

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7.30PM IN THE CASTLE,
HERTFORD**

CHAIRMAN: Councillor S Cousins, in the Chair

PRESENT R Bolton, P Boyle, Mrs B Haddock, Mrs S Dunkley, Mrs S Newton,
P Ruffles and Mrs S Rutland-Barsby

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J Whelan – Town Clerk
Ms Tricia Carpenter – Civic Administration Manager

345. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dr Downs.

346. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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| Cllr Mrs R Bolton | DPI – Agenda item 7(c) – All Saints churchyard | Trustee of All Saints Church |
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347. THE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2016 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings and the Chairman was authorised to sign same.

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

It was noted that the order had been placed for the replacement wall adjacent to St Andrew Churchyard. The Clerk confirmed that he had written to East Herts Council regarding further recompense for the loss of the bricks, but officers did not indicate a willingness or need to take the matter further.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The action sheet be noted.

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

None.

350. 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 noted that vacancies remained at the Hertingfordbury site and it was suggested that a sign be placed on the notice board at Sele in order to bring the vacancies to the attention of the new residents of the developments in the area who would not have gardens.

A request had been received from the Secretary of the Lovely Grub Garden to erect a polytunnel at the site. Members were happy to approve the siting of a polytunnel, but would review the situation should there be any issue raised by residents in neighbouring properties.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Committee **notes** the allotment statistics and maintenance.
2. The Committee **approves** the siting of a polytunnel at the Lovely Grub Garden.

351. ALLOTMENTS – MUDLARKS COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

The Committee received a report from Mudlarks regarding the recent activities of the project.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **notes** the report.

352. NORTH ROAD PLOTHOLDERS GROUP

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

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **notes** the report.

353. LOVELY GRUB GARDEN

The Committee received a report from the Lovely Grub Garden.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **notes** the report.

354. 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:

The Committee **notes** the report

355. BURIAL LAND REPORT

The Committee received a report detailing the number of spaces available for burials at the Cemetery. The Committee noted there was up to 60 years available space in the current location based on current burial practices meaning there was no urgency to find an alternative site for the foreseeable future. The Committee did however note that land availability was an issue and it was therefore agreed that the matter should be reviewed annually.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **notes** the report.

356 ALL SAINTS CHURCHYARD

The Committee considered a request from the Vicar and Churchwarden at All Saints Church for some of the ivy bushes to be removed or cut back to allow for better sight lines in the churchyard. Additionally, there was evidence that one of the bushes in particular was used to conceal individuals committing anti-social behaviour.

The Committee, whilst sympathising with the reasons for the request, nevertheless noted the very important ecological benefits of the ivy bushes which had been in situ for many decades and members were therefore extremely reluctant to approve any cutting back or removal of the bushes. It was felt that, in the first instance, the Neighbourhood Police Sergeant should be contacted and requested to carry out regular night time patrols in the churchyard and to seek the advice of the police as to the best way forward.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee requests the Town Clerk to contact the Neighbourhood Police Sergeant to request regular night time patrols of the churchyard and to seek advice as to the most appropriate way forward, which may include cutting back the bottom of one of the bushes.

Note: Having previously declared a DPI, Cllr Mrs Bolton left the room for the duration of the discussion and vote.

357. PROPOSALS FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The Committee received a report from the Town Clerk regarding future youth engagement policies for the Council.

The Committee considered the various options in the report and generally agreed that a reboot of the old youth council model was not the most effective way forward for future youth engagement, given that this method only engaged with up to 8 young people. Members however recognised that real opportunities for youth engagement and for seeking the views of a large demographic of pupils lay within the current school mechanisms. The Sele Neighbourhood Plan Working Party was keen to engage with school councils and a wide section of pupils imminently for work on the neighbourhood plan and an approach on this subject was seen as a good opportunity to test this mechanism for future youth engagement on a wider variety of subjects.

The Committee agreed that the most appropriate way forward was for the Town Clerk to write to the head teachers in January in order to make contact with pupils via parent mail and to seek a willing volunteer to visit the schools to discuss input into the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee requests the Town Clerk to contact head teachers of Schools in January to implement an engagement with pupils on the Sele Ward Neighbourhood Plan as a first step to effective further youth engagement.

358. FINANCE - FIRST HALF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2016/17

The Committee received a report detailing the income and expenditure figures for the first half 2016/17.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Committee notes the first quarter income and expenditure to 30 September 2016.

359. DRAFT BUDGET 2017/18

The Committee received the draft of the budget for 2017/18. The Committee requested that a further £2000 be added to the allotment budget to cover any acts of vandalism to Council property that could occur on the allotment sites.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The Committee **recommends** the draft budget to the Finance, Policy and Administration Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm