

Minutes of Community Services Committee Held Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr D Mullen

Councillors : Cllr Jo Burns, Cllr C Carragher, Cllr R Ferguson, Cllr F Sharp

Officers : P Dillon, S Larking

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mullen and Cllr June Burns in attendance at 6:30pm. Meeting suspended at 6:31pm. Cllr Carragher and Cllr Sharp joined the meeting. Meeting resumed at 6:40pm.

Apologies have been received from Cllr P Mc Kinley, Cllr J Sayers, Cllr Y Sayers, Cllr A Carr, Cllr T Hughes

2 Declarations of Interest

None received

3 Public Participation.

None notified.

4 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 13th October 2021 be approved as a correct record

5 Budget 2022/23

Members considered the draft budget for 2022/23. The Community Services Manager noted the following points:

- Increase in overheads to reflect changes to National Insurance and proposed national pay increase
- Events income likely to be £2,000 as Sharlands Family Fun Fair want to visit twice
- No change to supplier budget from 2021/22
- Budget to be presented to Finance and General Purposes Committee on 8th December 2021
- Youth budget reduced to £4,000 as budget had not been spent in recent years
- Funds can be vired between budget heads
- Active Soccer not able to go into schools so not yet able to use funding allocated prior to lockdown

Key points raised by Cllrs

- Would like to ring fence and increase funding for youth activities as funding not been used due to Covid
- Clarification sought about Common Place and how data would be used
- Clarification sought on grants awarded
- Would like to provide additional support, up to £500, to Maghull Food bank for Christmas from Youth Budget for Pyjamas and selection boxes

Response from Community Services Manager

- Common Place is a Citizens Engagement Tool. Can be used to seek feedback about issues e.g. traffic, impact of development and facilities in Maghull. It will provide objective facts and feedback in real time. Data will be analysed and used by the Council. It will not be harvested.
- £2,500 of grants awarded. £2,000 to Maghull in Bloom. [Note £500 for St James Church for a Hub] Application received from Maghull and District Lions. Applications expected from Maghull Foodbank and Maghull Radio
- Council is supporting Maghull Foodbank. Grounds Maintenance Team to help with move to new base in early December. Will promote new location on social media. Will be providing 13 hampers for families. Will contact Foodbank about what size PJs they need and how many selection boxes. Costs to be agreed with Chair.

RESOLVED that

- 1. Youth Budget to be ring fenced and increased**
- 2. Funding up to £500 from Youth Budget for Maghull Foodbank for Christmas items. Details to be agreed with Chair**
- 3. Report be noted**

6 Christmas Activities

Members received an update on Christmas activities:

Hampers: Officers had contacted everyone on list from 2020 and received nominations from partner agencies. 87 recipients identified (60/40 split between families and single people). Any Lydiate nominations passed to Lydiate Parish Council. Referrals requested from Cllrs by end of week. Cost of hamper items approximately £1,700. Working with Morrisons to supply food items. Aiming to deliver hampers in week of 13 December. Support from Cllrs welcome to deliver hampers.

Shop Window Competition: Mayor of Maghull and President of Rotary Club (David Hartley) will visit shops to judge the best Christmas Window Display. Not planning publicity

Christmas Tree: Living Tree had died. Massams to provide a tree and Jenkins to dress the tree. Plan is to get another living tree.

Fuel Poverty: Information from Sefton Council and Leap (Local Energy Advice Partnership) to be included with hampers

Digital Inclusion: Will be working with Maghull Radio in the New Year to promote digital inclusion via smart speakers

Cllr Sharp updated Members on his plans for Bobbys Wood

- Local farmer will provide bales of hay for Santa and fencing free of charge.
- Cost of spray paint for bales of hay £150
- Cost of 3 wooden reindeer £100
- Post box for letters to Santa required. No costs provided
- An alternative to Bobbys Wood is a local school - St Georges or Hudson

Key points from discussion:

- As unable to offer Christmas Lunch consider a tea dance for older residents in the spring
- Sefton have decided not to replace living tree as they were not surviving - original and replacement trees in some locations (e.g. Waterloo and Birkdale) had died
- Add Sefton CVS information in hampers to help reduce isolation
- It was noted that the Clerk had concerns about proposal for bales of hay in a park
- Plans for Bobbys Wood a lovely idea but not an ideal location. Issues about ASB in the area
- Reindeers to go by Christmas Tree in KGV Park rather than Bobbys Wood
- Concerns about cost of paint. £150 too expensive. Up to £150 available for project - paint, reindeer and post box
- Concerns that letters to Santa would need to be answered

RESOLVED that

- 1. Hay bale Santa display not to be placed in Bobbys Wood on safety grounds**
- 2. Up to £150 to be available for paint, reindeers and post box if a local school wants hay bale Santa display - risk assessment advised**
- 3. The report be noted**

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Community Wealth Building

Note: Cllr Ferguson joined the meeting at 7:35pm.

