

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021  
AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7:00 p.m.  
Held remotely with councillors and members of the public dialling in**

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**Present: Councillor**

**Matthew Bayliss (Chair)  
Christopher Lawrence (Vice Chair)  
Pam Bradford  
Suzie Burns  
Sharon Cullen  
Pam Jones  
Graham Titterington**

**In attendance:**

**Councillor Ginny Boxall (ATC) to 7.57pm  
Leah Coney (Town Clerk)**

**Suzi Drummond – ABRI (Social Housing Provider)  
Bob Booker – Alton Society  
Dean-Paul Phillips – Chair of ADRA**

**161 Chairman’s announcements**

There were no announcements

**162 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Cristofoli

**163 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Community Committee**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were approved.

**164 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation**

None received.

**165 Questions to the Committee (including those received in writing)**

None received.

Councillor Bayliss noted that a question had been raised in respect of the continuation of the Tuesday market with the current lockdown. He also noted the response from the Town Hall that the market is permitted as a purveyor of products deemed as “essential supplies” and whilst the number of stalls is limited some people prefer to use the market rather than the supermarket as it is outdoors.

**166 Health & Wellbeing Strategy & Action Plan**

Members had received with their agenda papers the revised and updated draft Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan for approval.

The chair wished to thank the Clerk for the update to the plan which included a number of references to events and experiences over the last 12 months.

The Clerk was asked to add the following to the strategy:

Reference to being a Dementia Friendly Town

Reference to “Flush” the community toilet mobile app and inclusion of reference to incontinence.

Reference to the Town Centre WiFi, to enable people to access apps such as those for toilets and water bottle refill.

Reference to “Friends” Groups and ecology works.

Suzi Drummond from local social housing provider ABRI addressed councillors on their Community Investment Plan and how they could link with the Town Council in delivering their Ageing Well and Reducing Social Isolation Agendas. A number of local community projects were identified by ABRI at locations including the Allen Galley and Orchard House.

Suzi took an action to e-mail the ABRI Community investment Delivery Plan to the Town Clerk to circulate to Members.

In turning to the Action Plan members requested a number of additions which were noted by the Clerk and were added to the draft.

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

**RESOLVED** to approve the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan with the noted amendment.

A final version of both documents will be published on the Town Council website shortly.

## 167 Alton Awards

The Committee had previously been asked to consider the setting up of a Task & Finish Group to look at scoping options, categories and details for a community awards event for the Town at the February meeting (Minute 250: 2020/2019 refers). No progress had been made thus far but the matter was now before Committee again.

Councillor Jones noted that former councillor Peter Whitmarsh, offered to fund an award for a young person, noting that there are a number of young carers out there who could be recognised.

Councillor Burns said she was very supportive of the concept but conscious that it should not overlap with existing awards so it is not the same people each time. This was echoed by a number of other councillors.

Dean Phillips also noted that it is a minefield as there are a number of groups giving awards and it would be well worth approaching community groups to put forward champions, rather than ATC deciding who the recipients are. Mr Phillips said he would be willing to attend any task group setup for this and would be interested in potentially being involved with an entrepreneurial award.

Councillor Titterington suggested a “gap analysis” be undertaken to see if there are any categories of community awards not already given out and see if any of the existing groups making such awards could create new categories to address that gap. Potential sponsors could then be put in touch with them so that it is at arm’s length to the Town Council.

The Clerk suggested that potentially if existing award giving groups could come together then maybe the Town Council could facilitate an event where they could all be celebrated.

On the proposal of Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Lawrence it was

**RESOLVED** to set up a task and finish group chaired by Councillor Burns, with invitations extended to existing community groups who make awards to consider this and come up with a recommendation.

### **168 Litter Patrols and Anti-Littering Campaign**

Bob Booker, Alton Society and Dean Phillips, Chair of the Alton & District Residents Association joined in with councillors in discussing what actions could be put in place to combat the increasing levels of littering across Alton (not only in the town centre but in the Wards and surrounding countryside).

It was noted that EHDC litter enforcement is very limited at the current time and has been limited over the last 10 months. Councillor Jones noted that in the current climate it is impossible to undertake group litter picks so it is down to education, particularly targeted through young people. Councillor Jones suggested that once covid restrictions were eased then maybe some “litter walks” for Walking Festival like the Walkers are Welcome litter walks, may be a practical solution.

A number of areas of concern around town were highlighted and noted by the Clerk. Councillor Lawrence requested that a litter campaign be drafted and submitted to Full Council for approval.

On the proposal of Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Bayliss it was

**RESOLVED** to put a paper to Full Council to outline a two-strand approach to an education campaign and a post covid community litter pick campaign

### **169 Town Centre Recovery & Transformation**

Members noted the Council had taken out free trial membership of the Rural/Market Towns Grouping to look beyond the latest national lockdown and the further impact this has and will continue to have on local economies with a view to sharing best practice and initiatives with similar sized market towns across the country.

Councillor Jones had requested this item to be included as concern has been raised over the current lack of formal representation for local businesses and retailers with no active forum. Following the recent Shop Local campaign, she felt it would be good to move this item forward and requested the formation of a task and finish group to look at this subject further.

Following a brief discussion over the current status of the Alton Chamber of Commerce, Councillor Bayliss noted that this is an area which needed some in depth conversation outside of the committee and agreed with Councillor Jones that a task and finish group was the way forward.

On the proposal of Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Titterington it was

**RESOLVED** to set up a task and finish group to look at taking this item forward.

**170 Alton Town Council Events Programme for 2021 and Review of November/December 2020**

Members considered the review of the Christmas programme and proposed events programme which had been tabled by officers and which accompanied the agenda papers.

Councillor Burns asked about when the council would need to consider cancellation of events in view of the current circumstances should they prevail going forward. The Clerk responded that with the exception of Last Night of the Prom which is currently working on the basis that it will go ahead but if additional restrictions are required for it to safely happen then there will be plans made to accommodate this, all other events on the revised calendar are very much low impact low-cost events which can be cancelled at relatively short notice.

Members noted they were really pleased to see the themed markets on the calendar.

On the proposal of Councillor Lawrence, seconded by Councillor Burns it was

**RESOLVED** to approve the revised Events Programme for 2021

The meeting finished at 9.03pm