

Notes of the Meeting of the Town Council's Community Development Working Group held on 17 February 2009, in the Council Chamber, Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet.

Present: Chairman - Councillor Jeannette Marsh (JM)

Members - Cllrs Champion (RC), Ellis (ME), Kinison (JK), Lockey (CL), Lovell (ML), T. Marsh (TM), Marvin (DM), Robinson (MR) and Shearn (NS).
Diana Rowe (Director of Operations/Deputy Chief Executive) and Dr Jason Hepple (Medical Director) from the Somerset Partnership NHS.

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming members and provided a brief on Health & Safety requirements including emergency evacuation and assembly point procedures.

Note CD66. 07/08 Election of Chairman

Resolve; Proposed by Cllr MR, Seconded by Cllr NS by unanimous vote that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are duly elected the respective Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Community Development Working Group.

Note CD67. 07/08 Apologies for absence – Cllr Bartlett & Inchley.

Resolve; that the apologies are accepted and recorded.

Note CD68. 07/08 Members Declarations of Interests

Cllr RC – Commercial Road Laurels – Declared a Personal & Non Prejudicial Interest as lived adjacent.

Cllr JM – Somerset Partnership (Mental Health Proposals) - Declared a Personal & Non Prejudicial Interest as employed by the Somerset Partnership NHS.

Cllr CL – Grove House Surgery - Declared a Personal & Non Prejudicial Interest as his daughter was employed by the Practice.

Resolve; that the above Declarations are recorded.

Note CD69. 07/08 Proposals from the Development of Mental Health Services in Mendip

Presentation by Diana Rowe (Director of Operations/Deputy Chief Executive) and Dr Jason Hepple (Medical Director) to their proposals which lasted for 30 minutes and included a question and answer session with members. Copies of their proposals and also presentation slides / notes were distributed to all members. They had set up a Crisis Resolution Home Team to operate in the community seven days per week to provide an in home service thereby enhancing community services. Enhancing community services enables a reduced reliance on inpatient beds. The proposals now included redesigning St Andrews facility into two separate wards, one for adults and the other for older patients, with some 12 single rooms and separate gender rest rooms. There would be an overall reduction in bed provision on the Priory Health Park site from 51 to 26. Consultations would be complete by 15 March and proposals would then be put to the Trust Board on the 24 March and if supported plans would be progressed as quickly as possible thereafter.

Resolve; the Chairman thanked Diana Rowe and Dr Jason Hepple for their detailed presentation and then both left the meeting.

Note CD70. 07/08 Minutes of the final Meeting of the Community Development Committee

The Minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting held on the 16 December 2008 were considered for accuracy and content.

Resolve: Proposed by Cllr DM, Seconded by Cllr ML by a vote of 6 For and 4 Abstentions that the Minutes of the Community Development Committee held on the 16 December 2008 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Note CD71. 07/08 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a)	Min CD73 / 08/09 e West Shepton Playing Fields	Mr John Hugill from Shepton Mallet AFC, provided a 35 minute presentation on the Clubs history, future projects, proposals and aspirations. He had played for the Club, managed the Club and was now Chairman of the Club that played at Level 6 (Tool Station Level) recognised by the FA. The Club was now financially stable and the facilities were used by various other groups. New requirements from the FA had imposed improvements to renew the floodlighting and also provide the ground with a secure perimeter fence which in total would cost some £58,000. The FA would provide some partnership funding but the main problem was that they required a extension to their existing lease of some 4 years. MDC had agreed in principle but wished to remove a contract clause which currently provided a replacement facility if they were relocated in the future and the Club could not agree to this. Ideally they would wish a lease of 25 years to secure and ensure return of investment.
Resolve;		Mr John Hugill was congratulated on his efforts and achievements to-date and was informed that he would need to progress the planning application for the new lighting as this was a legal requirement. Proposed by Cllr ME, Seconded by Cllr MR, by a unanimous vote that the Town Council fully support the proposals and aspirations of the Shepton Mallet AFC. Cllr ME is to arrange a meeting with SMAFC, the Leader of MDC and other appropriate Cllrs / Officers with a view to progressing SMAFC requirements and support from MDC. Town Councillors were invited to inform their views directly to Cllr ME to take to the meeting and Cllr DM would attend the meeting with him. It was recommended that the Town Council should review its own funds, precept and support where it could. The Chairman then thanked John Hugill for his presentation who then left the meeting.

