MINUTES of the CIVIC & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE meeting held at Felixstowe

Town Hall on Wednesday 15 February 2017 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr D Savage (Chairman) Cllr Jon Garfield

Cllr S Gallant (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr T Green

Cllr Jan Garfield (*ex-officio as Mayor*)

Cllr M Jepson

Cllr S Wiles

Cllr P Coleman

OFFICER: Mrs D Frost (Deputy Town Clerk)

454. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from CIIr C Barham and CIIr K Williams.

455. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Member(s)	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Cllr S Bloomfield Cllr P Coleman Cllr S Gallant Cllr T Green Cllr D Savage	All	Local Non-Pecuniary (as Members of Suffolk Coastal District Council)

456. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were none.

457. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Civic & Community Committee meeting held on 14 December 2016 be signed as a true record.

458. ASYLUM SEEKER & REFUGEE PROGRAMMES

Committee received a presentation on Refugee and Asylum Seeker Programmes from Cllr Richard Kerry, Suffolk Coastal Cabinet Member for Housing and Sara Blake, Head of Localities and Partnerships, Suffolk County Council. Government has been bringing in this programme for some time, firstly to Peterborough and then to Ipswich. Considerations are now being made for developing new dispersal areas which will allow access to the support services currently provided in the Ipswich area, and which will also provide health, cultural and faith support and education. G4S (the contracted Home Office housing provider in the East of England) is currently assessing Felixstowe and Woodbridge for the availability of appropriate private sector accommodation. The numbers of properties is likely to be very small. The expected average time individuals will stay is 6 months, however if refused, individuals can appeal and would stay longer. It is not certain how long the project will last. Individuals will mainly be coming from Iraq, Iran and Syria.

Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL), a partnership of all local authority leaders, Police Crime commissioner and Clinical Commissioning Groups has been working with G4S. It is SPSL's aim to provide similar support to which is currently provided to the Syrian scheme, with the help of the Controlling Migration Fund, and collective funding which will be irrespective of where the dispersal areas are allocated across the county.

Committee requested that Felixstowe Town Council are kept up to date and told when individuals are placed in private accommodation in Felixstowe. Felixstowe is fortunate to have many organisations who can help and support refugees, but if not informed this vital aid to the refugees would be lost.

The timescale for finding out how many suitable houses are available is currently only a matter of weeks, and Felixstowe Town Council will be informed of the outcome. G4S have indicated that to date they have had difficulty in identifying suitable properties in both in Felixstowe and Woodbridge.

It was RESOLVED that the Asylum Seeker & Refugee Programmes report and presentation be noted, and a request made to be kept informed of future developments in the dispersal scheme.

459. CIVIC & COMMUNITY BUDGET REPORT

The Committee considered a summary and detailed report showing income and expenditure against budget to 8 February 2017.

RESOLVED that the Budget Report to 8 February 2017 be received and noted as presented with no other action required at this time.

460. CCTV Report

Committee noted the report on CCTV and the Chairman gave a verbal report from the recently held meeting at the Police Station. At the meeting the CCTV cameras were all seen working. Signs informing that CCTV is in operation have been placed in the Seafront Garden Shelters, and STC Solutions are trialling an infrared camera to illuminate the shelter at night.

RESOLVED that the CCTV report be noted.

461. GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

Committee considered whether it was able to support the Great British Spring Clean initiative on the weekend of $3^{rd} - 5^{th}$ March 2017 by taking part and promoting it across the town. Unfortunately there were not enough Councillors who would be available that weekend. If a suitable location requiring a clean is found at a later time, a clean will be arranged using 'Keep Britain Tidy' promotions.

It was RESOLVED that Felixstowe Town Council would promote the Great British Spring Clean via the Council's website and social media to encourage participation in the Great British Spring Clean 3rd – 5th March.

462. <u>LITTER AND DOG BINS</u>

Committee considered the report on Litter and Dog Bins and a request for a dog waste bin at the end of Kemsley Road. It was noted that SC Norse had advised that they are not aware of a major dog fouling issue in this area, but would support the installation of a bin. As there were no bins in the immediate area members agreed that there was a genuine need for the bin.

It was RESOLVED that:

- i. a Fido (dog waste) bin at a cost of £175+VAT be approved for installation at the end of Kemsley Road; and,
- ii. a map or list of dog bin locations currently in Felixstowe is requested from Suffolk Coastal Norse, to help with future requests.

463. OCCASIONAL GRANTS POLICY

Committee considered the Occasional Grants Policy.

RESOLVED that Occasional Grants Policy for 2017/18 be recommended to Council for adoption as presented.

464. PRESS & MEDIA POLICY

Council considered the Press & Media Policy.

RESOLVED that Occasional Grants Policy for 2017/18 be recommended to Council for adoption as presented.

465. WESEL VIDEO

As the Wesel video was 45 minutes long and the version available was in German only, without subtitles, Committee decided to defer viewing at this time.

It was agreed that enquiries should be made with counterparts in Wesel to establish whether a version can be supplied with English subtitles. In the meantime the video, which was held on a USB drive held at the Town Hall, would be made available for Members to borrow.

RESOLVED that enquiries be made to made with Wesel for a version of the film with English subtitles.

466. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 8.37pm. The next meeting was noted as being scheduled for Wednesday 19 April 2017 at 7.30pm.

Date:	Chairman:	