



CHEPSTOW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Environment and Amenities Committee** of Chepstow Town Council held via Zoom on Wednesday, 8th September 2021 at 7.00pm

Present:

Chair: Cllr J Becker

Councillors: H Beach, A Redhead (left 8.30pm), C Duchet (left 8.45pm), T Kirton, D Rooke

Apologies: A Braund, Y Havard

In Attendance: Mrs L Allen (Town Clerk)
Mrs A Sandiford (Deputy Town Clerk)

18. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

No declarations were declared at this time, any declarations of interest to be identified under the relevant item.

19. To Suspend Standing Orders

a) Public Open Forum (15 minutes at the discretion of the Mayor)

There were no members of the public present.

b) Monmouthshire County Council

MM outlined the independent Play Value Assessment undertaken in 2019 to assess the play value of MCC's play areas and responded to Members' queries in relation to play areas in Chepstow.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

20. Minutes

The Minutes of the Environment and Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 9th June 2021 were approved and will be signed at the next available opportunity due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

21. Matters Arising

None.

22. Climate Emergency Projects Update

Members noted the following updates on the climate emergency projects and were asked to consider how they wished to proceed with the adopted telephone box at Beaufort Square.

Chepstow Railway Station: No further update

Green Bin / Green Screen: Working with MCC on improvements to the area with MCC looking to financially support the project under the Placemaking Grant scheme.

Green Barrier A48 (Phase 1): MCC is looking to financially support this project under the Placemaking Grant scheme and they see this as a priority.

Upper Nelson Street upgrade: Still awaiting an update from MCC regarding the Nelson Street upgrade to include installation of parking bays to include EV charging points, resurfacing, tree planting.

Gatehouse improvements: Signed up to MCC initiative “Halls Together” project to help community halls reduce costs, save energy, share best practice and information.

Dell Water Fountain: All parties in agreement for this work – liaising with contractor.

Water fountain Riverbank: MCC and watering contractor will investigate if a part can be manufactured to make the fountain work.

Bee Keeping: Project moved to 2022 due to Covid and timescales.

Local Places for Nature: Working on appropriate wording for the sign before it is manufactured.

St Mary’s Walk lighting: Met with MCC on site – awaiting quotations.

Library Garden: Group are back out and working on the garden – grant forms sent.

Green Bin Store, The Boatman: Planning agreed. Potential that this project will be funded by the Placemaking Grant via MCC.

Scout Hall, Pembroke Rd: Grant forms have been sent to the group.

Water play area: Friends of the Dell are in the process of submitting a planning application before funding is applied for.

Energy Survey: Survey undertaken – awaiting report.

Recycling Bins: On order with MCC.

Quarry at the end of the Mabey site: No update

Website What’s On: What’s On will be electronically produced and published monthly on the website and Facebook page.

RESOLVED:

To install a battery operated defibrillator in the telephone box at Beaufort Square and if possible, adapt the telephone box to accommodate public information leaflets.

23. Play Areas in Chepstow

The Committee discussed the reports of the play areas in Chepstow and agreed to focus their efforts on refurbishment of one of the play areas in Bulwark or Thornwell as part of the Town’s Jubilee celebrations. The Committee was also mindful to include items of inclusive play as part of the refurbishment.

RESOLVED:

- i) To nominate the play areas at Burnt Barn Road (Western Avenue), Strongbow Road and Bulwark Road (Piggy’s Hill) for consideration to be refurbished as part of the Town’s Jubilee celebrations.
- ii) to hold a stall at Chepstow market and to conduct a Facebook poll to determine the community’s preferred play area to be refurbished.

24. Christmas 2021

- a) The Committee discussed the feasibility of the Events Team running the Christmas 2021 switch on event following a brief outline of ideas and times as suggested by the organiser. The Committee agreed in principle to allow the Events Committee to run a family friendly event between the hours of 12pm and 8pm but considered more specific details of the proposed event would be required.

RESOLVED:

- i) To delegate authority to the Clerk to liaise with and authorise the Events Team to run the Christmas 2021 switch on event up to a maximum spend of £1,000.
 - ii) That Cllr J Becker, Chair approaches Chepstow Racecourse for sponsorship towards the Christmas 2021 switch on event.
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- b) The Committee considered the purchase of picket fence to protect the Christmas Tree in the High Street.

RESOLVED:

To approve quotation from The Picket Fence Company for £1,336 + VAT to purchase picket fencing to protect the Christmas Tree in the High Street (*LGA 1972, s144*) and to assess the impact on vandalism for consideration for the Christmas Tree in Bulwark in 2022.

25. Chepstow Events 2022

- a) The Committee discussed and supported in principle the request from Chepstow Events Team to build on the success of the Arts Festival 2021 and hold a “Six weeks of Summer” to extend to Bulwark and Thornwell. Reference was made to the various organisations in the town and it was considered that a coordinated approach in this matter would be more beneficial.

