

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2nd MARCH 2022
AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7:00 p.m.**

Present: **Councillor** **Ginny Boxall (Chair)**
 Matthew Bayliss
 Amanda Durley
 Pam Jones
 Lewis Jones
 Richard Platt
 Graham Titterington

In attendance:

Leah Coney (Town Clerk)
Pat Harris (Admin & Finance Manager)
4 Members of the Public.

Before the meeting a two-minute silence was observed for the people of Ukraine.

266 Chair's announcements

There were no Chairman's announcements.

267 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Gideon Cristofoli.

268 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Community Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2021 were approved and signed by the Chair.

269 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation

None received.

270 Questions to the Committee (including those received in writing)

There were no questions to the Committee

Councillor Pam Jones advised that the Town Council had ordered a Ukrainian flag which is to be flown from the Assembly Rooms and delivery was awaited. There is to be a vigil at St. Lawrence Church on Saturday, 5th March from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm and the bells will peel at 6.00pm for the people of the Ukraine. All are welcome.

271 Treloar's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) application

(This item had been deferred by the Planning & Transport Committee due to insufficient information being available on the proposed community use of the facility for which they are seeking funds. Treloar College were looking for Alton Town Council to write to EHDC in support of the Treloar funding bid.)

A representation by Simon Birch and Lucinda Gillingham from Treloar's was made to the committee in support of the CIL application to EHDC. The College is applying for £190,000 of grant funding towards the cost of the complete refurbishment of their current swimming facility costing a total of £442,000. The proposal will see the removing of the "deep end" of the pool and a complete redesign of the changing room facilities with more appropriate positioning of hoists and other equipment required at the school. They confirmed that a private swimming club (Tadpoles) utilise the pool for 10 hours per week and that this usage would not increase although following the removal of the deep end, more children would be able to be taught as it would facilitate 3 groups instead of 2 at each session.

In responding to questions about community use Lucinda confirmed that there was no Community Use Agreement in place but that they could consider this however with students using the facility during the day and evening as well as Tadpoles there was very limited availability; however, Lucinda advised that Treloar's had been "pressed" by EHDC to apply for this grant. The deadline for their submission is 18th March.

The committee felt that they could not give their full support to the application given as it remained unclear on what community use was being proposed apart from the private hire by Tadpoles for 10 hours a week; however, they did wish to provide in principle support at this time and, therefore, on the proposal of Councillor Graham Titterington seconded by Councillor Amanda Durley it was

RESOLVED to

Write a letter of support to the bid in principle but could not support the full amount being sought without a Community Use Agreement being in place.

Recorded Vote:

In favour: Councillors Ginny Boxall, Amanda Durley, Lewis Jones, Pam Jones, Richard Platt and Graham Titterington

Abstained: Councillor Bayliss

The Town Clerk was asked to raise a letter on this basis and send to the CIL team at East Hampshire District Council with Treloar's on copy.

272 Youth Forum

Councillor Pam Jones had proposed this item for discussion as she was seeking to re-brand the former Alton & District Youth Council as a Youth Forum initially on a trial basis with the hosting of an event in September this year opening up membership to all local youth groups as well as schools, with a view to seeking The Kings Arm to chair the meeting and act as a facilitator.

It was envisaged that a report feeding back from the forum would then be presented to Community Committee after the event. Following receipt of this feedback on the trial event, the Committee would then determine the viability of the Youth Forum being firmly established. The Town Clerk advised that she had met with Lisa Hillan from Kings Arms who were fully supportive of the initiative and suggested that the format should be based on the current Health and Wellbeing Forum with the venue being Alton College and the Forum to meet between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. (after the school day so as not to disrupt attendees' education). Invitations would be issued by Alton Town Council but it would be a joint initiative with Kings Arms who would be updating the list of youth groups to be invited to attend. Lisa Hillan confirmed that a Young Carers Conference was being held next month in Petersfield hosted by Mandy May-Young (Kings Arms) who she advocated would be the ideal person to act as host of the proposed initiative in Alton.

Councillor Amanda Durley offered to lend her support to the initiative given her background working with and on Youth Forums.

On the proposal of Councillor Pam Jones seconded by Councillor Richard Platt it was

RESOLVED to

Approve a trial for a Youth Forum

The vote was carried unanimously

273 Event Grant – Victorian Cricket and Carols around the Tree

Members received a representation from the Chair of the organising committee in support of his application to the Committee for funding for £400 for the popular Victorian Cricket event which is held on The Butts.

The Committee were also requested to retrospectively note the award of £50 to cover the cost of carol booklets for Carols Around the Tree which was held in the Market Square in December of last year.

