

Minutes of the Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 21 October 2020 in Virtual Meeting - Zoom Webinar, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council at 6.30 pm

Members of the Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee in attendance: Councillor P Gaskell (Chair), Councillor K Carruthers (Vice-Chair), Councillor J Cousens, Councillor R Hickling, Councillor T Jones, Councillor S Mahaffey, Councillor C Regan, Councillor E Still, Councillor K Taylor, Councillor I Tilbury and Councillor J Vaux

22/20 Apologies for absence and substitutions

Councillor C Kinnear was replaced by Councillor N Robinson.

23/20 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

24/20 Urgent matters

There were no urgent matters.

25/20 Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2020

The Chair read out an update to the Committee in relation to minute item 18/20 and explained that following a successful inspection on the 16 October, Winklebury Stadium Complex had been awarded Grade D stadium status allowing Basingstoke Town Community Football Club to be able to return to playing within the borough. The Winklebury Stadium would be registered with the Southern Football League as the home ground for Basingstoke Town Community Football Club.

The Committee wished the football club well for the future.

The Chair then read out an update to the Committee in relation to minute item 21/20 and advised that he had agreed not to consider the Modernising our Hospitals and Health Infrastructure report as scheduled at the meeting but instead reschedule the report to the next meeting on the 16 December.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16 September 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

26/20 Update Briefing Note - Ice Rink

The Interim Executive Director of Borough Development introduced the briefing note which provided the Committee with an update on the Ice Rink. She further advised that at the time of writing the report they had not received an update from Planet Ice but that the scope of works had been received on the Friday of the previous week which was currently being reviewed by Officers.

The Chair invited Sally Cashman to address the Committee, her comments included:

- Stated that she had discovered that some of the couples competing on ITVs Dancing on Ice were training at the Ice Rink and questioned how much longer the rink would be useable for.
- Queried whether the committee were aware that there was a clause in the lease with Standard Securities that allowed them to seek a change of use on the ice rink building from April 2021.
- Questioned whether the Committee were aware that there had been discussions between Planet Ice and Standard Securities about turning off the plant and closing the rink before the summer of 2021 if, a solution to repair the rink could not be found.
- Did the Committee or Council have any power to stop the rink from closing?
- Explained that Hull Council had recently agreed to fund repairs to their Ice Rink so that an ice rink would still be available whilst they were waiting for the new one to be built and questioned whether the Council would do the same.

The Interim Executive Director of Borough Development responded that:

- Hull Ice Rink was owned by Hull Council.
- There was a provision in the lease for the operator to apply to the Council for a change of use.

The Chair invited Heath Rhodes to address the Committee, his comments included:

- Questioned whether the Committee had received the scope of works.
- Stated that it would have been useful to have received the report by the Council which had been discussed at the previous meeting but the request had been declined by Officers.
- Planet Ice had requested that the Council make a contribution towards the scope.

The Committee discussed the update and made the following comments:

- The Committee felt that they were due a detailed update, which should include the reports or essence of the reports, the scope of works and requested the Portfolio Holders attendance at the next meeting.
- The Committee stated that they were not aware about the change of lease clause.
- Expressed disappointment that the Portfolio Holder was not present at the meeting.

- Some Members expressed their frustration at the lack of progress.

Resolved: The Committee

- Notes the update
- Requests that the reports are circulated before the next meeting.
- Requests a full update for the December meeting.
- Requests information on the provisions that could be in place if a change of use request was made.

27/20 **Local Emergency Community Response to COVID-19**

The Interim Chief Executive introduced the briefing note which provided an overview of the local community response to COVID-19, the support the council provided to residents and local groups, the Community Hub operating model, key lessons learnt and planning for a possible second local outbreak.

The Committee discussed the briefing note and made the following comments:

- Congratulated and thanked all those involved in the emergency community response.
- Some members felt that at the start of the pandemic the information had been circulated too late for the community groups to use.
- The community centres did a lot of good work but were now struggling financially, could some of the DEFRA money be used to support the centres that remained open and had additional costs. The Economy and Culture Manager responded that as part of the grant funding made available by the Council, community centres could apply for funding. The DEFRA funding was ring-fenced for specific purposes and could not be used to support community centres.
- Requested that the Council look at how they could continue to support community centres to ensure that they remained open.
- Thanked the Economy and Culture Manager for his work with the local business association to help the shops and district centres to reopen safely.
- A lot of the community centres had a bar which would normally be earning an income.
- Concern raised over the increased demand on food banks.
- Further support for BAME and disabled communities was needed.

- The link on the website with options for other languages should be reviewed. Further work should also be done to support those who speak other languages. The Economy and Culture Manager advised that the contact centre did have a translation service available.
- Availability of staff was raised as a potential issue and whether the Council would be in a better position if the response needed to be stepped up again. The Economy and Culture Manager confirmed that they did have a pool of Council staff but that they also had a much larger pool of external volunteers who would be available if needed.

Resolved: The Committee notes the update.

28/20 **Community Environment and Partnerships work programme**

The Chair introduced the work programme and gave a brief overview of the items that would be included on the agenda for the upcoming meetings explaining that the Ice Rink update and hospital report would be included on the agenda for the December meeting.

In relation to the task and finish groups, the Chair requested that officers find out whether there was any update on the CCG and Recycling groups.

The Committee appointed Councillor S Mahaffey to the Libraries task and finish group.

Councillor Taylor raised the issue of broken bins and replacement costs and advised that she would submit a work programme request form on the topic.

The Chair advised that he would give an update at every meeting on the current position with the football club.

The Chair agreed to raise with Officers an issue raised by members of the Committee where older residents were finding it hard to contact their GP.

The meeting ended at 8.04 pm.

Chairman