

187. **INTERESTS**

Councillor Mike Hocking gave notice of his intention to declare an interest in Minute (189) below.

188. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

189. **PRESENTATION – GREEN FUTURES**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Andrew Rothery and Mr Simon Heath, Green Futures co-ordinators and invited them to update Members on the projects Green Futures have been working on in the community.

Mr Rothery provided a brief background to the formation Green Futures and its focus to provide environmental regeneration work. He thanked the Town Council for their Grant awarded last year and were appreciative of the work it has enabled them to do for the community.

Mr Rothery and Mr Heath gave a presentation to Members highlighting the following key points:

- To realise that everyone is involved in the challenges faced by society;
- It is an opportunity to act now;
- A Code Red for Humanity had been issued by the UN Secretary General as part of the intergovernmental panel on Climate Change;
- The world's current eco-systems are on the point of collapse;
- The catastrophic floods, wildfires and deforestation was making the indigenous inhabitants displaced from their homes and settlements;
- To recognise that we are part of the environment as well as the land and ecosystem;
- Change will not be through science but from action among communities;
- Most people feel overwhelmed and unable to see how to help;
- The issues seem too large to overcome which created apathy and confusion;
- The overall aim of Green Futures is to work in the Green Economy but based upon reality through fulfilling livelihoods and to be proud of what is achieved.

Mr Heath then outlined some of the community projects that they had undertaken:

- Work at Bradley Lane Allotments;
- Created and built The Tool Shed (a meeting hub) from locally sourced reclaimed materials;
- Fencing at Vicary's Field Allotments and
- Bradley Bug Recovery Network in collaboration with Bradley Barton School.

The Co-ordinators aim to take on larger projects from next year and were keen to work with the Town Council.

The Chairman thanked them both for their community involvement to date and this was echoed by several councillors who noted their support for those seeking a return to work and the encouragement they had offered to volunteers.

The Chairman thanked both Mr Rothery and Mr Heath for their informative presentation and they were invited to leave the meeting.

Councillor Mike Hocking having previously declared an interest did not take part in the discussion but thanked Green Futures for their work with local volunteers and their contribution to the community.

190. **SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

(i) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP – 14TH JULY 2021

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Engagement Group meeting held on 14th July 2021 be hereby, approved and adopted.

(ii) EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE – 29TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Events Sub-Committee meeting held on 29th September 2021 be hereby, approved and adopted.

191. **MUSEUM REPORT**

A. The Principal Administrator presented the Newton's Place promotional video to Members, which gave a short presentation of the features of the building and Museum, narrated by the Deputy Town Clerk. Members applauded the video and commended its production.

B. The Chairman referred to the Museum report, previously circulated and invited the Curator Dr Charlotte Dixon to update Members on key points raised within the report:

Dr Dixon thanked Members for the opportunity to update them and introduced the recently appointed Museum Assistant Mrs Katie Petley-Jones and raised the following key points:

- Staff Changes within the Museum team;
- Appointment of Trainee Museum Assistant under the Government's Kick Start scheme;
- The Museum had been open for one year, 3rd October marking its first anniversary;
- The Team have worked through the periods of Government restrictions and lockdowns but since the re-opening in May 2021 have had 3,996 visitors and during August alone there were 1,400 visitors;
- Despite the return to schools the numbers were still buoyant given the numbers of group visits and activities that had been organised;
- The Museum team participated in the Heritage Open Day on 18th September which attracted 140 visitors to the St Leonard's Clock Tower and 180 to the Museum on that occasion alone;
- Kate Green the Community Engagement Consultant continues to provide a broad range of activities and out-reach community workshops for local groups and organisations which proved to be very popular;

- A new monthly activity designed for families is the Make n' Create held on the first Saturday of each month;
- The Museum team will be hosting a reception event for teachers from across the local schools and will be inviting their input into an educational teaching pack;
- Following the Museum's commitment to be accessible for all; it has been invited to act as a Case Study for members of the Autism in Museums and Kids in Museums organisations;
- An audio guide is now available for the visually impaired;
- The Friends of the Museum has been re-established with the next talk arranged for 28th October 2021; and
- The Museum team continued to refresh the exhibits from the collection and were arranging future exhibitions.

Councillor Mike Ryan reported that he was extremely pleased that the Museum was flourishing and that now the doors were able to open following the lifting of the Government restrictions that the visitors were able to come and enjoy the community space and Museum. He expressed his sincere appreciation for the work of the staff to make it such a success. Councillor Hocking was pleased to note that the number of volunteers had not diminished despite the move and was pleased that younger volunteers were involved in the Museum. He commended the refreshing report from the Curator.

The Chairman thanked the Curator for the report on the Museum and commended all the staff for their hard work and efforts to date. Dr Dixon and Mrs Petley-Jones were invited to leave the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Museum Report be hereby, noted.

192. **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

A. The Committee considered the proposed budgets for the following Sub-Committees and Working Groups. Following discussion, the Committee received and noted the proposed budgets for the following Sub-Committees and Working Groups for the period 2022/23:

- a) Events Sub-Committee budget of **£22,000 plus inflation plus carry forward balance from 2021/22.**
- b) Community Engagement Group – Newton In Bloom budget of **£27,000 plus inflation;**
- c) Community Engagement Group – Museum budget of **£32,800 plus inflation,** and

Arising from the discussion it was:

RESOLVED that the proposed 2022/23 budgets listed as a) to c) above be hereby approved and adopted and it being noted that any underspend from the 2021/22 budget for the Events Sub-Committee be carried forward to support the two additional events to be held in 2022/23.

B. The Committee received and noted the Income and Expenditure statement for the Community and Heritage Committee, (for the period 1st April – 30th September 2021) and considered the proposed budget for 2022/23. The Deputy Town Clerk provided clarity to the movement of some services to the cost centre and answered queries raised by Members.

Following a lengthy discussion, accordingly it was:

RESOLVED that a) the Income and Expenditure Statement for the period 1st April – 30th September 2021 for the Community and Heritage Committee be hereby approved and adopted and b) that the proposed budget for Community and Heritage Committee for 2022/23, be given further consideration at the next meeting of the Strategic Planning Forum on 10th November 2021.

193. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

A. The Principal Administrator advised Members that Newton's Place had been awarded 'Highly Commended' in the South West Building Excellence Awards 2021 in the Non-Residential Best Public or community building category.

B. The Chairman reminded Members that the Annual Town Meeting would be held on Saturday 16th October 2021 in the town from 10am-2pm and she encouraged all Councillors to attend. Councillor Mrs Sheffield reminded Members that this would mark the launch of the review of the Community Plan and would seek to gain thoughts and ideas from the wider community.

194. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee would be held on Wednesday 9th February 2021.



Chairman