

MINUTES of a meeting of the COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES WORKING PARTY held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coalville on TUESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2018

Present: Councillor J Geary (Chairman)

Councillors R Adams, N Clarke, J Cotterill, J Legrys, M Specht and M B Wyatt

Officers: Mr J Knight, Mrs W May and Mrs C Hammond

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors D Everitt and P Purver.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J Geary declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5 – Capital Projects Update as a regular supporter of Coalville Town Football Club and a founder member of Mantle Lane Arts, and in any reference to the Springboard Centre as a director.

Councillor J Legrys declared a non-pecuniary interest in any reference to Hermitage FM due to his voluntary involvement with the organisation.

Councillor M B Wyatt declared a non-pecuniary interest in any reference to Coalville Town Centre as an owner of 2 businesses in the town.

19. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2018.

The Leisure Services Team Manager advised that following a meeting with the Coalville Education Partnership over the management of the Community Garden in Coalville Park, the partnership had decided not to progress. He informed the Working Party that he had been approached by John Merrison who was interested in setting up an “incredible edible scheme” and that discussions were being held on how the scheme would work and an update would be brought to the next meeting.

It was moved by Councillor J Legrys, seconded by Councillor R Adams and

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

20. 2018/19 EVENTS UPDATE

The Cultural Services Team Manager presented the report to Members and confirmed that all events for 2018/19 had been delivered.

Christmas in Coalville – 24 November 2018

The event had been delivered as planned with no health and safety issues. She advised that it had been well attended and supported. Looking forward to the following year’s event it was recommended that the date for the event be agreed as Saturday, 23 November 2019 to avoid a clash with Ashby’s. It was also noted that the ballet at the Century Theatre was sold out.

2019/20 Events Programme

The dates for the first four events had been approved and supported by Cabinet. The date for the Christmas event was outstanding. The first events sub group was scheduled for

the 13 February 2019. The list of events for the forthcoming year was included but could expand as the year went on.

Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights were installed on schedule.

Coalville Commemorates

The artwork had been installed as scheduled. The Memorial Square works were progressing well and due to be completed 21 December 2019. The fencing would remain in place so the cement could set. Officers were working to agree a permanent display for the wreaths

Councillor M B Wyatt expressed concerns over the Remembrance service as letters had gone out with errors on and the minute silence was late. In relation to the Christmas event he stated that having talked to many traders and residents it was felt that it was the worst event ever and that the footfall went to only one area on the day. He asked that a full review of the event be carried out asking traders and residents on how they were effected and what they would like to see. He advised that many of the lights were not working and he had received many complaints about the fireworks. He urged the committee to take responsibility for the event and ensure that the whole town was utilised not just one area.

The Cultural Services Team Manager advised that she was unable to comment on the Remembrance Service as the Council only supported the event. She drew Members attention to the feedback that was detailed in the report and that the priority was to deliver an event for the public, She informed Members that if the Christmas event was spread too thin over the town centre then there would be a higher risk of not being able to deliver a safe event.

Councillor M B Wyatt stated that the working party needed to consider what could be added to the event to make it better and look to increase the budget so that it could be achieved as hopefully Marlborough Square would be available.

The Cultural Services Team Manager reminded Members that the events sub group meeting was on the 13 February and hoped that all Members would contribute.

Councillor J Geary felt that some valued points had been raised. In relation to the Remembrance Service, he stated that it had been a good day and had been well attended, however due to the service at the church over running organisers then had to play catch up. In relation to the Christmas celebrations, he stated that Members had been elected to oversee the events, however following previous events a meeting had been arranged with traders on high street who wanted input but the meeting was very poorly attended.

Councillor M B Wyatt requested a review through a questionnaire that could then be reported back to the working party to consider the findings and if required allocate funds.

It was agreed that a questionnaire be produced to seek the views of the local community on future Christmas events and that once the questionnaire was drafted Councillors J Geary and M B Wyatt approve it to ensure that the right questions are being asked.

Councillor M Specht agreed that the views of the traders within the town centre should then be sought and that it was a good idea. He suggested that the Business Portfolio Holder, along with officers could speak to them. He felt the Remembrance Day service had been very well attended but the delays to the timings had not been in the hands of the Council's officers.

Members agreed that the Business Portfolio Holder be involved in talking to the traders.

Councillor J Legrys stated that he was in favour of a survey and felt that the amount that was contributed from the precept should be included so that residents could see what they were repaying for. He stated that he had raised the issue surrounding the fireworks before and suggested that, like surrounding towns, local businesses be asked to contribute financially to the event.

Councillor N Clarke stated that the working party had set a budget for the event and had delivered within that budget. He advised that he had received positive feedback on the event and that it had been very well attended. He felt that it was value for money and that it had worked well keeping the event to one area of the town. He congratulated officers for delivering the event.

Councillor M B Wyatt disagreed that the event was value for money.

Members agreed to recommend that the date for the Christmas in Coalville event should be Saturday, 23 November 2019.

In response to a question from Councillor J Geary, the Cultural Services Team Manager advised that there was one year remaining on the Christmas Lights Contract and officers were looking at the procurement process thereafter.

It was moved by Councillor J Legrys, seconded by Councillor R Adams and

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The progress update on 2018/19 events be noted.
2. The progress update on 2019/20 events be noted.
3. The progress on the Commemorative Artwork for the Centenary of the end of WW1 be noted.