RESOLVED:

To agree in principle to a ‘Six weeks of Summer’ for Chepstow in 2022 to include events in Bulwark and Thornwell and to coordinate a meeting of interested parties to take this issue forward.

Cllr J Becker declared a personal interest in this item as a volunteer for the Arts Festival.

- b) The Committee briefly discussed other ideas to promote Chepstow and draw visitors to the town.

RESOLVED:

- i) To further investigate the installation of a telescope at the Riverbank and report back to the next meeting.
- ii) That Members forward any ideas on how to promote Chepstow and draw visitors to the town to the next meeting for consideration.

26. Dog Waste

- a) The Committee received correspondence from the existing contractor in regards to dog waste collections in Chepstow and considered if there are alternative solutions to disposal of this hazardous waste.

RESOLVED:

To reaffirm Council’s decision to remain with the existing dog waste contractor.

- b) The Committee considered a response to Monmouthshire County Council’s consultation in relation to Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) on dog controls.

RESOLVED:

That Members respond individually to Monmouthshire County Council's consultation in relation to Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) on dog controls

27. Grounds Maintenance – St Mary's Priory

The Committee considered correspondence from St Mary's Priory in regards ongoing grounds maintenance.

On considering this matter, although the Committee was sympathetic to St Mary's cause it did not consider that the financial burden should be placed on Town Council.

RESOLVED:

To recommend to Town Council that it does not take on the closed churchyard at St Mary's Priory.

28. The Welsh Public Sector route map – Net zero carbon status by 2030

The Committee received and noted the Welsh Public Sector Route-map towards the goal of being zero carbon by 2030.

29. One Voice Wales (OVW) – Local Places for Nature

a) The Committee considered nominations of a Councillor to attend fortnightly forum meetings to discuss environmental projects, ideas, potential funding streams and nature.

RESOLVED

To request further information on dates and times and nominate Cllrs Kirton and Cllr Becker (reserve) to attend OVW Local Places for Nature forum meetings, if available.

b) The Committee noted correspondence received in regards the 2nd year of the Local Places for Nature Scheme.

c) Cllr Duchet advised the Committee that she had already booked in to the Joint OVW/Keep Wales Tidy free Webinar – how Community and Town Councils can get engaged 2pm - 3.30pm Wednesday 15th September 2021, and would report back at the next meeting.

d) The Committee noted that no Member was available to attend the Innovative Practice Conference – 10am – 4pm on Wednesday 22nd September 2021 (remote) at a cost of £40 per delegate.

30. Community Climate Champions action plan workshop

The Committee consider nomination of a Councillor to attend the Community Climate Champions action plan workshop on 20th September.

RESOLVED:

To nominate Cllr Becker to attend the Community Climate Champions action plan workshop on 20th September

31. Thomas Street Public Toilets

The Committee considered correspondence received from The Chepstow Society in regards the signage at Thomas Street Community Rooms and Public Toilet.

RESOLVED:

To investigate increased signage for the public toilet in Thomas Street

32. Floral Displays 2021

The Committee reviewed the 2021 floral displays and considered a colour scheme and plant selection for 2022.

The Committee noted positive feedback from residents in relation to the herb planters and requested additional benefit from suitable additional flowers for colour.

RESOLVED:

To continue the scheme to replace all wooden barrels with recycled plastic and to investigate the addition of suitable flowers with colour to enhance the planters and investigate alternative styles in the future when all of the wooden barrels have been replaced.

Cllr Duchet left the meeting at this point.

33. Budget Requirements for 2022/2023

Noted budget requirements for Environment and Amenities Committee for 2022/2023.

34. Riverbank and Bandstand Area

The Committee received and considered the update and recommendations in regards the issues at the Riverbank and Bandstand Area:

Lighting: Noted residents in favour of lighting, subject to suitable positioning.

Dog Bin: Request for installation.

RESOLVED:

Not to install an additional dog waste bin due to the amount of litter bins in the area.

Police Presence: Noted additional Police presence.

Public Toilet Fencing: Noted few incidents since installation of higher fencing.

Public Toilet Closing Times: Request to extend opening times.

RESOLVED:

That the existing arrangements continue.

DJs/Bands in the Bandstand: Noted the success of Bands in the Bandstand. In relation to DJs in the Bandstand, the Chair advised he would speak to the organiser regarding the queries on sound levels.

35. Bollards at St Mary's Street

The Committee received a verbal update on issues relating to the opening and closing of the bollards at St Mary's Street.

RESOLVED:

To request MCC replace the bollards in St Mary's street with timed bollards and consider changing the times to coincide with the temporary road traffic order in the High Street.

36. Items for next Meeting

- Invitation to 5th Chepstow Guides to attend the meeting
- Pavement Art

37. Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed the next meeting of the Environment and Amenities Committee will be held in 10th November 2021.

CLOSE: This completed the business of the meeting at 9.00pm

Signed:
CHAIRMAN

Date.....