

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM IN THE CASTLE,
HERTFORD**

PRESENT: Cllr P Ruffles, in the Chair

PRESENT P Boyle, S Cousins, Mrs S Dunkley, Mrs B Haddock and Mrs S
Rutland Barsby

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Tricia Carpenter – Interim Town Clerk
1 member of the public

325. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dr Downs (personal
commitment) and Cllr Mrs Newton (Personal commitment)

326. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr S Cousins	DPI	Agenda items Re allotments	Cllr Cousins has an Allotment.
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327. THE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2015 were approved
as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chairman was authorised
to sign same.

**328. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT DEALT WITH
ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The action sheet be noted.

Note: Cllr Cousins left the room for all discussions relating to allotments.

**329. QUESTIONS AND/OR STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC**

Victoria Glover Ward addressed the Committee regarding the plan to
keep bees the Cromwell Road Allotment Site.

Ms Glover Ward advised the Committee of the trend towards a loss of
bees which had been recorded as between 10% and 33% per year and

one of the factors for this loss was a lack of forage, which was why she considered a bee hive on the allotment site would be perfect. She confirmed that she was a member of the South East Herts Bee Keeping Association and was covered by their insurances, she advised that bee keepers worked hard to prevent swarming and she would have both a mentor and other people assisting her in managing the bees.

330. ALLOTMENTS – STATISTICS AND MAINTENANCE

The Committee received a report detailing the latest statistics for the Council's allotment sites, and also maintenance work which had been carried out on the sites.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The allotment statistics and maintenance details be received and noted.

331. ALLOTMENTS – MUDLARKS COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

The Committee received a report from Mudlarks regarding the recent activities of the project. The Committee wished to commend Mudlarks for their work and also for the provision of the Santa's Grotto at the café.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee notes the report.

332. NORTH ROAD PLOTHOLDERS GROUP

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the North Road Plotters' Group.

The Committee noted and thanked the NRPG for the report along with the minutes of the AGM and the clearly presented audited accounts. The Committee noted that observations on the accounts had been received from a member of the public and requested that those observations be shared with the Plotters' Group, through Cllr Steve Cousins, who would liaise with the Chairman.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **notes** the report..

333. LOVELY GRUB GARDEN

The Committee received a report outlining the recent activities of the Lovely Grub Garden. It was noted that the Treasurer had been advised that grant funding may be available through East Herts Councillors Deering and Rutland Barsby.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **notes** the report.

334. BEE KEEPING AT CROMWELL ROAD ALLOTMENT SITE

The Committee received a report outlining a request from a member of the public to keep bees at the Cromwell Road Allotment Site.

It was noted that it would not be appropriate for a bee hive to be sited on an allotment plot at Cromwell Road because it was a busy site and backed on to rear gardens. The Allotments Officer had identified a currently overgrown space on the site where it would seem suitable for bee hives should the allotment tenant wish to clear and secure the area. The Council's rules and regulations would need to be adhered to and that included a letter to be sent to all allotment tenants advising them of the proposal.

Provided there were no objections from other allotment tenants and the hives were properly managed, the Committee was happy to approve the proposal.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Committee **notes** the report.
- b) The Committee **approves** for three beehives to be sited on a designated area of overgrown land at the Cromwell Road allotment site, provided no objections were received from allotment holders.

335. CEMETERY AND CLOSED CHURCHYARDS - STATISTICS FOR BURIALS AND INTERMENT OF ASHES

The Committee received a report outlining the recent burials and interment of ashes statistics at the Cemetery along with details of the maintenance work programme.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Committee **notes** the report

336. MEASURES CONSIDERED BY BISHOP'S STORTFORD TOWN COUNCIL TO MAXIMISE BURIAL SPACE IN THE CEMETERY

The Committee received a report outlining measures that Bishop's Stortford Town Council had taken to maximise burial space in its cemetery. The Committee noted the useful report and considered that much of the information could be used to assist this Council in maximising space when necessary.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **notes** the report.

337. SUB COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY SUB COMMITTEES

Hertford Youth Town Council/Youth Engagement

Cllr Boyle reported that it was intended to contact Schools and other Youth Groups to ascertain whether the proposals suggested would produce a workable youth engagement programme, and once this was established a proposal for youth engagement/youth council would be brought before the Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **notes** the verbal report.

338. FINANCE - FIRST HALF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2015/16

The Committee received a report detailing the income and expenditure figures for the first half 2015/16.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Committee **notes** the half year income and expenditure to 30 September 2015.

339. DRAFT BUDGET 2016/17

The Committee received the second draft of the budget for 2016/17 and considered the optional projects for 2016/17. The Chairman advised that following a visit to the Cromwell Road Allotment Site and advice from Officers, it was not necessary to remove the Poplar tree and therefore this item could be removed from the optional projects list.

It was further noted that the grant to the Lovely Grub Garden was a one off proposal and not an annual payment.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **recommends** the optional projects amounting to £40,500 to the Finance, Policy and Administration Committee for inclusion in the budget for 2016/17.

The meeting closed at 2030