

The Guildhall
Market Place
Salisbury
Wilts
SP1 1JH



Contact: A Child – City Clerk
Direct Line: 01722 342860
Email: corporate@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk
Web: www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk

Minutes

Meeting of : Services Committee
Date: : Monday 7 December 2020
Meeting held at : Via Microsoft Teams
Commencing at : 6:30pm

Present:

Chair: Cllr S Hocking

Vice Chair: Cllr A Hoque

Cllrs: S Berry, C Corbin, B Dalton, J Lindley, Dr M McClelland, J Nettle, F Moody, M Osment, L Sirman and J Walsh.

Officers: David Bradley, Annie Child, Thomas Simpkins and Lol Wilde

633. Apologies

633.1. Apologies were received by Cllr J Farquhar and Cllr A Foster

634. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions or statements submitted by the public.

635. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions and statements submitted from members.

636. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting of the Services Committee held on 5 November 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

637. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

638. Dispensations:

No dispensations were requested.

639. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman made no announcements.

640. Chairman's 628. Working Group Updates:

The Chairman welcomed Chairmen from different Working Groups to provide the Services Committee with updates regarding their work, and it was noted that:

- 640.1. In the absence of the Chairman of the Environmental Working Group (ENWG), David Bradley the Environmental Services Manager, provided a verbal report which was noted and attached to these minutes.
- 640.2. The Chairman of the Business Working Group (BWG), Cllr Nettle, provided a verbal report which was noted and attached to these minutes.
- 640.3. The Chairman of the Communities Working Group (CWG), Cllr Sirman, provided a verbal report which was noted and attached to these minutes.

641. Council Events and Markets 2021/2022:

The Committee received a report from the Business Manager concerning the Events and Markets programme and budgets for 2021/2022 and it was:

Resolved to:

- 641.1. Approve the 2021/2022 Events and Market Programme.
- 641.2. Note the draft budget for the Event and Market Programme.
- 641.3. Agree to make a recommendation to the Finance and Governance committee at its next meeting that £155,000 should be allocated for council events and markets as shown in this report

642. Revised Tree Policy:

The Committee received a report and a revised Tree Policy from the Environmental Services Manager for approval. This revised policy will guide our management of these trees and replaces the previous Tree Policy agreed by this committee in 2015. It was:

Resolved to:

- 642.1. Approve the revised Tree Policy.

643. Environmental Policy Action Plan (EPAP):

The Committee receive an update on the Environmental Policy Action Plan (EPAP) and approve the actions included in the report, and it was:

Resolved to:

643.1. Note the actions taken as set out in Para 3 of the Report and Annex A of the Report.

644. Grounds Maintenance Post Contract Options Evaluation:

The Committee received a verbal report by the Environmental Services Manager on the Grounds Maintenance Post Contract Options Evaluation. He noted that the project was broadly on time and that progress is being made.

645. Matters, if any, which by reason of special circumstances the Chairman, decides should be considered as a matter of urgency:

No matters of urgency were raised.

There were 1 members of the public and no members of the press present.

The meeting closed at 19:37pm.

Environmental Working Group Report (ENWG)

This report provides a general update as to Environmental Services Activities:

1. Parks

- In-house team and contracted services operating normally – all grass cutting operations have now ceased and grounds team now tasked with winter maintenance activities.
- Electric van – a demonstration of a Ford Hybrid Van has taken place. The van was demonstrated to the grounds team and councillors. Arrangements currently being made to lease this vehicle.
- Winter Bedding – Has been put out again In the Market and Guildhall Squares following the success of last year's display.
- Hedges – The hedge cutting season is well under way, the grounds team have been focusing on this activity over the last couple of months.
- Investigations of bottle refill facility to be installed in Churchill Gardens currently being undertaken
- Allotments continue to be taken up and only a few are now unallocated.
- Investigations undertaken to improve security of the Harnham Depot

2. Facilities

- Lush House Toilets – following some initial issues with blocked drainage, a broken flush and a card access point – the toilets are now fully operational. One final piece of work required - the lining of the main drain – this will take place shortly.
- 18 College Street – planning application yet to be determined due to delays with Phosphate issues with Wiltshire Council.
- 47 Blue Boar Row – Tenants are now in; however, we have had leaks within the building and dry rot has been found. Roof recently surveyed to ascertain problems with water ingress.
- Pavilions – deep cleans within the Pavilions were undertaken in readiness for the football season. Season currently suspended due to Covid restrictions

3. Crematorium

- Services – all services are running for 35 mins as normal.
- Team are working in two *bubbles* at different times to enable social distancing to be achieved and to ensure continuity of service provision.
- Capacity – Currently burial numbers are the same as compared to the same time last year. Wiltshire Council in regular liaison re cremation numbers and burial capacity.
- Webcasts –Webcasts have suffered from technical issues - the IT link to the building is currently being upgraded to solve this issue.
- A Building Contractor has been appointed to undertake works (drainage) to the front entrance and also to apply window film to the plant room.

4. CCTV

- System currently performing well.
- Re-positioning of Two CCTV Cameras was undertaken successfully to cover Barnard Street and the Market Square.
- Long term warranty maintenance agreement has been agreed and is now in place.
- Currently investigating and costing the operation of a mobile camera

5. Street Scene

- Street Scene Services are now operating normally – road sweeping and barrow operatives are now all back on their normal operating schedules following a return from lockdown.
- Environmental Enforcement officers have now returned to their duties and are attending the city two days per week. Currently investigating a change to their uniform to make them less paramilitary in appearance.
- Venture security are undertaking their duties as per normal.
- Works undertaken on the A36 to clear detritus and leaves etc. Work undertaken in conjunction with Highways England.

