

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the Community Infrastructure Committee
16th August 2021
Held via Zoom and livestreamed on YouTube

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 7.30 p.m.

Cllr C Shea, Chairman	Present	Cllr A Clayton	Present
Cllr R J Parry, Vice-Chairman	Present	Cllr S Camp	Apologies
Cllr N Busvine	Present	Cllr R Hogarth	Present
Cllr Dr M Canet, Mayor	Present		

Substitute		For
Cllr Granville-Baxter	Present	Cllr S Camp

In Attendance: Cllr Mrs Parry, Cllr Piper, Town Clerk and Senior Committee Clerk

Representations received from Members of the Public: None

217 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and noted as shown above.

218 Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

219 Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

220 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st June 2021

The Minutes of the meeting of the Community Infrastructure Committee held on 21st June 2021 were received and agreed as a true record.

221. Community Investment Projects Cash Flows

The Committee received and noted the Community Investment Projects Cash Flows Summary to August 2021.

It was noted that the total unallocated Capital Receipts Reserve was £429,043.

222 2019 Community Investment Plan Projects

222.1 Bat & Ball Centre

The Bat & Ball Centre official public opening had taken place on 25th July 2021.

There had been some damage to the building whilst it was used as an Asymptomatic Testing Centre. KCC had agreed to commission the contractor BJJ to carry out repairs, including extensive work to the main hall flooring, which would ensure that the Town Council's guarantees for work carried out remained in place.

Two electric charging points for vehicles had been installed, with a couple of technical matters to be addressed by the contractor prior to them being available for use.

The Committee was pleased to note that hirers were returning quite quickly: comparative figures for July/August 2018 (pre closure) and 2021 were very promising.

222.2 Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

The MUGA continued to be well used.

222.3 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

It was noted that the NDP was subject to further delays due to the requirement to carry out a Strategic Environment Assessment. The Town Council had been successful in securing free technical support to produce the extensive piece of work expected to take 10-12 weeks. The draft NDP predicted timetable was noted.

222.4 Sevenoaks Business Hub

It was noted that the Business Hub was complete, subject to some additional works to the ramp requested by Building Control, UKPN & BT upgrade. The Finance Dept would relocate to the building once the UKPN upgrade had taken place, expected end of August 2021.

The Town Council had entered into a Service Level Agreement with Sevenoaks District Chamber of Commerce to market and obtain business for the facility: a launch event had been held and an outline Marketing Strategy prepared.

It was noted that the Business Hub was currently operating at approximately 10% of its Business Plan. The Committee would monitor progress.

222.5 Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership (DVCRP)

The Committee noted the ambitious plans set out in the DVCRP's planned Capital Projects for which funding was being sought. The DVCRP had made strong representations to GTR that the £100k underspend of the Passenger Benefit Fund for the six stations be provided as agreed.

The Town Clerk clarified that the DVCRP was an independent organisation under an accountable body, currently Sevenoaks District Council. The Town Council was a member of the organisation but did not have a financial liability.

222.6 Electric No.8 Bus

Obtaining an electric bus was one of the Town Council's priorities. Consideration would be given to submitting a bid to the next Sevenoaks District Council CIL Board once the criteria was known.

The Committee commented that the electric bus would need to be considered alongside other green initiatives. It was noted that the Town Council's initiatives would be discussed as part of the forthcoming review of committee terms of reference.

222.7 Stag Community Arts Centre

The Committee welcomed the Stag Takes Over the Town summer marketing and promotion event, which incorporated some of the Town Council and Town Team events and aimed to encourage more footfall in Sevenoaks and the Stag during August, including the Bank Holiday weekend.

222.8 Knole Paddock 3G Pitch

Following the dismissal of the planning appeal for the 3G pitch, some of the allocated funds had been set aside for upgrading floodlighting and drainage to pitches at Knole Paddock. The Open Spaces Manager was working on obtaining tenders for consideration at the next Open Spaces & Leisure Committee.

222.9 Bat & Ball Station Building

The event to unveil the plaques awarded by the National Railway Heritage Awards and the Railway Heritage Trust had taken place on 29th July 2021.

222.10 Town Council Offices

During the past 18 months and taking advantage of works to the Business Hub, improvements had been made to the Town Council offices. Last month new carpeting had been installed in the Council Chamber and foyer.

223. Press Release: None

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed: Dated:

Chairman