



Community and Wellbeing committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 14 November 2023

At St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minutes [32](#) & [36](#).

Present

Councillors:

- Sam Blackwell
- Alison Potter
- Katie Vigar
- Jack Vittles (Vice-Chair)

Town Council Officers:

- Ian Brown - Chief Executive & Town Clerk
- George Tomlinson – Engagement Officer

Meeting clerk:

- Sarah Howe – Committee Clerk
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Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Kate Bessant
 - Jennie Parker
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31. Declarations of interest

Councillors Blackwell and Vigar declared their interest as Directors of the Mount Pleasant Centre Ltd ahead of agenda item 8.

32. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Councillor Vigar mentioned under minute 26 that the sentence should read 'organising the event along the lines of the 'I can/We can' event which occurred 20 years ago'. It was agreed to make the amendment.

Proposed by Councillor Katie Vigar

Seconded by Councillor Alison Potter

And with all in favour it was **resolved**: that the Minutes of the last committee meeting held on 19 September 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting with the above amendment.

33. Matters arising

None.

34. Agenda item 6 – Riding for the Disabled presentation

Anne Banks-Welsh who leads the Riding for the Disabled (RDA) group at Widbrook Equestrian Centre gave a talk to members as the group received a grant from the panel recently. Anne feels she is a representative of the group run by dedicated volunteers which come together on Mondays offering 52 sessions to 50 clients or so. However, she was nominated for and picked as a 'Coronation Champion' this year; from hundreds of nominations only two champions were selected in Wiltshire. She received a badge, certificate and invite to the coronation concert held at Windsor Castle. Two further volunteers Katie Chapman and Sharon Turnball also attended the meeting and confirmed that Anne works exceptionally hard for the group.

6 RDA horses live at Widbrook which can be ridden and/or be the recipients of care activities for those who do not ride or wish to ride. An activity called 'Tea with a Pony' is also offered to other groups such as Dementia Action Alliance, which offers the chance for those living with dementia and their carers to talk as well as take part in activities. Lockdowns were tricky with some staff at the stables furloughed, so volunteers helped look after the horses and keep the stables operating. Ponies were trained by the volunteers to have ground-based activities performed such as grooming and mane plaiting rather than riding as



restrictions allowed. Eventually restrictions were lifted and riding could begin again alongside the horse care.

Pony Club badges have been completed by participants which involve horse care, stable management and proficiency training. Additionally, ASDAN, a vocational charity, offering courses and 'regulated qualifications to engage, elevate and empower young people aged 11 to 25 years in greatest need' works in partnership with the group offering GCSE and A level qualifications which would then allow individuals to work in the equestrian industry once achieved.

Finally, initiatives such as the Men's Shed and Brunel Shed have also worked with the group to provide facilities such as ramps to assist those using wheelchairs around the centre. Other associated groups include Mencap, Abicare, Wiltshire Heights and referrals from mental health practitioners.

So, in summing up Anne felt she has accepted the Coronation Champion award on behalf of the whole RDA community which has given a range of adults and young people the chance to work with horses and thanked them all for helping to make the venture such as success.

The vice-chair thanked Anne and congratulated her on picking up the Coronation Champion award.

Councillor Vigar reinforced the vice-chairs comments and thanked Anne for speaking so passionately suggesting it was heartwarming to hear about volunteering described in this way as it underpins community life and brings a lot of happiness. The pandemic saw a lot of activities close down so to hear of the success of the group over the last 4 years is reassuring. She ended by suggesting the RDA should attend the next Volunteer Day in 2024 which Anne liked the idea and suggested that perhaps they should bring a pony!

35. Agenda item 7 – Chair's Update

As Councillor Vittles was chairing the meeting in Councillor Parkers absence, he referred members to the written report supplied with the agenda.

He highlighted the success of the fireworks event however thanking all those who organised and volunteered to make the event such a success. He also commented that the food and drink stalls were excellent, how lovely and long display was and how well attended the event had been.



Councillor Vittles also mentioned the Sunday film season which is to take place again in St Margaret's Hall as it did last winter. The first film will be shown on the 3 December 2023.

36. Agenda item 8 – Grants Panel

The recommendations from the grants panel which met on the 27 October were considered by members. There were no additional comments and to that end:

Proposed by Councillor Jack Vittles

Seconded by Councillor Sam Blackwell

And with all in favour it was **resolved** to approve the recommendations of the latest grants panel which met on the 27 October 2023.

Grants have been approved for the following:

Mount Pleasant Centre Ltd - £750 towards a replacement roof.

Wessex MS Therapy Centre - £750 towards providing neuro-physiotherapy.

Natasha Sweeting Dickens - £500 towards Africa Day on 14 October

BoA Film Society - £50 towards Film Sponsorship

Suze MacDonald from North and West Wiltshire Readeasy - £500 to support 2 Bradford on Avon residents for 1 year.

37. Agenda item 9 – Summer Holiday Club Update

The Engagement Officer referred to her report supplied with the agenda and offered to answer any questions. Feedback from families who had attended the summer holiday club was used to compile the report and comments had been very positive.

Councillor Vigar remarked that the feedback report was extremely useful to enable the council to fine tune this service and vindicated the decision to continue with this project for a second year and possibly beyond.

The vice-chair supported this view.

38. Agenda item 10 – Poulton Park Consultation Update

The consultation regarding Poulton Park and the accompanying play area has been running since September this year and closes on Friday 17 November 2023. The Engagement Officer is still planning to meet with a couple



of stakeholder groups such as the Scouts and Guides Associations and a girls group up at St Laurence School. However, groups such as Bradford on Avon Youth Football and a regular fitness group have been approached as well as park users canvassed across different times of day over the course of a week.

The vice-chair asked what the next steps will be to which the town clerk confirmed that officers will feed back to Wicksteed (play equipment contractor) the results of the consultation and the committee will then be presented with a holistic way forward for the park and play area having considered the public comments.

The vice-chair confirmed that the next steps and timelines will need to be communicated publicly at the right time.

39. Next meeting

The next committee meeting is arranged for Tuesday 6 February 2024.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 7.37 pm



Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There was an update from Richard Craft of the local branch of Walkers are Welcome who received a grant from the town council to help with subscriptions, insurance and the organisation of the Bradford on Avon Walking Festival.

Walkers are Welcome holds monthly walks and are finding that numbers attending are dwindling. Richard therefore is interested in promotional help from the Town Council (help with display of banners) and any advertising advice.

The group are also researching good wheelchair-based walks in the local area and are looking for any contacts who perhaps use a wheelchair to help test run potential routes.

Councillor Vigar suggested that Snippets could be used to promote the club and highlight the accessibility element. She suggested the Communications Officer is contacted.

Councillor Vittles also suggested using social media and that of course the council would be happy to support the group.