

**NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

This is a record of decisions taken by the Town Clerk in accordance with the authority delegated to him by the Council at its meeting held on 17th May 2021. All decisions were taken having consulted remotely by Zoom members of the Community Services Committee on 21st June 2021 and were in accordance with the views of those members.

**Minutes of the meeting held at 18.00 on 20th September 2021
Using the Zoom Video Conferencing Platform**

PRESENT: Cllrs Birch (Chair), Holland-Delamere (Vice-Chair), Ashraf, Lane, Marriott, Miah and Soan

Officers: Mr S Carter (Interim Town Clerk) and Mrs J Thorneycroft (Administration Officer)

8. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been submitted by Cllrs G Eales and Hibbert.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

10. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS AND TO ASK QUESTIONS AS TO THE PROGRESS OF ANY ITEMS

RESOLVED: That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held 21 June 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held 18th August 2021.

11. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 13 SEPTEMBER 2021 FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF IT RECOMMENDATIONS

RESOLVED: That the recommendations contained within these minutes be adopted except minute 10.

When considering Minute 10 it was stated that it was the opinion of the committee that to award a grant in this circumstance would set a precedent. The Sub-Committee had recommended that a reduced grant be made to recognise the work of the applicant. The Sub-Committee did not want to award the full amount as they felt the project was only partially within the remit of the grants policy and there were concerns with regards to the sustainability of the project. The committee agreed with the Sub-Committee's views on this grant application but were of the opinion that awarding any grant would set an unwelcome precedent and recommended that no award be made this time but that the Town Council look to work with the applicant on another project going forward.

The Chair welcomed the input of the committee and explained that this was why the recommendations were made to this committee, to ensure thorough scrutiny.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations detailed in minute 10 of the Grants Sub-Committee minutes of the meeting held 13 September not be adopted, but that the Town Council engage with the applicant about looking at funding another project.

12. EVENTS UPDATE

The Administration Officer had circulated a report with the agenda updating the committee on events.

The Administration Officer explained that at the time of writing, WNC were continuing to take the lead on events with some input from NTC officers. The budget was yet to be transferred from WNC, though the Heads of Terms had been agreed. The committee was informed that the Leader and Town Clerk have sought clarity from WNC about the budgets and what is being spent on each event, in real time.

An update as detailed in the agenda was given on Bands in the Park, Party in the Park, NMF21, Pride, the Beer Festival in Becketts Park, Diwali Light Celebration, Fireworks Event, and Remembrance Day.

With regards to Remembrance Day it was explained that the parade including members of the armed forces (cadets, serving and retired) would marshal-up on the Market Square for a 9.30am parade down to All Saints.

The Church Service would begin at 10.00am in All Saints Church with the ceremony finishing in the memorial garden for the two minutes' silence at 11.00am followed by the wreath laying. The parade would then march around All Saints, along St Giles Square where the formal salute would be received by the Lord Lieutenant and Mayor at the Guildhall, after which the parade would move along St Giles Street, into Fish Street and finish in Abington Street. This was an NTC event being organised in conjunction with WNC. Members welcomed the plans and highlighted what an important event this was.

The Administration Officer confirmed that all events plus other local events were promoted through the NTC website and social media channels.

13. PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS TO CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

It was explained in the Administration Officer's report that the shadow Council had agreed a budget of £15,000 to enhance Christmas events in 2021. The original minute proposed free standing illuminated attractions, a moving light show on the Guildhall (subject to consent of WNC), and additional street entertainers in the lead up to Christmas. These options had been looked at further in conjunction with WNC and the Northampton BiD, and were presented to the committee.

Illuminated display - Christmas Sleigh or illuminated Arch. It was reported that these attractions could be in place for a day, week or the whole Christmas period and provide photo opportunities. **However**, overnight security costs would be an issue if displays were positioned outdoors. In addition, the illuminated display would need to be near a power source. The committee believed this not to be a suitable option highlighting security as the primary reason.

Illuminated buildings – it was reported that considerations on this proposal included timings, which buildings would be lit and what the benefit would be. It was also noted that some buildings i.e. the Guildhall and All Saints were already lit up for Christmas. The lighting was not visible during the daytime which was the primary aim of encouraging people into town to shop and support local retailers. It was agreed that this should not be taken forward.

Provision of additional 'family street entertainment' around the town centre – It was explained that as part of the existing Christmas activities roving street entertainers could "pop up" in places other than the main shopping streets and encourage people to explore the whole of the town. This

offered a broad brush approach and introduced people to new areas and shops they may not have visited before. Cost approx. £10,000 to be spread across the Christmas family activity days throughout December. Members supported this idea but wanted more information on what exactly you got for the money.

Introduce a Christmas themed Augmented Reality Family Trail – It was reported that the Augmented Reality Trail was a new digital activity that lead families on a journey around the town in search of different locations, markers would be identified where animated characters would pop up. Visitors were prompted to open the camera on their device and scan the area to locate and be photographed with one of 10 friendly augmented reality themed characters lurking in the streets of the town centre. Interesting fun facts and part of the story would also be revealed.

It was commented that self-led trails such as this one were engaging and fun experience that encouraged families to come into the town centre. Previous trails held in Northampton included A Walk in the Park, the Northampton Museum & Art Gallery Shoe Gallery and the Dino Trail and had all been well received. It was added that NBC, Northampton Museum and the BID had worked with local business, AR Media to provide their AR Trails and that they had quoted a cost of £5,000 to create a story based augmented trail which could be promoted alongside the other Northampton trails via the Explore Northampton App. The committee supported this proposal.

RESOLVED: That the council meet the cost of providing street entertainment and pop up characters around the town subject to further information and it being agreed by the Chair and Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council commission a special Christmas themed augmented reality trail around the town centre.

14. REQUEST FOR THE COUNCIL TO FACILITATE TWO EID EVENTS IN 2022

A report was circulated detailing a request for the Council to assist with the funding of an Eid event in 2022. It was explained that at present two events took place at the start of Ramadan and the end of it known as Eid. Community leaders wanted this to be enhanced to help promote it to the wider community.

RESOLVED: That the Council in principle look to work with the community in giving financial assistance as part of the events funding for the town Eid events.

15. THE KNIFE ANGEL & NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ANTI-VIOLENCE TOUR – VISIT TO NORTHAMPTON IN MAY 2022

Cllr Holland-Delamere explained that the Knife Angel would be visiting Northampton in May 2022.

The sculpture, made from over 100,000 seized blades, was specifically created to highlight the negative effects of violent behaviour and emphasised the critical need for social change. The Angel acted as a catalyst for turning the tide on violent and aggressive behaviour, but it is also acted as a memorial designed to celebrate those lives who had been lost through these violent and thoughtless actions.

Cllr Holland-Delamere wanted to highlight the initiative to the Town Council and get their support in principle for it. It was likely that WNC and NTC would need to promote it when it visited Northampton.

Members agreed that the Town Council should offer support and publicity for this project in the lead up to its visit next year.

16. COVID MEMORIAL UPDATE

Cllr Birch verbally updated the committee on plans for the Covid Memorial. Touching on the update she had given to the Environmental Services Committee meeting, Cllr Birch confirmed that she and other councillors had met with representatives at Becketts Park to agree a location and outline plan for the Arbour of Trees memorial. They now planned to engage the university with regards to design and consultation.

On the reflective images, a call for images would go live soon, with the idea of creating an archive and possibly a small exhibition if appropriate. **NOTED**

Clerk's note: Press release asking for residents and groups images or artwork reflecting on the Covid pandemic is now live.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 19.41.

Signed.....Chair