



# ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF A COMMUNITY CARE COMMITTEE MEETING OF ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL HELD BY VIDEO LINK ON 16 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7PM

**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, Cllr E. Randle

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

1. **Apologies** - Cllr Greenaway
2. **Declaration of Interest** – non recorded
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 15 December 2020 were approved by Full Council on 5 January 2021.

#### 4. **Community Grants**

- 4.1 The option for offering two rounds of Community Grants this year was discussed. Although the Covid-19 pandemic had curtailed many community activities, enquiries have already been received from regular applicants who rely heavily on a grant to deliver their projects. It was agreed that applications will be invited for consideration by the Community Care Committee in two phases. 40% of the total fund will be released for specific projects that can be delivered despite Covid-19 restrictions with a closing date of Friday 26 March 2021. Applications for the second phase will be invited by Friday 30 July 2021.
- 4.2 The Policy and Process document and Application form will be altered to reflect the decision and the Community Grant will be advertised on the website.

#### 5. **Update Report from Health & Wellbeing Co-ordinator**

- 5.1 Cllr Cargill presented the report from the Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator which is attached to the minutes. Despite current lockdown restrictions, the Repair Café is successfully running with a drop off/pick up service.
- 5.2 A new youth worker, Becky Gribbon, has been appointed to re-establish the youth club at the Depot. Becky will be updating the necessary administration in readiness to reopen the youth club once restrictions are lifted.

#### 6. **Update Reports**

##### 6.1 **Community Resilience Working Group**

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

Napton Environmental Action Group (NEAT) will be invited to the next Resilience meeting to give a presentation on how they go about tackling environmentally related issues within their Parish. The meeting will be open to all those interested in attending.

## **6.2 Food Poverty Campaign**

The fund-raising campaign to support disadvantaged families by offering supermarket vouchers was successful. Testimonials are now being sought for the providers and schools are receiving positive feedback from those who received the vouchers and the difference the food vouchers made to their families over the Christmas period.

## **6.3 Business & Tourism Working Group**

6.3.1 Winter Wonderland There were 26 entrances this year and this is becoming a major attraction in the Town. The B&T working group are in discussion whether to remain with the Winter Wonderland organisers or to organise it themselves next year. The £350 fee would be saved but consideration needs to be made of the extent Winter Wonderland promotes the Town.

6.3.2 Ten businesses took advantage of the second late night opening in the High Street and feedback was in the main positive, reporting an average day's takings during the late opening hours. Next year there are plans to enhance the evening with music and celebrations and encourage more businesses to take part.

6.3.3 Cllr Blake outlined the initiative "Totally Locally" and had previously circulated a presentation from two local retailers. The scheme shows how a Digital Alcester would provide a platform for businesses in the High Street to advertise their services, offer a Click and Collect and delivery service. Twenty-five retail businesses on the High Street have provisionally signed up to the scheme before publicity and all businesses, the hospitality sector and contractors in 'B49' postcode area would be invited to take advantage of promoting their services through Digital Alcester. "Totally Locally" is a branded product and charge a set-up fee of £9500, thereafter businesses would take over the annual subscription. Cllr Blake proposed that ATC take up the initial expenditure of £9500 and this would be put to Full Council for approval.

## **6.4 Older People's Services**

No update due to current lockdown restrictions

## **6.5 Young People's services**

The appointment of a youth club leader.

**7. Correspondence** – non received

**8. Proposition to Full Council** – To approve the expenditure of £9500 for the 'Totally Locally' initiative.

**9. Date and time of next meeting**

**Tuesday 27 April 2021 at 7pm**

Agenda to include approval of 1<sup>st</sup> round of Community Grant applications