



COMMUNITY & EVENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes for the meeting held on **Wednesday, 1st November 2023**
at **7.00pm** in **Sandbach Town Hall**.

Present Councillors: J Beddows (Chair), A Nevitt (Vice Chair), N Cook, D Hegarty, G Price Jones, J Arnold, M Hough, S Broad and L Crane (Ex – Officio)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received for the meeting. Cllr L MacGregor was absent without apology.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A pecuniary non prejudicial interest was declared by Cllr Cook for items 5 and 8.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members of the public were present at the meeting but no questions were asked of the Committee.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

[Attached: Draft minutes]

Lead: Chair

Resolved: *The minutes of meeting held on 23rd August 2023 were approved as an accurate record.*

4. COMMUNITY & EVENTS COMMITTEE 2023-24 BUDGET

[Attached: RBS 2023-24 Budget & Actuals September Summary]

Lead: Chair

The Chief Officer gave a brief overview and highlighted the current underspent budgets.

Resolved: *The actuals against budget position for the Community & Events Committee were noted*

5. FRAMEWORK FOR POLICING & ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOR (ASB) LIAISON

[Attached: STC Police Lead Report]

Lead: Cllr K England / Chair

Cllr England attended the meeting as a guest and was invited to present the item to the Committee. The Committee welcomed the work that Cllr England

had done as it was felt this was an area for improvement for the Council to work effectively with partners to help prevent anti social behavior. Cllr England reminded the Committee that the primary responsibility for ASB was the Police but that we should operate a framework to help. It was explained that this framework was still being developed in discussion with colleagues and would be brought back the next meeting for approval.

Resolved: *The work to adopt a ASB framework for the Town Council and its partners was supported.*

6. YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGEMENT FOR BETTER OPEN SPACE PROVISION IN SANDBACH

[Attached: Report from Chief Officer; Groundwork proposal]

Lead: Chair

The Committee thanked the member of the public for his attendance and suggested approach to pragmatic engagement with Sandbach young people. Members were keen to explore options including exploring this suggested approach further and holding further discussions with Groundwork. Cllrs Cook, Hough, Arnold and Richards volunteered to be involved.

Resolved: *Volunteering members to meet with Chief Officer, Peter Jennings and Groundwork to develop engagement proposals to improve recreation facilities for young people.*

7. WILDFLOWER PROJECT

Lead: Chair

The Chair explained that this was on the Agenda following a request from the public. It was noted that little progress had been made on this due to the wider links with a review of open spaces and the now upcoming CEC green spaces consultation and its implications. Agreed that this project should be progressed in the context of those wider developments as appropriate.

Resolved: *The status of this project was noted as part of the wider development of green spaces review.*

8. EVENTS UPDATE

Lead: Chair

The Chair provided an update on previous and forthcoming Town Council organised events within its annual programme. Cllr Nevitt put in a mention for the Council part funded Tree of Light event at the Cemetery. The Chief Officer was asked to check if Wakes Fair could be transferred back to CEC due to administrative burden.

Committee agreed that D Day 70th Anniversary Thursday 6 June 2024 should be marked by a Town Council event through the setting up of a small working group to include Cllrs Cook, Nevitt, Broad and Beddows. Officer support to be provided and recommended to work in partnership with RBL. Cllr Cook reminded the Council that D Day was a remembrance event rather than a celebration. She highlighted that the following year on 8 May 2025, the 70th Anniversary VE Day would be a cause for celebratory events and again the Committee endorsed that preparations should begin for this major event with the same Working Group.

Cllr Nevitt briefed the Committee regarding a potential 'Day of Dance' Event to be held in the town centre on 1 June 2024 and the opportunity to work with the Morris Federation. Various views were expressed on this suggestion including

the scope to extend the event to be inclusive of all types of dance. The Chief Officer confirmed that such a broad event would not be possible within the timescales if it were to be run by the Council due to other pressures at the same time. It was noted that a grant application was being prepared for the Finance, Policy and Governance Committee to request funds for an external organisation to run a 'Folk and Morris' dancing event on 1 June 2024.

Resolved:

- i) *The update on recent and forthcoming events was noted;*
- ii) *A working group to be set up to develop plans for Council to mark the 70th anniversary of D Day on 6 June 2024, and to celebrate the 70th anniversary of VE day on 8 May 2025, so that these could be accommodated within the Council's resource and budget plans and delivered successfully.*

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

10. ITEMS FOR PUBLICITY

Lead: Chair

Resolved: *Items considered suitable for publicity on this agenda were the forthcoming Town Hall poppy projection and the engagement with young people intentions once more work had been completed.*

11. DATE/TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 21st February 2024 at Sandbach Town Hall.

Meeting Close 8.24pm
Cllr John Beddows
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