



Minutes of the Meeting of the Community and Environment Committee held at Bollington Town Hall at 7.00pm on Tuesday 11th October 2022

Those present:

Cllrs: Judy Snowball (JS), Johanna Maitland (JM), David Kent (DK), Cllr James Nicholas (JN), Cllr Miriat Naiga (MN)

Chair: Cllr Johanna Maitland

Town Manager: Harriet Worrell

Declarations of Interest

Cllr David Kent declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 14 on the agenda as the proposed location of the orchard is at the end of the road he lives on.

Public and press present

Two users of the Civic Hall who represent one of the businesses that regularly book the venue for classes and are on the Civic Hall User Group (CHUG). One of those users spoke to the committee about their concerns on the festival's proposed use of the Civic Hall in May 2024:

- They have already cancelled classes to accommodate the BLOG and Art Group bookings
- If the festival books the hall, they will not have access for one month
- A previous Councillor has assured them their use of the Civic Hall would be protected and not impacted by the festival
- Not running classes for a month would result in lost income for them and two teachers. This is their sole income.
- The Council receives around £2000 per month from this user group
- The business cannot be run with this insecurity and they may need to look for alternative premises which will impact on their regular clients and the business may need to be built up again.

A member of the Bollington Festival Board spoke on its proposed use of the Civic Hall in May 2024:

- The current economic situation has forced the festival committee to consider alternative ways to deliver the festival and mitigate financial risk. Grants and business sponsorship are not readily accessible in the current situation. The highest outgoing is the big top (and associated items and services such as fencing, security, insurance) at the rec at over £100,000
- It is felt there is still an appetite in the community for a festival.
- The festival understands there are business and organisations that regularly use the Civic Hall
- The exact dates of the festival are not yet known but it's likely to be held either the last two weeks in May or the last week in May and first week in June 2024.
- Alternative venues (to the big top) are being considered to deliver the festival Edinburgh Fringe style
- The festival would like to use the Civic Hall for two weeks (probably last week May and first week June 2024) with the festival:
 - Offering financial compensation to affected user groups
 - Keeping the hall clear during the day to enable use by the user groups
 - Finding alternative venues for user groups
 - Maintaining the cleanliness of the hall
 - Include the user groups in the festival programme and publicity.

CE121/22 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Cllr Angela Williams due to being on holiday.

CE122/22 To receive and confirm the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 9th August 2022.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 9th August 2022, CE104/22-CE120/22, were approved as a true record.

CE123/22 Matters arising from the minutes

None.

CE124/22 To receive the minutes from the Events WG meeting held on 8th August 2022 and 5th October and resolve any actions.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Events WG meeting held on 8th August 2022 were received.

Due to the proximity of dates, the minutes of the Events WG meeting held on 5th October will be received at the next meeting of the Community & Environment Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Town Manager organises a community litter pick.

RESOLVED: That the Town Manager invites local businesses to participate in an online advent calendar via FaceBook.

There was some debate about the festival's request to use the Civic Hall as the festival is a significant event for Bollington but that the user groups provide regular income to the Council from their bookings of the Civic Hall, and whether the festival could be accommodated without impinging on existing bookings.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk arranges a meeting with the relevant parties to discuss how to protect the bookings of the businesses and organisations that regularly use the Civic Hall and the feasibility of accommodating the festival.

Following a resolution at Full Council on 06/09/22, further information has become available in relation to the provision of Christmas trees with an alternative costed option to light the sycamore tree in Bollington Cross.

There was some debate about the lighting of the sycamore tree at Bollington Cross in place of a Christmas tree although it was noted there would be an estimated saving to the Council of around £800 and that it was a more sustainable option. It was questioned why the lights aren't being provided at High Street in place of a Christmas tree.

RESOLVED: That the sycamore tree at Bollington Cross is lit in place of a Christmas tree and subject to an additional quote, budget and feasibility, an existing tree at High Street is lit in place of a Christmas tree with residents being consulted for their views in the new year.

At this point in the agenda Cllr JS left due to another commitment although she provided brief updates on the Business, Economy, and Tourism WG meeting (now to be held on 17/10/22) and the Police and Crime Commissioner consultation suggesting she would prepare a letter in response and circulate to the Town Clerk and Councillors.

CE125/22 To receive information from Refugees Welcome.

There is no update from the group although it was noted an event has been arranged locally at St Gregory's Catholic church and there may be more events in the future.

CE126/22 To receive an update from Cllr J Maitland on the B2030 Working Group.

