Speaker wanted to re-iterate what he has sent to the Council with the regard to the campaign for We're Backing Britain. The speaker stated it is something he is very passionate about because he has been in business all his life and feels that this is a crucial point in time .

The Speaker says he understands that there are protocols and procedures which the Town Council has to follow but he is just looking for a statement to say in principle where the Council could, they would if possible attempt to buy locally or buy British. The country is in debt to a greater extent than ever before and lots of people on furlough and the forecast is that when the furlough scheme comes to an end there will be millions of people unemployed and there is little we can do as individuals but we can attempt to buy British. Local businesses that have been approached have agreed it is a good idea. The speaker is disappointed with the Town Council's response so far.

We're Backing Britain is a group of organisation and businesses that have come together to make the in principle statement "We're Backing Britain"

Speaker 2

Speaker 2 is a resident of Church Street and said that it would have been nice for residents of Church Street to have received information that CCTV on Church Street was being considered and that it was on the Agenda. Most anti social behaviour in Church Street is about traffic offences which would not be covered by the CCTV and has the impact of displacement activity been considered

TCED 76. Minutes

Consideration was given to the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2021. (Supporting Paper A to the Agenda)

RESOLVED that subject to the minute numbering being corrected the draft minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

TCED 77. Action List

The Action List relating to the Town Centre and Economic Development Committee was received and reviewed. (Supporting Paper B to the Agenda)

TCED 78. Financial Matters

Information about the Town Centre and Economic Development Committee income, expenditure and commitments, compared to the 2020/21 budget estimates was received and reviewed. (Supporting Paper C to the Agenda)

TCED 79. Market Updates

(i) An oral report from the weekly market representative as received.

There are plans to re-start the weekly market in early March with a "soft launch" and 3 stalls have indicated they will be present; the layout is likely to have gazebos facing the road but with gaps between each gazebo to assist with social distancing.

It was suggested that local businesses selling essential goods could be encouraged to have a stall.

There will be more formal relaunch on 14 April with music and activities.

(ii) An oral report from the Farmers' Market representative was received.

There have been 2 markets since the last Committee meeting; a 1 way system has been put into operation and there was a marshal at the last market and overall the system is working well but there is still a problem with space for people to maintain social distancing whilst queuing.

An application has been made to the Highways Authority to use some parking spaces at every Farmers Market but they have been advised there would be a charge for this – albeit a reduced one.

RESOLVED that the recent coverage of the Farmers Market by BBC was noted and that a letter – be sent from the Committee saying thank you and congratulations to those involved.

TCED 80. Outdoor Team Report

A report was received from the Outdoor Team about recent and planned work. (Supporting Paper D to the Agenda)

TCED 81. St Andrew's Car Park

- (i) Consideration was given to the reinstatement of charges for parking in St Andrew's Car Park, taking into account relevant restrictions and advice pertaining to the COVID 19 Pandemic.
- (ii) To consider arrangements for the enforcement of parking regulations (Supporting Paper E to the Agenda)

RESOLVED

- (i) To enter into a fixed fee agreement with Devon County Council or the enforcement of parking regulations and machine maintenance at a cost of £2,400 per annum starting on 1 April 2021
- (ii) That charges in St Andrew's car park are re-introduced with effect from 1 April 2021
- (iii) That Devon County Council are asked to start not to start enforcement of payment for 2 weeks i.e. until 12 April 2021 so that people are given an opportunity to get into the routine of payment.

TCED 82. CCTV

A request from the Town Team regarding an additional CCTV Camera in Church Street was considered. (Supporting Paper F to the Agenda)

RESOLVED that subject to support from the residents of Church Street the Town Council will be happy to support the Town Team initiative to provide an additional camera.

Note: Cllr Smith had declared a personal interest in this agenda item.

TCED 83. Back Britain Campaign

Information regarding the Back Britain Campaign was considered. (Supporting Paper G to the Agenda)

RESOLVED to recommend to Council that the Town Council will endeavour to support local businesses and traders when it is making procurement decisions and continues to support the buy local ethos and the Town Council will strive to promote the local economy.

TCED 84. Floral Enhancements

Consideration was given to the summer planting arrangements for the various planters and hanging baskets in the town centre (Supporting Paper H to the Agenda)

RESOLVED

- (i) that businesses are provided with filled hanging baskets free of charge on the condition that they water and maintain them throughout the summer months.
- (ii) That the Town Clerk is given delegated authority, following consultation with Cllrs Johns and Emmett, to accept quotations for the plants and planting of baskets and planters.

TCED 85. Verge Grass Cutting

Consideration was given to the grass cutting regime for verges in the parish that is currently funded by the Town Council (Supporting Paper I to the Agenda)

It was agreed that a Working Group comprising Cllrs Buczkowski, Emmett and Smith look at the maps and visit sites as appropriate and then make suggestions to the March Committee as to what should and shouldn't be paid for by contributions from the Town Council.

The Town Clerk was asked to contact Devon County Council to request the state what areas they feel are essential to be cut from a safety perspective.

TCED 86. Bus Shelter Cleaning

The regime for cleaning bus shelters that is currently funded by the Town Council was considered. (Supporting Paper J to the Agenda)

21:00hrs **RESOLVED** to extend the meeting for 10 minutes until 21:10hrs

The Town Clerk was requested to investigate and report back to a future Committee meeting.

- (i) The current cleaning frequency
- (ii) The possibility of selling advertising on the bus shelters that in turn would help pay for the cleaning costs.

TCED 87. Members Questions

This agenda item is to give Councillors an opportunity to ask questions which are relevant to the work of the Committee.

Station Rd toilets - what is the intended situation regarding toilets during construction. The Town Clerk was able to respond that the Town Council has said it expects a public toilet to be provided at all times during the new construction and it must be to the same accessibility standard etc as the current toilet.

The meeting closed at 21:11hrs