D Bradley – Environmental Services Manager

Business Working Group (BWG) November 2020

Cllr Nettle thanked Joanna Wood and the Business Team for all their hard work with decorating the City, and Market and Guildhall Squares with Christmas lights and the superb Christmas Trees as part of the trail.

He added that main items, which were discussed in the BWG meetings include:

- The Sunday Festive Markets, the first one take place on the 6 December. This went well with good press on social media.
- The whole concept of the 12 Christmas trees and the Christmas Tree Trail is amazing and with a lot of photographs being taken and this is very popular with local people
- The Business Strategic Plan for the Business Working Group - looking at events over the 12/18 months. We are looking at doing something completely different over the summer holidays, instead of having individual events, we will use the budget to put on something consistently for families over the 6 week summer period. This plan will also focuses on our Christmas activities, where even after Covid vaccinations would have taken place, normality may resume or not. So the BWG is keeping the events programme under review

Cllr J Nettle - Vice-Chairman of BWG

Communities Working Group (CWG) Monday 7.12.20

The last meeting was held on 11th November 2020.

Food Donations

Food donations have been received from Tesco, Waitrose, and Morrison's and from Fare Share warehouse which is situated in Totton, The donations include fruit, veg, tinned and dried food. These items are divided and then delivered to families that are known to the Communities Team (CT) by Wiltshire Housing Team.

Approximately 20-25 tonnes of food have been given out.

Approximately 47 families are in receipt of the food boxes.

The referrals have increased by a third since March 2020.

Stronger Families

This is project that SCC has worked in collaboration with Wiltshire Community Foundation. It is five year project and it is half way through the five years.

Poverty impacts upon the educational outcomes for children and poverty has a huge impact on family life. The project centres on supporting families to become stronger and more resilient. There are 36 families with 73 children who access the project and who are in contact on a regular basis.

Many of the families that the team are working with are in work but due to Covid 19 their hours have been cut or they have been furloughed. Some have been made redundant due to zero hours contracts. It has been observed that there is a cohort of people who were managing before the pandemic but who cannot manage now.

The project has received support from various organisations e.g.; the Foodbank, WCF have supplied school uniform for children who have started at school also school books have been provided as not many children have access to laptops.

This excellent scheme is managed by Dot Kronda.

The community team have organised a toy collection with the support from Tesco and they hope to start a toy library in the New Year.

Over the October half-term the CT worked with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Wiltshire Creative who provided family activity days. The children who attended were awarded a certificate. The trust has offered to facilitate a young gardeners club in 2021.

Both organisations provided the children with craft and activity packs over the summer holidays.

The CT have been working with various local churches. The Salisbury Methodist Church offer clothes exchange. The CT have been telling families that they can access clothes from the church anybody who can cook are going to provide Christmas lunches for the community in December either at a social distanced gathering or doorstep deliveries.

The SCC Lottery

The virtual lottery is being launched on Monday 11th January at 2pm. This event will give an opportunity to find out more about the SCC lottery, how it will work and more importantly how it will work for charities. After the presentation, all local groups and charities will be encouraged to apply. The ticket will cost £1, with 60p going towards local good causes, compared to the National Lottery where only 28p goes to charity. Salisbury's local groups and charities will be able to set up their own lottery page, and will receive 50p in every pound spent by players using this method. A further 10p in every pound will go into the Salisbury City Council Community Grant Fund which is also used to support local initiatives. Charities, CICs and groups who would like to take part, can register their interest by emailing lottery@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk.

In January an invitation will be sent out to charities and local groups to join the virtual Launch on the 11th. The event will begin with a welcome from the Mayor of the City of Salisbury and myself, which will be followed by a presentation on how it all works from Gatherwell (who organise these type of lotteries for other local councils,) and then a Q&A session. Information can be sent to those who are unable to attend the launch but registration is still required. The Community Lottery have adopted policies that ensures that Salisbury City Council Community Lottery is organised in the correct manner and within the law.

Salisbury Social Community Supermarket

The social supermarket is currently being set up by Salisbury City Council in partnership with Anybody Can Cook at 59 Catherine Street. We are as a council supporting the project by not charging the normal rent at £19,000 per annum. The initiative will sell food which is surplus to the major supermarkets and it is then sold to people on low incomes. Food poverty in Britain is greatly increased over the past decade and within Salisbury there are many families who struggle to buy food and clothes.

The products that are sold are either: close to their sell by date or have passed their sell by date, damaged, in old packaging or even mislabelled. Food has to be brought and is not given away, which is different from the food bank that gives food away free to people in crisis. There are families who I've worked with who literally have no food in their cupboards or in the fridge, but the social supermarket is aimed at people who are not in crisis but who are on low on a low income.

People have to become a member, in order to gain access to the supermarket. A small fee is paid by the member and in return she or he can buy food at discounted prices. Often other services are offered and Anybody Can Cook will organise cookery lessons which people can attend, thereby increasing their cooking skills in the future. It's hope that other training courses will be organised as well as debt service. The benefits to families is that they will be able to save money on food. Secondly, there are environmental advantages, as it will help reduce food waste.

One risk is that there will not enough food donated by the major supermarkets to the scheme, though I think this is unlikely. As we have many major supermarkets in the city, and Waitrose have donated the scheme a fridge and all the details on how families can access the supermarket will be released in due course. Lastly last week, the Salisbury Area board awarded a grant of £5000 to Anybody Can Cook.

Cllr L Sirman – Chairman of CWG