

CHRISTCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 March 2021 at 6.00pm via Zoom conferencing facilities

Present:-

Cllr Mrs L Dedman – Mayor

Cllr Mrs S Bungey – Deputy Mayor

Present: Cllr J Abbott, Cllr V Charrett, Cllr A E Coulton, Cllr Mrs F Cox, Cllr M Cox, Cllr S Fotheringham, Cllr C A Gardiner, Cllr W Grace, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr G R Jarvis, Cllr D C Jones, Cllr T Lane, Cllr S J McCormack, Cllr F F T Neale, Cllr G E E Polson Cllr Mrs S Spittle and Cllr M J Tarling.

Officers Daniel Lucas, Town Clerk

Present: Susan Roxby, Administrative Support Officer

Members of the Public present: 4

Members of the Press present: None present.

256. Prayers

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Canon Charles Stewart opened the proceedings with prayers.

257. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Abbott declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Minute No. 265 (Recommendations from the Community Grants Working Group Meetings) as she was a Trustee of the Somerford Arc and remained present for the discussion but abstained from voting or speaking thereon.

Cllr Charrett declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Minute No. 265 (Recommendations from the Community Grants Working Group Meetings) as she a member of the Christchurch Carnival Committee and remained present for the discussion but abstained from speaking thereon.

Cllr Hillard declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Minute No. 265 (Recommendations from the Community Grants Working Group Meetings) as he was associated with a couple of the groups and remained present for the discussion but abstained from speaking thereon.

Cllr Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Minute No. 265 (Recommendations from the Community Grants Working Group Meetings) as he was associated with the Somerford Arc and his wife was a Trustee of the Somerford Arc and remained present for the discussion but abstained from speaking thereon.

Cllr McCormack declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Minute No. 265 (Recommendations from the Community Grants Working Group Meetings) as he was a representative of an applicant and remained present for the discussion but abstained from speaking thereon.

258. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2021 and the Extraordinary meetings held on 18 January 2021 and 29 January 2021 were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

Voting: nem.

259. Announcements

The Mayor announced that our Twin Town Mayor of Aalen term of Office comes to an end this year and that she and all the Council wish him well.

The Mayor further announced that the Town Clerk, Daniel Lucas had achieved his Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) which was a great achievement and she and the whole council wished to congratulate him with all Councillors.

The Town Clerk thanked Members for their kind words. He stated that the Town Council was progressing well, allotments were being managed well, audit was being undertaken in preparation for the end of year AGAR, and he had received enquiries from the public regarding Council Tax which was good to see the public engaging with the democratic process.

260. Public Participation

An elector made a statement on the Ducking Stool Board which appears as appendix 'A' to these minutes in the minute book.

Public Questions

An elector asked the Chairman of The Planning and Regulatory Committee the following question:

“The Current Core Strategy has a policy KS4 which states that it should aim for 35 % of new homes to be affordable. Recently that target in the Christchurch Town Area for 2 major developments, in total some 330 dwellings, has realised just 15% of affordable homes. Such percentage decisions are normally agreed by elected councillors at a BCP planning committee meeting. Is the Chairman aware that at the BCP planning committee meeting to be held on Thursday of this week that the officers report recommends no affordable homes target for the MCA housing development site at Friars Cliff and recommends that the decision of this target is delegated to the Head of BCP planning. Would the Chairman please comment on this proposed recommendation and delegation proposal?”

The Chairman of the Planning Committee replied raising concerns that there were no major applications coming through with affordable housing and that affordable housing when created would be available to anyone in the conurbation. He considered that there should be Christchurch homes for Christchurch people, there was a shortage of affordable housing, and that this could be used by any resident in the 3 towns within the BCP area. He further considered that it was detrimental to the Council that Affordable Housing was delegated to BCP officers.

Members queried how many affordable homes had been built and were informed that there was very little development in Christchurch Town.

261. Questions from Councillors

There were no questions submitted from Members in accordance with the Council’s Standing orders.

