



CHEPSTOW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Environment and Amenities Committee** of Chepstow Town Council held via Zoom on Wednesday, 12th January 2022 at 7.00pm

Present:

Chair: Cllr J Becker

Councillors: A Braund, A Redhead, C Duchet, Y Havard, T Kirton (7.25pm), D Rooke

In Attendance: Mrs L Allen (Town Clerk)
Catherine Baker (Community Projects Officer)

50. Declarations of Interest

None.

51. To Suspend Standing Orders

Standing Orders were suspended for the following items:

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

There were no members of the public in attendance.

b) Alex Loxton, RenewEV Ltd to discuss the Chepstow Energy Study.

The meeting received a brief summary of the report recently commissioned.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

52. Minutes

The Minutes of the Environment and Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 10th November 2021 were approved and will be signed at the next available opportunity due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

53. Matters Arising

Members received the Clerk's Update on progress of resolutions.

54. Climate Emergency Projects Update

Members received an oral update on outstanding Climate Emergency Projects, not on the agenda, from the Clerk.

Dell Water Fountain: *Two quotes have been received and a third is pending.*

Riverbank Water Fountain: *An approach has been made to a contractor who may be able to carry out the required works.*

St Mary's Walk lighting: *Still waiting for quotes from MCC, chased.*

1. Members considered the draft working for the Local Places for Nature Interpretation board.

Resolved:

To approve the wording for the Local Places for Nature Interpretation board and to proceed with printing once good quality logos have been received and the Welsh translation has been completed.

2. Members considered the recommendations in the A48 Green Wall update report and noted that in order to proceed a Road Safety Assessment Audit needs to be carried out by an appropriately qualified consultant for submission to SWTRA.

Resolved:

To enquire with MCC to see if the Welsh Government Transforming Town's funding agreed would cover the costs of the survey at approximately £4,000 and to commission this to happen within the current financial year. In addition to request that within the report additional suitable locations be identified.

55. Welsh Government (WG) Transforming Towns Placemaking Grant

a. Noted that a grant of £10,000 has been agreed under WG Public Realm Improvements to provide the green roof shelter at the Boatman and a commercial bin store and small green wall in the amenity space adjacent to the old Natwest building.

b. Considered the additional spend of £2,000 to complete the project.

Resolved:

To approve the additional, spend of £2,000 to install a green roof shelter at the Boatman, a commercial wooden slatted bin store and a small green wall in the amenity space adjacent to the old Natwest building. Funding to be sought from reserves already allocated to the purchase of the green bin which is now covered by the grant Litter Act 1983, ss5,6.

56. WG Town Centre Outdoor Adaptation Grant - Market Kiosks

a. Noted that following a discussion with Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) the funding agreed for the market kiosks is not available to be repurposed for portable play equipment.

b. Considered an alternative project to apply for funding under the grant Town Centre Outdoor Adaptation Grant – Monmouthshire.

Resolved:

To investigate the possibility of installing a tensile cover for the Boatman or Beaufort Square and, if appropriate, to apply for a new grant from the WG Town Centre Outdoor Adaptation Grant scheme.

57. Transport for Wales – Adopt a Railway Station

Members considered the information from Transport for Wales on adopting Chepstow Railway station.

Resolved:

To advertise the possibility of adopting the Railway Station on social media to see if there are any community groups willing to take it over. Should no group come forward then the Town Council to reconsider adopting it themselves.

58. Summer Playscheme 2021

a. Members received the email and report from Monmouthshire County Council on the Summer Playscheme 2021. A members raised the issue of disability play being limited in the area and advised that once Bulwark Community Centre has undergone its redevelopment it would be DDA compliant and MCC will be able to use this facility.

Resolved:

To write to MCC to ask what their disability play requirements are and advise that Bulwark Community Centre will be a suitable space once the refurbishments are complete.

b. Considered a recommendation to Full Council to approve funding the Summer Playscheme 2022 at £20,000 as per the budget.

Resolved:

To recommend to Full Council approval of the funding of the Summer Playscheme 2022 at £20,000 as per the budget.

59. Paper version of What's On Guide

Members considered producing a paper version of the What's On Guide and noted that people still like to have a physical copy.

Resolved:

To defer this item until the Administration Office is fully staffed to be able to produce the What's On guide.

60. High Street Play Provision

Members considered the report on possible ideas for High Street play provision and noted that a number of Health and Safety issues need to be considered before installation. Discussions were held around possible open space locations and type of equipment.

Resolved:

To explore provision of play equipment, in the form of a floor snakes and ladders, at the Boatman and Bank Square.

61. Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) – Local Places for Nature update

Received the update from MCC on their application to Local Places for Nature Fund to carry out a community nature spaces project in Chepstow in 2022.

62. Councillor report on possible improvements at Hardwick Hill

Members discuss and considered the report from Cllr Braund on his idea's to improve / divert traffic at Hardwick Hill.

Resolved:

Cllr Braund was thanked for the report and asked to submit it to Monmouthshire County Council to be considered with their current studies such as the Chepstow Transport Study.

63. Christmas 2022

Members discussed the recent Christmas switch on event and the Christmas lighting and noted that, despite the original event being cancelled because of the weather, the rearranged day had been extremely well attended. There had been a number of issues with the Christmas lighting throughout the town and Bulwark and noted the numerous emails to Monmouthshire County Council, whose lamp posts the power is taken from for the Town's decorations, had been sent to try and sort problems out.

Resolved:

a. To write to Chepstow Events Team to thank them for rearranging the Christmas Switch On event at such short notice and to commend them on its success, increasing the footfall in the town benefiting the local traders. In addition, given the amount of people who attended that the proposal is to spread the event over three days in 2022.

b. To work with community stakeholders to spread the event over a whole weekend starting with a traditional carol service and light switch on a Friday evening followed by an event run by the Events

Team on the Saturday and then a Christmas market on the Sunday.

c. To write to MCC requesting breakers be installed in the lamp posts which will allow the Town Councils lighting contractor to have greater control on switching on the lights should fuses blow.

64. Items for next meeting

Arts Festival – sculpture trail locations

What’s On guide (once staffing levels permit production)

Street closure for play

Cllr Kirton reminded Members present of online Carbon Literacy Training.

65. Date of next meeting

That the next meeting of the Environment and Amenities Committee will be held either in the Council Chamber at the Gatehouse or via Zoom online meetings on 16th March 2022.

CLOSE: This completed the business of the meeting at 8.40pm

Signed:

CHAIR

Date.....