RECOMMENDED THAT:

The date for Christmas in Coalville 2019 event be confirmed as 23 November 2019.

21. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

The Leisure Services Team Manager presented the report to Members and provided an update on the ongoing projects.

Thringstone Miners Social Centre Training Pitch

The AGM had not been quorate, however the Chair wished the development to commence and was looking to arrange a revised AGM in January/February to obtain full support from all of the trustees.

Coalville Forest Adventure Park

Work was ongoing and a number of actions had been completed.

Melrose Road Play Hub

Communication was ongoing between the council's legal team and the legal representatives of the Squire De Lisle to finalise the footpath agreement.

Coalville Park Green Flag Award

The improvement works were ongoing and the community based group meeting would be held in the New Year to get the group up and running. The Management Plan for the park was being developed and the deadline for the Green Flag accreditation was the 31 January 2019. The application would be submitted within the next 4 weeks. Councillor J

Legrys stated that he was really pleased with the Fields in Trust Award and that the work with the friends of the park was moving forward.

Lillehammer Drive

The Multi Use Games Area had been removed and the area fenced off and outline plans had been designed over the open space. A meeting was to be arranged with residents who had raised concerns over potential ASB issues to discuss the scheme and reach a resolution.

London Road Closed Cemetery

Work was still ongoing and it was hoped it would be completed in the New Year.

In response to a question from Councillor M B Wyatt, the Leisure Services Team Manager advised that a meeting had been held on site to consider the plans for the installation of the seating and all improvements were agreed to the plan, and that the work had been carried out.

Councillor N Clarke asked for an update on the discussion that he had had with the Leisure Services Team Manager in relation to potential improvements to Cropston Drive Football Pitch.

The Leisure Services Team Manager advised Members that he had spoken to the club and that they were keen to either make Cropston Drive more suitable to allow the senior team to make the move up to the next league or to move to the Bardon site. Bardon were not keen to have a senior team but wanted to improve the facilities at their site. He stated that officers would be happy to look at possible funding streams for Bardon but the Football Foundation would be facilitating a meeting to help allow access to the senior team. In relation to the current Cropston Drive site three areas of improvement had been identified which were to be improved: barrier around the pitch, hedge works and the marking of the technical area. The Leisure Services Team Manager advised that a temporary rope barrier would meet the requirements. If the team were to move up the league structure they would be entitled to funding and there may be a need for a future report to come to the working party should match funding be required.

Councillor M B Wyatt raised concerns that the last thing that should happen is for the team to move away from the area and that money should be put into the current site.

The Leisure Services Team Manager advised that it would just be the senior team that would move and that would only be at the request of the football club, and that the other teams would remain at Cropston Drive.

By affirmation of the meeting it was

RESOLVED THAT:

The progress update on the 2018/19 Capital Projects be noted.

22. COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES FINANCE UPDATE

The Head of Community Services presented the report and additional papers to Members.

He advised that the current budget had contributed to the balances of £15,426 with additional approved spending from the balances of £16,280. He informed Members that there was a forecasted reduction of cemetery income of £12,000, which meant that a forecasted contribution of £11,802 from the balances was required, and in turn, it meant that the overall balances were forecasted to be £80,311. He highlighted that £45,000 was required to be kept in the balances so Members could allocate a further £35,000 out of balances towards other schemes.

Councillor M B Wyatt raised concerns that verges, flower bushes & hedges along Bardon Road needed improvement as it was the gateway to Coalville and that there was no money in the budget to maintain it. He felt that the council could look at potential income streams such as advertising on bus shelters.

Councillor J Geary agreed that the Bardon area could do with being enhanced and requested that proposals be brought to a future meeting.

The Head of Community Services advised that the Council was developing a Commercial Strategy and would highlight the advertising opportunity to the officers working on it.

The Leisure Services Manager advised that he was happy to look at an improvement scheme for Bardon Road, however he reminded Members that it was owned by LCC and that they would have the final decision on any improvements.

The Head of Community Services highlighted the main changes to the 19/20 draft budget that included a reduction in the burial fee income of £4,000, that a budget of £3,000 for the moving of the MVAS has been included and that the new site at Lillehammer Drive had been taken on £5,200 had been budgeted for maintenance costs. He informed Members that there was an increase to the events budget of £2,000 and a reduction of £10,000 in the Park and Recreation Grounds Operational budget. He advised Members that it was recommended that £46,000 be kept in the balances, that would allow £42,000 to be allocated to other schemes, however paragraph 1.3 highlighted that there would be maintenance work required to assets within the special expense area and Members should see the schedule before agreeing to allocate any further funds.

In response to a question from Councillor M B Wyatt, the Head of Community Services advised that there were funds available so if Members wished they could allocate more to the Christmas events.

Councillor M B Wyatt suggested that when planning applications were submitted for the Coalville area Members could request that a one-off contribution be made towards events in the town.

Councillor M Specht agreed with the comments about Bardon Road and that most developers as a good will gesture would come on board.

Members requested that proposals for hanging baskets around the Town Centre be brought to a future meeting.

It was moved by Councillor M Specht, seconded by Councillor J Legrys and

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The 18/19 P7 Position/Forecast Outturn be noted.
2. The Draft Budget for 2019/20 be noted.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.00 pm