On the proposal of Councillor Pam Jones seconded by Councillor Lewis Jones, it was

RESOLVED to approve:

1. A grant of £400 to Victorian Cricket
2. Retrospectively approve the grant of £50 for Carols Around the Tree which was awarded to the organisers in December 2021

The vote was carried unanimously

274 Alton in Bloom and Planting for 2022

Members received a comprehensive report on the plans for Alton in Bloom, the planting arrangements in the town centre and the Public Gardens. The Committee had some concerns about removing the In Bloom competition knowing the level of interest it generated with residents. However, they wholeheartedly approved of the new initiatives and with the Alton in Bloom Facebook page still in existence felt that this could provide an ideal opportunity to promote the new initiatives which took into account a number of aspects around Climate Change. Councillor Bayliss asked if there was any way in which statistical information could be obtained in respect of resident participation as this would allow a comparison to be made against the previous Alton in Bloom competition. Officers would undertake to do so and report back to the Committee at the next meeting in September with any statistical information they are able to glean.

Councillors noted the report on the proposal to create a Queen's Green Canopy at Windmill Hill as part of the celebrations for Her Majesty's Jubilee. This would entail the planting of up to 70 fruit and nut trees and would look to enlist the support of volunteer groups such as ALFI and AVLAN. Officers had already secured a County Councillor Grant of £750 towards the costs.

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Titterington seconded by Councillor Pam Jones it was

RESOLVED to approve the proposals for Alton in Bloom 2022 as tabled

The vote was carried unanimously

275 Best Kept Shop Fronts

The Committee were requested to support a new initiative tabled by Councillor Ginny Boxall for the Best Kept Shop Fronts. The Committee felt that this should be seen as an opportunity to encourage local business owners to take pride in their Shop Front/the High Street with businesses being featured each month on social media and in the digital Altonian as a means of raising awareness of businesses in the town and what they have to offer.

On the proposal of Councillor Ginny Boxall seconded by Councillor Lewis Jones it was

RESOLVED to approve the Best Kept Shop Front Scheme

The vote was carried unanimously

276 Alton Town Council Events programme for 2022

Members were requested to consider and approve the updated calendar of events for 2022 and 2023 as presented and detailed in the agenda bundle circulated to all councillors and published on the council's website.

In addition, a number of Councillors had verbally requested in previous meetings that the future of the Marmots be considered for 2022 on the basis of them having served their purpose and whether there was an option to replace them or sell them on. The Clerk had spoken to the supplier who had offered to buy back the two large marmots in part exchange for new, bespoke column lights. A traditional tree would replace Marmite and Méribel at the Assembly Rooms lawn if Members decided to "rehome" them. There was a detailed discussion as there was a feeling amongst some that they were part of the Christmas fabric of Alton and should therefore be retained, whilst others felt it was time to move on. Due to the nature of discussion the Committee requested that a vote be taken on whether to approve the part exchange of Marmite and Méribel before considering the purchase of new column lights and, therefore,

On the proposal of Councillor Ginny Boxall seconded by Councillor Graham Titterington it was

RESOLVED to

Approve the part exchange of Marmite and Méribel for £4,000 to offset the cost of new lights

Recorded Vote:

In favour: Councillors Ginny Boxall, Lewis Jones and Graham Titterington

Against: Councillors Matthew Bayliss, Pam Jones and Richard Platt

Abstained: Councillor Amanda Durley

With the vote being split, the Chair had the casting vote and voted in favour

On the proposal of Councillor Ginny Boxall seconded by Councillor Amanda Durley it was

RESOLVED to

Approve the purchase of up to 10 additional bespoke column lights designed by local residents at £1,200 each for Bioprint, (less the part exchange cost of Marmite and Méribel)

Recorded Vote:

In favour: Councillors Ginny Boxall, Amanda Durley, Lewis Jones

Graham Titterington Matthew Bayliss, Pam Jones
Abstained: Councillor Richard Platt

On the proposal of Councillor Ginny Boxall seconded by Councillor Graham Titterington it was

RESOLVED to

Approve the updated calendar of events for 2022 and 2023

The vote was carried unanimously

The “design a Christmas column light” will be launched at Easter with a closing date of the end of June and will feature also at the Let’s Get Creative for the Jubilee event in the Public Gardens on 4th June.

Councillors were also reminded that if they had not yet responded to the Events Officer about helping out at the Battle of Alton to please do so as currently only 3 councillors have confirmed.

277 Marketing and Promotions

The Committee were advised that the new Pocket Guide to Alton 2022/2023 created by officers is now in circulation with over 1,000 copies already distributed to local shops, businesses, community venues and public buildings.

NOTED

A report was tabled, following an approach by Luke and Elliott, to produce a series of four promotional videos as part of a marketing initiative for the town. The aim was to “premier” the videos at the Walkers are Welcome national event which is being hosted by the Town this October. Full details of the approach are contained in the agenda papers. Production of the videos are costed at £4,000 and this has been included in the approved marketing budget for 2022/23 although officers would endeavour to source grant funding to match the Council’s contribution.

On the proposal of Councillor Pam Jones seconded by Councillor Graham Titterington it was

RESOLVED to

Approve the commissioning of the promotional videos at a cost of up to £4,000 to the Council with officers seeking grant funding and/or donations from developers to reduce the cost by at least 50% where possible.

The meeting finished at 8.38pm