A meeting was scheduled for 08/09/22 but was cancelled upon news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The meeting has been rescheduled to 13/10/22.

CE127/22 To receive an update from Cllr J Snowball on the Business, Economy, and Tourism WG from the meeting on 10/10/22.

The meeting has been rescheduled to 17/10/22

CE128/22 To receive an update from Cllr M Naiga on the Task Group to revisit the Visitor Economy & Tourism Action plan.

An initial meeting had been held but a further review is required.

RESOLVED: That the Visitor Economy & Tourism Action plan is reviewed by the Business, Economy, and Tourism WG.

CE129/22 To note any feedback from the NECCP meeting held at Bollington Civic Hall on 20/09/22.

Cllr JM provided an update – the meeting on 20/09/22 was attended by Cllr JM, Cllr Ellwood and the Town Clerk. Cllr JM will act at the next Chair.

The North East Cheshire Community Partnership (NECCP) represents the interests of Poynton, Adlington, Bollington, Disley, Mottram St Andrew, Prestbury, Kettleshulme, Rainow and Pott Shrigley and is funded by Cheshire East Council.

The group can give out grants to community groups and focuses on common issues such as flooding and loneliness.

CE130/22 To receive an update from the CEC mobile health and wellbeing service visit.

RESOLVED: That the Town Manager liaises with the CEC mobile health and wellbeing service to coordinate another visit to Bollington.

CE131/22 To consider support for the Cost of Living Crisis

There was some debate about the need in Bollington and if the provision of an occasional warm space addresses the issue or if a more sustained approach is required. It was felt the Council may better serve the community by providing guidance and signposting people to relevant information/services. Cllr Ellwood was thanked for costing warm meal options.

RESOLVED: That a warm space in the Community Centre is trialed in November without using the Rainow bus for transport services, funded by the Help Bollington Fund, and reviewed before December.

RESOLVED: That the Committee does not pursue a hot meal in the Civic Hall or Poachers Inn but assesses needs from the warm space trial.

It was agreed in principle that a community grocery store in Bollington is a good idea but if there was a need in Bollington and how it would be practically run.

The Town Manager will seek further information.

CE132/22 To resolve to agree a cinema night at the Civic Hall.

RESOLVED: That a cinema night at the Civic Hall is approved subject to the date of the screening not clashing with the Pott Shrigley film night.

It was noted that the success of a cinema night is reliant on good publicity.

CE133/22 To resolve to agree the use of the remaining horticulture budget for 2022-23 and make recommendations

It was noted that a group of volunteers has been fundraising to purchase of plants and will undertake winter planting in Bollington with the support of the Council.

Cllr JM advised that the B2030 WG will discuss opportunities for more wildflower planting.

It was considered too late in the year for planting bulbs.

RESOLVED: That up to £1000 is used to purchase additional hanging baskets/planters, subject to locations being identified, and the purchase of compost to support the volunteer's winter planting.

RESOLVED: That the Committee requests £1000 is transferred to the 2023-24 budget for horticultural expenditure.

CE134/22 To receive a report from Cllr D Kent on the planting of an orchard.

RESOLVED: That the report will be considered by the B2030 WG.

CE135/22 To consider the use of Flooding blocks.

The Town Manager will seek more information on the quantity required, costings and usage of.

At this point, the meeting had been running for two and a half hours. The committee agreed to continue and address the remaining items on the agenda.

CE136/22 To consider a bench for the Canal towpath.

The Town Manager will contact the Canal and River Trust.

CE13722 To consider the continuation of flying the Ukrainian flag on the Town Hall and recommendation to Full Council.

RESOLVED: That the committee recommends to Full Council the Bollington flag is flown above the Town Hall and the Council reverts back to following its Flag Policy.

CE138/22 To receive an update on the Grimshaw Lane bench.

RESOLVED: That the quote for a plaque is accepted and the bench repaired.

CE139/22 To consider quotes for repairs to the Greg Fountain

To be considered at the next C&E Committee meeting following recent information about a potential donation for repairs.

CE140/22 Police, Crime and Disorder

The police report was received and thanks expressed.

Cllr JS to prepare a letter in response to the Police and Crime Commissioner public consultation and circulate to the Town Clerk and Councillors.

CE141/22 To receive a report from the Bollington Fire Service.

The police report was received and thanks expressed.

CE142/22 To note any health and wellbeing updates from the Middlewood Partnership.

There were no updates available for this meeting but the Town Manager will provide an update at future meetings.

CE143/22 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th November at 7pm in the Town Hall.

The date was noted.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed:.....Dated: