

Minutes of the **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE** held on **TUESDAY, 5 March 2024** at **6.00 pm** at **Ferryhill Town Hall**.

PRESENT: **Councillor:** C Atkinson (Chair)

Councillors: J Donald, C Bihari, S Bowron, B Lamb

Officials: L Owens, Town Clerk
E Clark, Works Manager

CS.15.23-24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor J Makepeace, D Farry, A Ferguson and C Woods.

Councillor K Tinkler was absent from the meeting, but no apologies were given.

CS.16.23-24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

CS.17.23-24 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

There were no members' dispensations in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

CS.18.23-24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public present.

CS.19.23-24 WORKS MANAGERS QUARTERLY REPORT

Members considered a report which was previously circulated. The Works Manager was in attendance to answer Members questions.

The Works Manager confirmed that in addition to her report, since writing this a new bench has been installed at Wood Lane to replace the one that was damaged beyond repair. The Works Manager also advised that as the weather is improving the outside staff are looking at some planned pest control in the allotment sites.

The Works Manager highlighted that something additional she is looking at is the uptake of some of the vacant allotment sites. Councillor C Atkinson mentioned contacting schools and nurseries to see if they would be interested in running a community allotment. Councillor B Lamb talked about a community allotment that is run in another area and said that grants may be available via the National Association of Allotments if there is demand for this. Councillor B Lamb advised that he would be happy to take the Works Manager

and the Town Clerk to see a community allotment site at Spennymoor.

During the discussions the Works Manager provided an update on the number of vacant plots that we have on our allotment sites.

Councillor C Bihari said that in his opinion the problem with our allotment sites is the fact that the internal fencing the tenants are responsible for is quite expensive and suggested if the Town Council could provide some temporary fencing like the one used down Mainsforth to maintain the cricket area, would this encourage the uptake in allotments. The Works Manager said this is something that could be looked at.

During the discussion Councillor S Bowron mentioned the bench that was taken out at Raby Road due to its condition. The Town Clerk explained that we were intending on using some Section 106 funding to purchase a new bench, however we were not successful with this funding. Councillor C Bihari advised that he would fund this bench when he receives his new funding allocation in April 2024.

RESOLVED

That:

- a.) The Works Managers update report be received.
- b.) Councillor C Bihari fund a new bench at Raby Road when he receives his new funding allocation in April 2024.

CS.20.23-24

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS PROVISION

Members considered a report which was previously circulated.

The Town Clerk presented the options to Members from the quotations received discussing each quotation based on cost.

Discussions took place around the Christmas Lights with Members asking if the cost of the Christmas Tree could also be put into this budget.

Further discussions took place in relation to the Creative Kids Motif option that is available via Blanchere Illumination. All Members felt that this was a good addition and added that it would be brilliant to get the schools involved with this project.

RESOLVED

That:

- a.) The quotation from Blanchere Illumination in the sum of £4,550.54 over a 5-year period be agreed.
- b.) The Creative Kids Motif also be agreed at an annual cost of £270.00 bringing the total cost for the Christmas Lights to £4,820.54.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6:25pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....