

Notes of the Meeting of the Town Council's Community Development Working Group held on 13 April 2010, in the Council Chamber, Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet.

Present: Chairman - Councillor Jeannette Marsh (JM)

Members - Cllrs Bartlett(JB), Champion(RC), Dunscombe(WD), Gilham (JG), Height (BH), Inchley (CI), Kinison (JK), Lockey (CL), Lovell (ML), J. Marsh (JM), T. Marsh (TM) and Shearn (NS).

Kate Whittle (Somerset Co-operative Services) and Prof Gordon McDougall (The Musical Theatre School).

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming members and guests before providing a brief on Health & Safety requirements including emergency evacuation and assembly point procedures. Mobile phones were requested to be switched off or to silent mode.

Note CD44. 09/10 Apologies for absence – Cllr Marvin

Resolve; Proposed by Cllr JM that the apologies are accepted and recorded.

Note CD45. 09/10 Presentation – Somerset Co-operative Services, Kate Whittle.

Kate provided a presentation to the benefits of social enterprise for rural sustainability. The company is a community interest company, not for profit business with social goals. Towns and villages were suffering much the same problems and some of the successful initiatives including Community Village Shops, Community Pubs and other initiatives such as Car Clubs, Credit Unions, Energy Co-ops, Craft and marketing co-ops. They wished the Town Council to assist with promotion of community enterprise and suggested nomination of a Cllr to champion, be the link person and facilitate where possible. The Somerset Co-operative Services provided support to new and existing co-ops, financial support services, specialist support such as reducing carbon emissions and inviting clients to join as members. They have a website www.somerset.coop which has further information. Kate then took questions from Cllrs.

The Chairman thanked Kate for a most interesting presentation and invited any Cllr wishing to volunteer as the nominated Co-operative Services Champion to forward their name to the Clerk to pass on to Kate Whittle. Kate Whittle then left the meeting.

Note CD46. 09/10 Presentation - The Musical Theatre School, Academy Theatre, Prof Gordon McDougall.

Prof Gordon McDougall reported that the new company had reduced the previous deficit of BAPA and would hopefully break even in the current year. They currently had a shoestring timetable aimed at getting existing students through to July and obtain graduation when it was possible that the company may well have to close. Prof McDougall informed that the Musical Theatre School (formally BAPA) has been validated with the National Diploma which unfortunately will not help the students or school with funding. All students were totally self funding and none received government help for either fees or accommodation costs. Over the three year term this would cost each student around £30,000 in costs. He provided a summary of the Musical Theatre School business plans and the requirement for seeking hopefully £20,000 funding from a combination of sources to market the School with the goal of obtaining the 35 students required for the September intake to ensure the viability of the business. He had already talked to about twenty five universities about possibly becoming a satellite without success and had also presented the companies proposals to several banks without positive support. The business plan indicated that they needed somewhere around a total of 60 students to break even.

The Chairman thanked Prof Gordon McDougall for his presentation and wished him well for the future. Prof Gordon McDougall then left the meeting.

Note CD47. 09/10 Members Declarations of Interests

Cllr Shearn declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in the Musical Theatre School as the group used his community hall.

Resolve; that the above Declarations are recorded.

Note CD48. 09/10 Notes & Actions Points of the Previous Meeting

The Notes of the Community Development Working Group Meeting held on the 16 February 2010 were considered for accuracy and content.

Resolve: Proposed by Cllr WD, Seconded by Cllr ML by a unanimous vote that the Notes of the Community Development Working Group Meeting held on the 16 February 2010 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Note CD49. 09/10 Matters Arising from the Notes / Action Points

a)	CD37a Council Tax	Response letter received from the Leader of SCC Cllr Ken Maddock (previously copied to all members).
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr JM that the matter is noted.
b)	CD40a Town Centre Retail	Response received from the Chamber of Commerce regarding TC representatives and also Town Centre Trading Hours.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr JM that the matter is noted.

Note CD50. 09/10 Partnership Matters

c)	Town Centre CCTV	MDC advise +3.83% increases in Service Level Agreement for 2010/11 with sum of £7,072.25 which is £56.25 (this will need resolve from contingencies). Minutes of User Group Meeting held 11 March attached.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr RC, Seconded by Cllr CL by a vote of 11 For and 1 Abstention that the increases for the Service Level Agreement for 2010/11 of £7,072.25 is approved and that the balance funds of £56.25 is vired from the contingencies budget heading.
d)	MDC Amenity Grass Cutting	Response received from Mr Stuart Finney MDC regarding the Town Council strong objection to the proposed reductions in maintenance schedules for amenity grass and highway verges.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr JM that the matter is noted.
e)	Chamber of Commerce	Minutes of 16 th March 2010 passed by email to all Cllrs (hard copy to those not on emails) along with press release to the BBC Filming project. Cllr WD confirmed that the Chamber had made contact and he was fully aware of their forthcoming meeting schedule.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr that the matter is noted.
f)	Somerset Aggregates Paper	Consultation received for The Core Strategy which will replace the current Minerals Local Plan. Reply before Monday 17 May 2010. Some Cllrs considered the timescale for response was far too short and others considered that the consultation should be directly via local open public meetings.