262. Verbal Reports from Partner Organisations

Cllr Spittle informed Members that nothing was going ahead until October for the Christchurch BID due to Covid restrictions.

Cllr Charrett advised Members that the Christchurch Carnival would go ahead on 14 & 15 August this year, although the parade may not go ahead.

The Mayor enquired how one of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party Community Volunteers was progressing after his illness and was advised by Cllr Jones that he was stable and making progress. The Mayor and Councillors gave their best wishes.

263. Committee Minutes

The Committee Minutes for the last cycle of meetings were received as follows:

Planning Committee, 26 January 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2021 were received.

The recommendation arising from the meeting was considered and not accepted.

Minute No: 212 - Proposed Development of the Civic Offices in Bridge Street, Christchurch.

The Town Clerk advised that it would be unwise for the Town Council to discuss this item due to the possibility of Councillors being bias and predetermined. There is no BCP decision at present and this is a matter for BCP as to how the Civic Offices in Bridge Street was disposed.

Voting: nem. con

Resources Committee, 9 February 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2021 were received.

Voting: nem. con.

Community Committee, 16 February 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2021 were received.

Voting: nem.con.

Planning Committee, 23 February 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2021 were received.

Voting: nem.con

Planning Committee, 1 March 2021

The Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 1 March 2021 were received.

Voting: nem.con

Resources Committee, 9 March 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021 were received.

The recommendation arising from the meeting was considered and approved:

Minute: 252. Reserves

- (a) The committee agreed the proposals to earmark the Councils General Reserves to those earmarked budget lines identified at table 1; and
- (b) Full Council approves the proposals at table 1:

Project	Proposed Reserve Allocation
Town Hall Roof Repair	£230,000
Town Hall Internal Redecoration	£17,825
Druitt Hall Windows	£40,000
Community Infrastructure Levy	£44,000
Total	£331,825

Voting: unanimous

264. Confirmation of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group Membership.

Members were asked to consider the Membership of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group.

Cllr Neale withdrew his proposal for the following motion: That Council recommends that the Task and Finish Group should comprise of 7 Members so as to include all those Members who applied for consideration, which included Cllrs Jones and Polson who were unsuccessful in the exhaustive ballot.

RESOLVED that Members confirmed the membership of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group to comprise of the following Members:

Cllr F Neale (Chairman)

Cllr J A Abbott

Cllr C Gardiner

Cllr G R Jarvis

Cllr M Tarling

Voting: 18:1

265. Recommendations from the Community Grants Working Group Meetings held on Tuesday 2, 3 & 5 February 2021.

A list of Community Grants was submitted, a copy of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these minutes in the minute book.

Following the Community Grants Working Group meeting held via Zoom conferencing facilities on the 2, 3 & 5 February 2021, Members considered the recommendations made by the Working Group for Community grants to be awarded.

The Town Clerk advised that the second tranche of the Community Grants uptake had been well received, with grants totalling £15,750 awarded and that the grants budget had been slightly overspent.

RESOLVED that:

a) the following organisations be awarded grants in the sums as follows:

£1,875 to Christchurch Antiquarians

£2,500 to Christchurch Carnival.

£1,875 to Christchurch Community Partnership.

£1,500 to the Christchurch RFC.

£1,500 to Christchurch Soup Kitchen.

£500 to Dorset Search & Rescue.

£1,250 to Friends of Red House Museum.

£2,500 to Grange School.

£1,250 to Somerford Arc Community Centre.

£1000 to Tiny Tots.

Voting: nem. con.

Cllr Abbott declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as she was a Trustee of the Somerford Arc and remained present for the discussion but abstained from voting or speaking thereon.

Cllr Charrett declared a non-pecuniary interest in this as she a member of the Christchurch Carnival Committee and remained present for the discussion but abstained from speaking thereon.

Cllr Hillard declared a non-pecuniary interest in as he was associated with a couple of the groups and remained present for the discussion but abstained from speaking thereon.

Cllr Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as he was associated with the Somerford Arc and his wife was a Trustee of the Somerford Arc and remained present for the discussion but abstained from speaking thereon.

