



CHEPSTOW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Environment and Amenities Committee** of Chepstow Town Council held via Zoom on Wednesday, 16th March 2022 at 7.00pm

Present:

Chair: Cllr J Becker

Councillors: A Braund, J Brews, A Redhead (left 8.20pm), C Duchet, T Kirton, D Rooke

Apologies: Cllr Y Havard

Members of Public: 2

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

66. Declarations of Interest

None.

67. To Suspend Standing Orders

Standing Orders were suspended for the following items:

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

No comments from the public present.

b) Creative Community Champion the Wye Valley River Festival / Art in Action Chepstow Festival

Members welcomed Catherine Hawkrige who outlined the Spring and Summer festivals in Chepstow. Wye Valley River Festival – Young people in the Lower Wye area encouraged to participate in the “I Live Here” project which has a river and environment focus. The project encourages people to explore their natural world and provide art work to include creative writing, poetry, eco reports, pod casts, illustration and art leading to exhibitions and performance opportunities. QR trail around the Lower Wye Valley which will link to the art work.

Members to forward suggestions that could be considered to be included within the QR trail as well as potential exhibition space.

Chepstow Festival of Arts – working with young people and the wider community in Chepstow for an art installation on the railings, individual banners in the shape of a wave decorated by the groups will be displayed to give the impression of the River Wye. Craft packs and borrow boxes are available, keen to recycle, reuse and share where possible.

c) Transition Chepstow

Members welcomed Marcus Perrin from Transition Chepstow who outlined the upcoming changes to the Orchard scheme and thanked the Town Council for their ongoing financial support over the years. Currently there will be no co-coordinator going into the winter period and the group have been

unsuccessful in finding someone to take over. There are 150 trees over a dozen sites and the Town Council are asked to consider what support can be offered: 1. can resources be found to support existing volunteers i.e. set dates, H & S; 2. CTC use their own resource; 3. a blend of both. Offer to have a meeting to discuss further.

The Town Council thanked Transition Chepstow for the hard work over the years managing and maintaining the trees.

During discussions it was noted that 2 plaques which are part of the orchard and wildlife trail are damaged and need replacing and the QR coding linked to the Town Council website needs to be updated.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

68. Minutes

The Minutes of the Environment and Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 12th January 2022 were approved and will be signed at the next available opportunity due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

69. Matters Arising

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

Min Ref 58 – Summer Playscheme: Members were pleased with the response from MCC and noted that Bulwark Community Centre had already been booked for disability play for this summer.

Min Ref 63 – Christmas 2022: Members requested that the Events Team be asked to reconsider their decision if the Town Council move the switch on weekend to 2nd and 3rd December as it would be a shame to lose their support given all their hard work in the past.

70. Climate Emergency Projects Update

Members received the update and considered recommendations on outstanding Climate Emergency Projects:

Ongoing Projects:

1. A48 Green Wall: noted the response from Welsh Government (WG) and the number of expensive reports which need to be carried out prior to the installation.

Resolved: To investigate the possibility of installing the green screen on the inside of Upper Nelson Street above the wall which will negate the need for the reports or WG involvement.

2. Replacement Canopy: received the report and noted the different types available and possible locations.

Resolved: To investigate installing a permanent canopy over Bank Square and to apply for funding under the Welsh Government Transforming Towns Grant.

3. Beehives: noted that the Maintenance Operative had commenced bee keeper training with Gwent Beekeepers Association.

4. Energy Efficiency Report: noted that a pre-planning application had been submitted to Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) to discuss possible measures that the Town Council can take with the Gatehouse.

Resolved: To set up a Working Party consisting of Cllrs Becker, Duchet and Rooke to study the Energy Report for Chepstow and identify individual projects to take forward.

5. St Mary's Walk Lighting: noted that MCC have had a change in officers and are unable to retrieve emails. A further site meeting will be held and a quote issued.

6. The Dell Fountain: noted that it had been very difficult to find contractors to carry out the work and considered the two quotations received.

Resolved: To approve the quotation received from The Water Fountain Company at a cost of £23,505 for the restoration of the water fountain at the Dell.

7. Riverbank Water fountain: noted that it has not been possible to find anyone to fix the existing fountain.

Resolved: To proceed with the purchase and installation of a new drinking fountain as per Minute reference 262(h).

Completed Projects:

Members noted that the following projects are completed or nearing completion:

1. Green Bin Shelter at Bank Square – delivery due w/c 21st March 2022

2. Green Screen (NatWest) – awaiting delivery of final elements.

Resolved: Members agreed to the removal of the Phone Box and for the defibrillator to be installed on the railings.

Potential New Projects:

1. Community Vegetable Garden: Members considered turning the raised red brick flower beds on Welsh Street over to a community vegetable garden. Preliminary discussions have been held with local youth groups who are keen to become involved with the project. It was noted that once the project is advertised that people may donate plants.

Resolved: To agree to the project and, if successful, to roll it out to other areas in the town. Budget agreed of £150.00 to get the project started (*LGA 2000, s2*).

2. Wales Coastal Path Seating: Members noted the discussions held to date with MCC Countryside team and considered installing 2 benches along the path.

Resolved: To approve the purchase and installation of 2 benches, site to be decided by the Community Projects Officer and MCC, at a cost of £736.00 + VAT (*Parish Council's Act 1957, s1*).

3. Riverbank Recycling Facilities: Members noted that the Community Projects Officer is working with MCC to install a permanent recycling facility in this area.

71. Welsh Government (WG) Transforming Towns Placemaking Grant

Members noted that the Welsh Government is again making available Transforming Towns regeneration funding.

Resolved:

That the Officers apply for funding for suitable projects to include the town centre canopy and replacement of the Orchard and Wildflower information tiles. Furthermore, that it be investigated whether this funding is able to be used for projects in Bulwark.

72. Disability access to Chepstow Railway

Noted the response from Monmouthshire County Council regarding disability access to Chepstow Railway.

Resolved:

To contact Transport for Wales and Network Rail Wales to discuss the issues and work with these stakeholders to come to a suitable conclusion.

73. Local Car Club

Members discussed the potential of starting a Local Car Club in Chepstow.

Resolved:

For the Community Projects Officer to gather further information as to how this could work in the community with existing stakeholders.

74. Dog Fouling Campaign

Members considered having a Chepstow based Dog Fouling Campaign.

Resolved:

To have a Chepstow based campaign using a library of posters once copyright has been explored.

75. Chepstow Arts Festival

Members received an update on progress in regards to the locations of the seal sculptures and noted that one had been placed in the old Herbert Lewis building in the High Street. A map in the window has suggested locations of the seals and Members are asked to consider the locations and advise if they feel there are alternatives.

76. Additional Gazebo's

Considered the purchase of 6 additional gazebos for community use.

Resolved:

To approve the purchase of 6 additional gazebos for community use at a cost of £1,595 + VAT bringing the total amount to 20. Funding of £2,500 available in the current financial year (*LGA 1972, s145*).

77. Items for Next Meeting

78. Date of Next Meeting

To confirm 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 a date to be confirmed in June.

CLOSE: This completed the business of the meeting at 9.30pm

Signed:
CHAIR

Date.....