

Knutsford Town Council

Town Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green

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Minutes

of the

Environment and General Purposes Committee meeting held 24th September 2018

In the Lower Council Chamber of the Town Council Offices

EGP18/040 Present

Cllrs Power, Nicholson, Beswick, Coan, Hutchence, Malloy and Wells-Bradshaw.

In attendance: S Morgan (*Deputy Town Clerk*)

EGP18/041 To receive apologies for absence

All members were present

EGP18/042 To note declarations of members' interests

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---------------|---|
| Cllr Malloy | EGP18/046 | Non-pecuniary | Member of Friends of the Moor |
| | EGP18/048 | Non-pecuniary | Son is a member of 2 nd Knutsford Scouts |
| Cllr Nicholson | EGP18/048 | Non-pecuniary | Member of the Scouts Executive Committee |
| Cllr Power | EGP18/046 | Non-pecuniary | Member of Friends of the Moor |
| | EGP18/050 | Non-pecuniary | A former bee keeper |

EGP18/043 Public Participation

A resident of Queensway thanked the council for considering the installation of a bench but stated that residents felt it was unnecessary and suggested additional planting or dog fouling measures.

EGP18/044 To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2018

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes

EGP18/045 To consider the committee budget and spending to date

The budget and spending to date was noted.

EGP18/046 To consider a report from the Friends of the Moor

The report from Friends of the Moor was noted.

EGP18/047 To consider an update on D and G bus services

The meeting was adjourned to allow a resident to speak about the impact of the reworked bus services.

The resident spoke in relation to the health and safety concerns caused by the changes in the bus routes and that the Equality Act 2010 gives protection to passengers.

It was highlighted that passengers are required to use grass verges in place of proper bus stops which was unsafe and would deteriorate over winter. The resident also spoke about the change in the bus types used following the changes and the reversion back to the older style buses once the new 88a route was withdrawn after only a few weeks of using the more modern style buses. Other areas highlighted included the considered manipulation of passenger figures in March and April by not scanning passenger passes, the poor service and wages paid by the company impacting on staff turnover amongst other concerns about the service provision.

The meeting was reconvened, and it was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Contact the Cheshire East Council Portfolio Holder to discuss the issues caused by changes to the bus services, initially preparing a summary report and pack of evidence to include letters, petitions and questionnaires completed by residents
- b) Research the wider impact of subsidy withdrawals in Knutsford
- c) Investigate funding for more services
- d) Write to the leader of Cheshire East Council and the Esther McVey MP regarding the impact of the changes.
- e) Request a copy of the service level agreement and detail of the subsidy from Cheshire East Council.

EGP18/048 To consider open spaces improvements

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Write to Bruntwood requesting they dedicate the PROW on its site as a bridleway
- b) Write to the owners of the Longridge development site requesting they dedicate the PROW on its site as a bridleway as part of its planning application
- c) Request Cheshire East Council reinstate the goalposts and maintain site as a football pitch as previously
- d) Fund the purchase of a branded litter bin for the Barncroft
- e) Defer consideration of the installation of a bench on Manor Crescent, pending a report providing the suggested locations and considering if any benches from former bus stops could be used and whether benches could be positioned along the current bus routes
- f) Defer consideration of the on Manor Crescent Play Area, pending further details on the plans (use of land, size of play area, type of equipment) and that residents are happy with the scheme
- g) Defer consideration of the installation of a bench on Queensway bench pending further consultation and preference for more planting or dog waste facility rather than a bench
- h) Defer consideration of the installation of a bin at College Wood pending the outcome of Village Green application.
- i) Install a bug hotel at Ashworth Parks subject to the committee members reviewing an image of the proposed hotel
- j) Install a bench on Ashworth Park, subject to neighbours' approval
- k) Request that Cheshire East Council refurbish the path on the open space at Malvern Road
- l) Plant a tree on Highlands Way and find nine additional sites for planting trees provided by Manchester Airport.

- m) Install a small plaque with photograph similar to the *Museum in the Street boards* on to a lectern post at Richmond Hill.
- n) Utilise any underspend in the budget provision to purchase bulbs and to include around the welcome planters in the planting plan.

EGP18/049 To consider the funding of bins for Knutsford Heath

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow a representative of Friends of the Heath to confirm that Cheshire East Council will empty the bins. The meeting was reconvened, and it was **RESOLVED** to fund four bins on the Heath with poster frames on all sides.

EGP18/050 To consider the promotion of pollinator friendly habitats

The committee supported the idea of projects promoting pollinator friendly habitats, with the suggestion that local schools and nurseries could be involved.

It was **RESOLVED** to further explore projects involving the promotion of the importance of pollinators and the protection and creation of suitable habitats with potential options for sponsorship to be explored.

EGP18/051¹ To receive a verbal update on the Highways and Airport Working Groups

Cllr Power reported on a meeting held with Esther McVey MP regarding small measures to improve life for residents living with noise from the airport. It was suggested that the Council liaises with Highways England to request noise mitigation from the motorway works.

It was suggested that speed watch cameras that are not being used by local speed watch groups are requested for use by other groups. It was agreed to write to schools to enquire about any road safety projects that the schools are undertaking and to ask if they would be involved in speed watch projects

EGP18/052 Member questions to the Clerk

Cllr Nicholson expressed concern about Knutsford in Bloom following the resignation of its Chairman and Treasurer. It was suggested that that an informal meeting be held between councillors and the remaining volunteers to discuss bridging the gap until new volunteers can be found for the vacant positions.

EGP18/053 To consider the town maintenance log

An update was given that the beacons on the zebra crossing on Canute Place roundabout have been repaired. It was requested that a recurring pot hole outside the White Bear be reported for urgent repair. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the owners of the heaths appealing for action on improving the railings.

EGP18/054 To consider the actions log

The actions log was noted

EGP18/055 To note the date of the next meeting

The date was noted.

¹ Cllr Hutchence left the meeting after this item