Note CD72. 07/08 Partnership Matters

a)	Mendip Strategic Partnership	Minutes of their Meeting held 9 December 2008 were received.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr RC, Seconded by Cllr ML by a unanimous vote that the matter is noted.
b)	Flood Risk Management Calendar 2009 and SM Flood Defence Scheme	Received from the Environment Agency shows historical and recent flooding which has happened in each month across the South West. Update received from Paula Williams of the Environment Agency to the Leg Square Residents Association and their written response dated 16 February 2009 sent in reply. Cllr ME confirmed that he had received a copy previously of the letters and that the main concern from the Residents Group was the proposed date for possibly undertaking the works.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr ME, Seconded by Cllr MR, by a unanimous vote that the matter is noted. The Council is to write to the Environment Agency reminding them that the Town Council wished to be invited and for a representative to attend their planned April meeting.
c)	Safe in Your Community	Information booklet containing information and statistics about community safety issues and highlights SCC role in this area. 3 copies received and available from the TC Office.

	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr CL, Seconded by Cllr RC, by a unanimous vote that the matter is noted.
d)	SCC - A362 (B3136) Highway	SCC confirmed improvement scheme under the Local Transport Plan is now completed and seek completion of questionnaire regarding the scheme.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr DM, Seconded by Cllr ML, by a unanimous vote that the Clerk is delegated to complete and return the questionnaire on behalf of the Town Council.
e)	Shepton Mallet Lido	The Clerk provided update to Car Park Resurfacing Project which was now in progress with completion expected by early March. A press release had been compiled and investigations made as to the projected opening date of the Lido for the coming Season. Concern was raised as to if the repairs have been completed and will the opening season be complied with in the forth coming year. Avalon Leisure had informed the Clerk that the opening date was a decision by MDC but that they projected this to be the 23 May 2009. Cllr JM confirmed that sponsorship funding had been achieved and the matter would progress to provide an adults morning once per week during the forthcoming season.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr JM by a unanimous vote that the three District members Cllrs JM,ME & MR would chase Mr Ian Munday of MDC to enquire current position with the permanent repairs to the Lido and also the planned opening date for the current season and this is to take place within the next few days.
f)	Commercial Road Laurels	SCC had been requested for update (Peter Scriven & Frank Lake) given that the Town Council agreed the way to proceed with them back in November 2008. Frank Lake confirmed they have received a quotation for £1600 but have yet to obtain funding and requested if the Town Council could provide funding, failing this may have to wait until financial year end to see if any budget remains.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr JM, Seconded by Cllr MR by a vote of 9 For and 1 Abstention that the Town Council was pleased and thankful that the matter was being supported and progressed by SCC. It was hoped that this important work could be completed as soon as possible and within this financial year. Unfortunately the Town Council does not have any current funding to assist with this SCC responsibility and function at this time.
g)	CCTV User Group	Minutes of the meeting held on the 13 November 2008 were provided to all members. The next meeting to be held 19 February 2009. Concern was raised as to why Wells City Council had not paid their partnership funding towards the project when the Town Council had paid theirs in full and promptly back in May 08.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr RC, Seconded by Cllr DM by a unanimous vote that Cllr RC would raise this matter at the next User Group meeting and that the Town Council would write formally to the MDC CCTV Manager, Mr Chris Reeves raising the concerns and requesting that Wells City Council is instructed to settle their financial account in full and without further delay, whilst apologising for the delay. They should also be charged interest for the late payment.

