



ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A COMMUNITY CARE COMMITTEE MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL HELD BY VIDEO LINK ON 15 DECEMBER 2020

Present: Cllr. K Cargill, Cllr G. Forman, Cllr A. Foster, Cllr K Soares, Cllr C. Neal-Sturgess, Cllr D. Henderson, Cllr K. Forbes, Cllr V. Blake

In attendance: Mrs J. Theobald, Clerk of Community Care Committee

1. Apologies

Cllr E. Randle

2. Declaration of Interest – non recorded

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 20 October were approved by Full Council on 1 December 2020

4. Matters Arising from Last Meeting not on the Agenda

No matters brought forward

5. Warwickshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy Consultation

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the five-year period 2020-2025 has been drafted and is currently open to public consultation for comment on the priorities and the approach it recommends. Warwickshire H&Wb Strategy consultation documents were circulated prior to the meeting for a Community Care Committee response. Cllr Cargill summarised the Strategy which plans to promote healthy lifestyles and behaviour, strong communities, and effective and sustainable services.

Cllr Cargill will circulate a draft written response on behalf of the Committee agreeing with the priorities and measures in the Consultation but stressing the importance of support for Carers. Any other comments on the Consultation to be forwarded to Cllr Cargill to be incorporated in the response.

6. Update Report from Health & Wellbeing Co-ordinator

Cllr Cargill presented the report from the Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator which is attached to the minutes. Despite the Coronavirus restrictions, the Repair Café is successfully running with a drop off/pick up service and the Well-Connected Computer club, Cook and Eat your Tea and Angling project will resume in the new year. Progress has been made to recruit a youth worker with the intention of reopening the youth club. Filming for the Mental Health project in schools, the Parkour Project and volunteering event are on hold until the new year.

7. Update Reports

7.1 Community Resilience Working Group

Cllr Soares gave a report from the Community Resilience W.G.

7.1.1 Flooding – the MRNC have confirmed their support will continue in the coming season. Cllr Soares will arrange a visit for Flood Wardens to observe the flood prevention measures implemented by Shipston-on-Stour once Covid restrictions have ended.

7.1.2 Speed Aware - sessions will recommence after restrictions are lifted.

7.1.3 CCTV – New cameras have been installed in Alcester as part of the district's renewal programme. Cllr Cargill will attend the bi-annual CCTV seminar in November 2021.

7.1.4 Resilience – Support calls are still being offered to isolated, vulnerable residents. Cllr Soares is to investigate if it is permissible and safe to transport the elderly to centres for Covid vaccines.

7.2 Food Poverty Campaign

Extract from a report submitted by Cllr Randle on Food for Alcester Schoolchildren over Christmas. (Report attached to the minutes). "Alcester Community Resilience (ACR), with support from Ali Mainey (Community Development Worker- South Warwickshire) are working with Alcester's secondary schools to support this cohort of children to ensure there is an adequate safety net to alleviate food poverty over the Christmas holiday period. Alcester Community Resilience has also met with Arden Food Bank and it was agreed that their campaign would concentrate on the junior schools with the provision of food hampers for the children who are in receipt of FSM. We agreed this approach to avoid any duplication and also to ensure that all our children will be supported."

£4050 has been raised so far plus £1200 worth of Tesco vouchers and Alcester Town Council have agreed to make up any shortfall. The vouchers, with a Christmas card, will be distributed to families whose children have free school meals before the end of term.

7.3 Business & Tourism Working Group

Two meetings of the new Business and Tourism WG have been held to date. Terms of Reference agreed after the addition of the "annual Election of a Chair".

7.3.1 Winter Wonderland will be held from 16 to 23 January. Four applications have been received so far and a promotion to attract other applicants will be made in the new year. Prizes for the best window decorations will be awarded this year.

7.3.2 The request for late night shopping has been promoted with posters around the Town and feedback from the shops taking part has shown an increase in business during the extended hours of opening.

7.3.3 "Totally Locally" scheme, which includes 'click and collect' with a possible delivery service, is being pursued by local businesses.

7.3.4 Event Guide – the update has been postponed this year but businesses are able to use “What’s on in Alcester” to advertise and promote their services.

7.3.5 The Game Fair – no commitments have been made under the current restrictions but the Working Group will contact the organisers some months in advance to hand out promotion leaflets for Alcester to the contractors.

Concerns for the survival of hospitality businesses in the Town were raised at the meeting and the Chair of the W.G. will look into links for WCC grants to support those affected so badly by the pandemic.

7.4 Older People’s Services

The Christmas Day lunch this year will be by a cook and deliver service. Resilience W.G are collating numbers requiring lunch and the volunteers available. The contact number on the leaflet is to be checked with the organisers.

7.5 Young People’s services

Updates on the Holiday lunch club and reinstating the youth club can be found in the Health & Wellbeing Co-ordinator’s report.

8. Correspondence – non received

9. Proposition to Full Council – no propositions were made.

10. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 16 February 2021 at 7pm

Agenda to include Community Grants – The Clerk of the Community Care Committee to circulate the draft Grant Application Form 2021/22 and Community Grants Policy and Process for approval before the next meeting.