Cllr McCormack declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as he was a representative of an applicant and remained present for the discussion but abstained from speaking thereon.

266. Internal Audit – Auditor Appointment

The Town Clerk informed Members that the ‘Do the Numbers Ltd’ auditor had already come across to the Town Hall to undertake the audit. He further informed Members and that ‘an elector’ would now be recorded in the minutes, as this was one of the audit recommendations that a person should not be named in the minutes as they have a right to be forgotten.

RESOLVED that ‘Do the Numbers Ltd’ be appointed to act as the Council’s internal auditor for 2020/2021.

Voting: nem.con.

267. Committee/Other Body Membership Procedure Update

A report was submitted, a copy of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendix ‘C’ to these minutes in the minute book.

The Town Clerk provided Members with an overview of the Procedure Update.

Members raised the following concerns:

- A Chairman should not also be able to act as a vice-chair.
- A Member should only hold 1 office, as this is a large Council with 19 members and all Councillors should have the opportunity to hold office.
- Paragraph 14 of Cllr Jones suggested amended procedure notes should be discussed by all members.

Cllr Jones proposed that if this Council had not considered anything before then this Council may follow the president of the former Christchurch Borough Council. Cllr Neale seconded this proposal.

Members did not agree with this proposal and felt their viewpoints on the suggested amendments should be consolidated and asked to defer the item to the next meeting. The Town clerk advised that the procedures should be agreed for the next committee cycle where they would be implicated for the committee membership to be considered at the Annual Council meeting. An extraordinary meeting could be called and invite comment from all 19 members.

Cllr Mrs F Cox proposed a motion that we should defer the item to discuss the amendments in red by Cllr Jones. This was proposal was seconded by Cllr Neale.

RESOLVED that:

- a) this agenda item be deferred for Members to comment solely on Cllr Jones' amendments in red and provide Members' thoughts about paragraph 14 of the suggested procedure note; and**
- b) upon receipt members agreed that the Town Clerk shall endeavour to consolidate Members' majority of thoughts to be considered at an extraordinary meeting of Full Council.**

Voting: unanimous

268. CiLCA and General Power of Competence

The Town Clerk informed Members that he had passed the CiLCA (the Clerk's Qualification)

The Town Clerk further informed Members that this means going forwards this Town council now has the General Power of Competence in having a fully qualified clerk which shall be declared at the next Annual Council.

RESOLVED that the verbal update be noted.

Voting: nem. con.

269. Event Enquiry

The Town Clerk informed Members that BCP had received an event application for the pathway at the Quomps, which although the cycle path is BCP land, they were happy for it to go ahead as it was being done across other locations in Bournemouth and Poole, but wanted to consult with the Town Council to obtain its view and whether it was happy for this to go ahead. Details of the event had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as appendix 'D' to these minutes in the minute book.

The organiser of the Invisible Event informed Members that they were providing events outside on beaches, parks, bus stations, piers, car parks, cycling paths, including dance and mass participation projects.

The event followed a dancer with chalk, and another dancer would then follow and leave a chalk line mark of the dancer's movements on the pavement. It would be done early in the morning on Saturday 10th April 2021.

The event was being held across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, providing visual connection outwards and employed local dancers. The last remaining site for permission was the cycle path at the Quomps. The project was also being undertaken all over the world.

The organiser advised that after 3 weeks they would go round to all the areas and check that the chalk had been removed and if any still remained after 3 weeks, that they would scrub it off.

Members raised concerns that this may encourage graffiti in the Christchurch area. The event organiser advised that if Members were concerned then this could be done in chalk instead of chalk spray paint and removed after a week.

A Member enquired who was paying for the event to be held and was advised by the organiser that the Arts Council was sponsoring the event.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the Town Council is in favour of the Invisible event going ahead;**
- b) the Town Council to also have its coat of arms to be include on the bottom of the event signage as well as BCP Council; and**
- c) the chalk line be removed if still visible after 3 weeks.**

Voting: 18:1

Cllr Jones requested his dissent be recorded in the minutes.

