

**CHRISTCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 February 2020 at 6.00pm at the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Christchurch BH23 1AZ

Present:-

Chairman: Honorary Freeman Cllr C Bungey

Vice-Chairman: Cllr S J McCormack

Present: Cllr A E Coulton, Cllr G R Jarvis, Cllr G E E Polson, and Cllr Mrs S Spittle.

Apologies: Cllr Mrs S Bungey, Cllr C A Gardiner and Cllr W Grace,

Officers present: Daniel Lucas, Town Clerk  
Susan Roxby, Administrative Support Officer

Members of the Public present: 1

Members of the Press present: None present

**217. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

**218. Public Participation**

An elector gave a presentation on the loss of nature conservation in Christchurch and raised concerns that Biodiversity should be increased in open spaces or nature would be lost. A copy of which appears as appendix 'A' to these minutes in the minute book.

**219. Public Questions**

There were no questions from the public on this occasion.

**220. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2019 were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

Voting: unanimous

**221. Motions Received by Councillors**

Cllr Coulton withdrew a motion regarding the regeneration of the High Street and asked members to consider the reason why retailers were not coming into the Town and how the High Street could be made interesting.

The Town Clerk advised that the Residents Survey Working Group had been reconvened which had been extended to all members to devise a corporate plan and identify core objectives, and that the street scene and vitality of the High Street would be considered.

The Christchurch Business Improvement District (BID) was coming soon and would be included on the March Full Council agenda regarding.

**222. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman updated the committee on recycling in Christchurch Town following a meeting he attended for BCP councillors and advised that as of April 2020 the Dorset Waste partnership would no longer collect waste and in future would be collected by BCP Council. Hampshire residents could not deposit waste at Millhams Household Recycling Centre at Wilverley Road as Hampshire Council had not made a contribution to this service. Local residents would need to show proof of address when depositing waste. BCP Council was hoping to purchase new pavement and curb sweepers which would have tanks of weed killer attached to treat problems with weeds.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

Voting: nem.con

**223. Britain in Bloom**

Members were asked to consider entering the 2020/2021 competition. The Town Clerk advised that a £25,000 budget had been set aside for the Britain in Bloom project. Numerous categories were available for entry, however as new entrants the Town Council was entitled to free entry for this year in the

“parish” category. Other entry categories were included, however, given this is the Town Council’s first year in entering it was thought prudent to establish community/volunteer/local business links in this first year before considering entry in other categories which presume strong ties with volunteers/organisations.

Members felt that a ‘Town’ category would be preferable due to it being a qualifying category for Britain in Bloom.

**RESOLVED that:**

- a) **the Town Council enters Britain in Bloom via the South and South East in Bloom competition in the “Town” category;**
- b) **members create a Working Group to help design, implement and oversee the management and spending of the In Bloom Budget which shall report to this Committee as appropriate; and**
- c) **delegates to the Town Clerk to complete the entry arrangements on behalf of the Town Council.**

Voting: unanimous

**224. Christmas Lights**

The Town Clerk informed Members that the Shadow Council had advised the Christmas Lights contract was for two years, but BCP Council had now advised that the contract was for one year only and that this had now expired with the contractor and BCP Council. The budget of £13,600 should be included in BCP Council’s budget and it was now for the Town Council to consider if it wished to take the budget back in house and employ a contractor for the 2020 Christmas lights, or whether to leave it to BCP to continue to arrange a contractor for the lights

**RESOLVED that:**

- a) **if the budget remains with BCP Council that it continues with this service, but the Town Council has some input; and**
- b) **the matter comes back to the Town Council if there is no budget.**

Voting: unanimous

The meeting ended at 7.28pm

CHAIRMAN