Resolve;	It was agreed that Cllr Lockey would review the consultation document and respond to the set questions on behalf of the Town Council following which via the Clerk the response is to be submitted prior to the 17 May 2010.
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Note CD51. 09/10 Community & Leisure Portfolio Matters – Cllr Judy Bartlett

a)	Twinning Association	Minutes of their AGM held Saturday 13 February 2010 received. Twinning Association also inform 2 visits for 2010/11 2010 – Visit to Oissel (dated to be decided); 2010 – Invited to Bollnas for International Week (24/28 July); 2011 – Visit to Misburg (probable June 50 th Anniversary of link); 2011 - Visit from Oissel (dated to be decided).
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr JB that the matter is noted.
b)	Bollards to Market Place Pedestrian Area	Police request consideration to the provision of removal bollards in the Market Place to assist with stopping all types of vehicles using the pedestrian paved areas. Cllr WD considered that the Council should firstly work up and cost the project before approaching SCC, others considered that SCC should provide and install the bollards. There would be a requirement for responsible keyholders to be designated and manage any removal for access when required.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr ML, Seconded by Cllr RC, by a unanimous vote that the proposal by the Police to request bollards to be installed along the edge of the High Street highway where it borders the Market Place pedestrian zone is supported. It was Somerset Highways responsibility to keep the Market Place pedestrian area free of vehicular traffic and safe for pedestrians. As this may take time to have installed the Police are requested to undertake increased presence and to immediately enforce the situation. Cllr Champion then left the meeting.
c)	BT Red Kiosk's	BT Offer adoption again for £1 each to take over kiosk (not service) and to protect from future removal plans.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr JB, Seconded by Cllr WD, by a vote of 6 For, 4 Against and 2 Abstentions it is recommended to full Council that the Town Council accept the offer from BT to adopt and maintain the empty red telephone kiosks situated at Downside, Charlton Road and Cannards Grave for a one off charge from BT of £1 each.
d)	Shepton Mallet TIC	Request received for release of Precepted funds (£3,669 subject to Business Plans) at the earliest. Request made for submission of business plan for year 2010/2011. Cllr JB provided a summary of the TIC finances which were pretty grim for the forthcoming year. There was no doubt the positive input the TIC gave to the Town which now answered some fifty thousand enquiries per annum. A vote to recommend payment of the full precepted budget plus an additional amount vired from the Community Grants budget heading to make a total sum of £5,000 was lost.
Resolve;		Proposed by Cllr JB, Seconded by Cllr JM, by a vote of 10 for and 1 Against that it is recommended to the full Council at the 4 May meeting that the precept sum of £3,669 is approved and paid to Shepton Mallet TIC.

Note CD52. 09/10 Regeneration Portfolio Matters – Cllr Chris Inchley

a)	Academy Theatre	Cllr Shearn then left the meeting. Following a presentation earlier in the meeting confirmation had been
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		received that the Musical Theatre School (formally BAPA) has achieved validated with the National Diploma which unfortunately would not help the students or school with funding, this means to survive to teach the Diploma they have to attract as least 35 students for the September intake. They are currently seeking £20,000 for a major marketing campaign to achieve this goal. Cllr CL had suggested that they should make approaches to the private sector companies for possible support funding. Several members viewed that the possible failure of the Musical Theatre School would have a wide impact on the Town and that the Council should consider financial support in this instance. Others were not of the same view.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr WD, Seconded by Cllr BH, by a vote of 5 For and 5 Against, carried by a casting vote of the Chairman For to recommend to the next meeting of full Council that the Town Council are very pleased that the Musical Theatre School had achieved validated in the National Diploma and that the Town Council would provide its verbal support and backing but was unable to provide financial support from public funds.
b)	Allotments and Footpath Maintenance Contracts	Following a Health & Safety review concerns had been raised regarding single contractors carrying out minor works to the Allotment and Footpath Maintenance as to if they were fully compliant with all Health & Safety and Legal requirements. The main contractor to the Ground Care contract had indicated to the Clerk that they would undertake these contracts if needed for the same price if this assisted the Council with compliance.
	Resolve;	Proposed by Cllr JM, Seconded by Cllr CI, by a unanimous vote that the Clerk interview both single person contractors to the Allotment and Footpath maintenance contracts to discuss their full compliance with all current legal and health & safety requirements. It was recognised that both contractors had provided long term satisfactory performance to their respective contracts in the past but that if they were not able to be fully compliant with all current legal and health & safety requirements then the Council had no other option than not to renew their annual contract which had currently expired on the 31 March 2010. Should this be the case then the Clerk is to confirm the same details and costings with Quadron Services and place the order and contract with them in respect of either or both the Allotments and Footpath Maintenance contracts under the same specification and costings as existing.

Note CD53. 09/10 Agenda for the next meeting – Tuesday 15 June 2010

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

Cllr

Chairman of the Council

Signature; _____

_____/_____/2010