270. Ducking Stool Board Walk

Proposal documents from BCP Council were submitted, a copy of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'E' to these minutes in the minute book.

An elector provided Members with a statement on the Ducking Stool Board Walk.

Members were asked to consider the proposal from BCP Council, Businesses and Residents to assist in this matter.

The Town Clerk advised Members that the Council with its current resources could comfortably assist and utilise a proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) received from BCP Council this financial year to provide this one-off grant. None of these monies have been assigned to any capital projects. Guidance from BCP Council also illustrated that providing this grant meets the initiatives and purpose of tasking CIL monies in "provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure".

Members felt that this project would be money well spent and an opportunity to put things right. Members considered this was exactly the perfect application for use of the CIL funds in this project.

One Member raised concerns for use of the funds for this application.

Cllr Jones proposed the following amendments:

1. that a plaque should be fixed to the boardwalk stating that this project was made possible by BCP and the Town Council
2. the Town Council should not transfer any funds until BCP and residents are irrevocably committed to supporting this.

The Town Clerk advised that recommendation (e) captures if the other parties do not commit, and then this will fall.

Cllr Jones withdrew the second amendment to the recommendation.

Cllr Cox was happy to accept the amendment to the proposal for a plaque to show that the Town Council was involved. Cllr Tarling seconded this proposal.

Cllr Jones' motion that a plaque should be fixed to the boardwalk stating that this project was made possible by BCP and the Town Council was carried.

The Town Clerk advised that the Ducking Stool Boardwalk would be a BCP Executive Officer delegated decision and that the Chairman of Resources

Committee having sight of the officer decision and satisfied, would then release funds by the Town Council.

Cllr Neale proposed a motion for an amendment to the recommendation to include the recommendations (a) to (e) on the agenda order paper, a plaque to record the Town Council's involvement, and sight of officer delegated decision record. This was seconded by Cllr Jarvis.

Cllr Fotheringham left the meeting prior to the vote.

The motion on being put to the vote fell.

Voting: 8:10

Cllr Cox proposed a motion for an amendment to the recommendation to include the recommendations (a) to (e) on the agenda order paper, and a plaque to record the Town Council's involvement. Cllr Tarling seconded this proposal.

The proposal on being put to the vote was carried.

Voting: 16:2

Cllr Jarvis and Cllr Neale were against this proposal.

RESOVLED that:

- a) **BCP Council be granted the sum of £25,000 coming from the Community Infrastructure Levy for the purposes of improving the footpath known as the Ducking Stool Boardwalk so that it shall be adopted by BCP Council as a highway maintainable at public expense;**
- b) **the grant shall be awarded under section 50(2) of the Highways Act 1980 which permits the council of a parish to undertake the maintenance of any footpath within the parish whether or not any other person is under a duty to maintain the footpath. This subsection also makes clear that nothing in this part of the Act affects the duty of any other person to maintain such footpath;**
- c) **the grant shall be for the one-off maintenance required to bring the footpath into an adoptable standard and on the basis that no further commitment shall be provided by this Council if such unforeseeable costs arise;**
- d) **the Council shall not be liable for any accidents or nuisances arising due to the negligence or otherwise of BCP Council and/or its contractors in performing the maintenance works. The award**

of the grant being no acceptance of liability for, or the duty to maintain the boardwalk.

- e) That the Council shall require notification of the completion of the works and adoption of the highway within 3 years of the date of this resolution, failing which the Town Council shall be at liberty to ask for the grant to be paid back to the Town Council; and
- f) a plaque to be fixed to the boardwalk to record the Town Council's involvement in addition to BCP Council for this project.

Voting: Voting: 16:2

Cllr Jarvis and Cllr Neale were against this proposal.

271. Exempt Business

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the matter relating to the financial and business affairs of the authority.

Voting:

272. CCLA Investment Management Limited - Public Sector Deposit Fund (Exempt)

Members were asked to consider information provided relating to the CCLA Investment Management Limited - Public Sector Deposit Fund.

Meeting ended at 8.56pm

CHAIRMAN