a)	Town Twinning Association	Minutes of meeting held 1 December 2008 received and note that their AGM is to be held at The Charlton Inn on Monday 7 February 2009 at 7pm. Cllr JM also raised the requirement to start arranging the Civic Reception event for our Misburg partners, which was due around the 20 July with numbers yet to be confirmed.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr RC, Seconded by Cllr DM, by a unanimous vote that the Twinning Association are requested to confirm the actual date and times along with confirmation of the numbers to attend. Cllr JM and the Clerk are then to progress booking of a suitable venue and arranging the catering as that of previous Receptions. There was already of total budget of £1,500 for civic duties and it was estimated that around £500 should suffice for this one event.
b)	Leisure Centre	Mr Tony Wilson, Headteacher, Whitstone informs decision by the School Governing Body not to proceed with establishing local control of the Leisure Centre but to take position as Landlord and owner of the centre with day to day management and control of the centre falling to the new leisure Trust subject to necessary agreement terms being in place.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr CL, Seconded by Cllr RC, by a unanimous vote that the matter is noted.
c)	Somerset Art Works (SAW).	Currently organising events for SAW 09 which will run from 19/9 to 4/10/09 and requesting consideration to contributing £30 towards their work.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr CL, Seconded by Cllr RC, by a unanimous vote that the Town Council supported and wished them every success for this years event but that no current financial support was available at this time.
d)	Access for disabled within the Town Centre	Cllr Champion raises passionate and lengthy concerns as to inadequate and unacceptable access to retail units, banks, other premise within the Town Centre and pavement kerbs within the wider Town for disabled and wheelchair Users. He wished to bring all local authorities and its members into question and ask as to how their Building Regulations, Planning and Conservation departments work together when an application for a disable access comes before them, what is their priority, the disable access or the conservation area. Cllr TM wished the Town Council to support all disabled persons in the matter and not just wheelchair or mobility Users.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr CL, Seconded by Cllr RC, by a unanimous vote that the Town Council continues helping the disable where possible and at the same time encourage our District Councillors to persuade the 'Building Regulations, Planning and the Conservation Departments' to work together and promote the town as disable friendly. The Clerk is to draft a letter to this effect, distribute and seek any amendments from all members and then the matter to be placed on the agenda with recommendations for the next meeting of Council on the 3 March 2009.
e)	Animal Aid	Letter received raising again the issue of Animal Aid's Compassionate Charter to which they previously contact the Council last year and enquired if the Council has enabled to put any sections of the Charter into practise.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr JM, Seconded by Cllr CL, by a unanimous vote that the matter is noted. The Town Council repeat their support and accord with the Compassionate Charter and will continue to work towards the aim, objective and complance wherever possible. Animal Aid is to be

		requested to write directly to local supermarkets requesting them to support the Compassionate Charter especially in relation to a initial reduction of and finally achievement of the Town becoming a plastic bag-free zone.
f)	Grove House Surgery - Premises	Information received that they are in early stages for discussion with various bodies their need for new premises. Invitation to all Cllrs to visit the surgery on Tuesday 24 February 2009 at 1.30pm where Dr Howes, the Senior Partner and Rachel Witcombe the Practice Manager and other partners will be available to explain their current situation, the options and timescales for the project. Names were required. Cllr CL considered that they were requesting opinion from the Town Council as to possible sites within the Town that may be suitable for their relocation.
	Resolve;	By a unanimous vote that the matter is noted and that Cllrs JB, RC, CL & DM were to attend. The consideration of possible relocation sites within the Town are to be placed on the agenda for full Council on the 3 March 2009.
g)	Street Lighting	PCSO Guy Dury had reviewed complaints regarding insufficient street lighting to Douglas Drive. Clerk had emailed Trevor Gutteridge of SCC regarding the matter without response to date.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr ME, Seconded by Cllr RC, by a unanimous vote that the Town Council write formally to Trevor Gutteridge of SCC requesting the consideration to the installation of an additional street light outside number 19 Douglas Drive, Shepton Mallet with copies sent to Cllr MR and PCSO Guy Dury.

Note CD74. 07/08 Regeneration Portfolio Matters – Cllr Janet Kinison

a)	Regeneration Update	Cllr JK reported attendance at a THI Steering Group meeting and also a Shepton 21 meeting which she found most interesting.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr ME, Seconded by Cllr RC, by a unanimous vote that the matter is noted and a representative from Shepton 21 is invited to attend the 7 April closed meeting of the Community Development Working Group.

Note CD75. 07/08 Agenda for the next meeting – Tuesday 14 April 2009

Representative from Shepton 21 are to be invited to attend the next meeting to have frank and open discussion to their future priority projects and as to how the Town Council can work with them in a positive and supporting manner.

It was considered that future meetings should have a base theme and three matters were suggested being Leisure Development, Sports Development and Tourism. As the first two matters` would have impact by way of the current MDC Review due in April 2009 it was considered that the theme of the next meeting in April is to be Tourism and appropriate persons are to be invited to attend.

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9pm.

Cllr J.D. Bartlett

Signature; _____

Chairman

_____/_____/2009