Members considered the verbal report. Project, led by the Leader of the Council, responds to Sefton's focus on Crosby, Bootle and Southport. It has a number of elements:

Anchor Organisations: To create a network of organisations to work with the Council to improve and develop the offer to the Community e.g. a local shopping scheme. Officers have developed a list of key organisations including health, retail, education and local businesses. A letter has been drafted to send to Organisations to test interest.

Community Café: Considering proposals for a café in the Activity Room to raise money for the Council. Had been hold as Sefton were considering proposals for a café in the agile working area at the Meadows Leisure Centre. Sefton recently decided not to progress proposals. Amenities Manager revisiting proposals for Activity Room as Grounds Maintenance Team urgently need accommodation as porta cabin no longer suitable. Original proposals to Veolia for reconfiguring Activity Room rejected as space for MTC staff would not be open to the public

Learning Foundry: An offshoot of Regender Housing. Looking at developing training for young adults (19+) and traineeships (16-24) in Maghull. Project fully funded but may require room hire. Community Services Officer will explore what is on offer and how the Council can support

Common Place: Will help understand gaps in the Town and identify the impact of large scale development. Would welcome input to questions to ask. Noted that a Maghull in Bloom Survey in the Square had identified that 20% of respondents were not from Maghull.

The Square: Phil Murphy a new contact for London and Cambridge Properties (LCP). Plans for a pop up stall in unit 10 not progressed as LCP in discussion with new tenants. LCP would like to meet to discuss working together

Parking at the Town Hall: Options for charging for parking being considered

Electric Vehicle Charging Point: Getting quotes for installing fast charging points to meet future demand. Would need to do some market testing. Cost around £7,500 for 2 charging points. Could generate income. Will bring proposals back to Committee when further developed.

Key points raised in discussion:

- Create a website/WhatsApp group for local businesses
- Look at how other Councils e.g. Altrincham have used empty units to create a vibrant community including a food market
- Clarify role of Council - not an entrepreneurial business
- Defer the item as need more information and not sighted on draft letter to anchor groups
- Letter should be circulated to Cllrs before it is issued
- Disappointed that heard about proposals for a café and charging for parking at the Town Hall second/third hand via a new in post Sefton Officer
- Concerns raised about the tone of a letter to Sefton Officers about Maghull
- Cafes around Town Hall. Should be supporting them not in competition
- Some scoping carried out by a Maghull Cllr to understand costs and benefits of a cafe. Visited Lydiate and found out the following: Lydiate Parish Council received a grant to open café in Sandy Lane Park. Funding for 12 months for salaries. No other cafes nearby so no direct competition. At first were taking around £50 a day this has dropped to between £5 - £6 a day
- Proposals for a not for profit community hub in Glenn Park put forward. Local trades people offered to refurbish the building. Proposals not supported
- Do not need to introduce parking charges to develop proposals for the car park - boot fair/ market suggested as options to generate income
- Noted that Roy Evans Foundation unable to commit to project in Maghull
- Built relationship with retail partners e.g. LCP and Morrisons
- Sefton are carrying out a survey of residents in Bootle and Seaforth which may help inform questions for Common Place

RESOLVED THAT

- 1. More information to be provided on wealth building proposals and to be discussed with Cllrs. Meeting with Cllr McKinley to be arranged.**
- 2. Draft letter to anchor organisations to be circulated**
- 3. Community Services Officer to progress proposals with LCP and Learning Foundry**
- 4. The report be noted**

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Mayoral Achievement Award

It was proposed that 3 Cllrs from Community Services Committee consider applications. Those not successful to be considered for Civic Awards. Aiming for a Civic Awards Event in Spring 2022.

An update on offering the Freedom of Maghull was requested.

RESOLVED that.

- 1. 3 Cllrs from Community Services Committee to be on panel to consider applications**
- 2. An update to be provided on offering the Freedom of Maghull**
- 3. The report be noted.**

9 Grant Application

Members considered the request for funding for £665 from Maghull and District Lions to promote the Message in a Bottle (MiB) scheme.

It was noted that the Town Clerk had approved free room hire at the Town Hall for the Lions.

After careful consideration Members decided not to approve a grant for the MiB scheme. Officers to inform the Lions.

RESOLVED that

- 1. Request for funding for Message in Bottle scheme not be approved. Officers to inform the Lions**
- 2. The report be noted**

10 Chair's Report

The Chair reminded members to take care as ASB is an issue which impacts on personal safety

CHAIR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Jones', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

