

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21 APRIL 2016 at 8pm

Councillors: C. Feetham (vice-chair) J. Bicknell* J. Browning
J. Devonald P. Gode J. Reynolds

**non committee members*

Officers: J. Farr (Deputy Clerk)
M. Letch (locum clerk)

Other: Four members of the public
One member of the press

51/15 To appoint a new committee chairman

No nominations were received so Cllr Feetham as vice-chair was appointed as committee chairman for this meeting.

52/15 Apologies for absence

Cllrs B. Freeman (work commitment) and A. Wingfield (hospital appointment).

53/15 Declarations of interest

None received.

54/15 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda

One member of the public addressed the committee in respect of item 62/15 Twinning. As Ongar is already twinned with Cerizay he urged the committee not to make any decision without first consulting with the Twinning Association.

55/15 To agree the minutes of the Public Relations meeting held on 11 February 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2016 were reviewed and agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

56/15 Clerk's Report

Ongar & Villages Voluntary Care (OVVC)

It was reported that the Council had received an invitation to the OVVC Annual General Meeting on 12th May 2016 at the Budworth Hall. Cllrs Bicknell and Feetham expressed an interest in attending.

57/15 Recommendation from Open Spaces committee

To receive the recommendation from Open Spaces committee not to hold a Best Kept Allotment competition in 2016: Minute reference from Open Spaces committee meeting 77/15 dated 4th February 2016.

Ongar in Bloom had expressed an interest in holding an allotment competition to include private as well as Council sites.

Cllr Gode proposed that the Council did not hold an allotment competition this year. This was seconded by Cllr Browning,

Vote –
For – 5

AGREED

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- The Council would not hold an allotment competition this year.

58/15 Ongar Carnival 26 June 2016

To consider participating in this event

Councillors were reminded that the Council had a stall at the event in 2015 and this provided a good opportunity to engage with the public.

Cllr Browning proposed that the Council should participate again this year and this was seconded by Cllr Devonald.

Vote –

For – 5

AGREED

- The Council to hold a stall at the Ongar Carnival

59/15 Chairman's Coffee morning

To agree a date and arrangements for the next event

It was **AGREED** that this event be deferred until the next committee meeting with a view to holding an event in September.

60/15 Community Grants

It was suggested that the deadline for submissions of applications be agreed for 31.08.16 and that the committee chair and committee clerk should consider the applications and to allocate and distribute funds available.

Cllr Reynolds proposed that the deadline be 31 August and this was seconded by Cllr Browning.

Vote –

For – 5

AGREED

- The closing date for applications would be 31 August.

Cllr Reynolds proposed that the committee chair and committee clerk be tasked with consideration of the applications and to allocate the funds available.

Vote –

For – 5

AGREED

- The committee chair and committee clerk be tasked with consideration of the applications and to allocate the funds available.

61/15 BCHS Community Day – 8th July 2016

To consider and agree suggested projects for students to implement.

Cllr Feetham proposed that the students carry out a litter survey and this was seconded by Cllr Devonald. This project would include identifying litter “hot spots” and report their findings to the Council along with suggested strategies for dealing with excessive litter.

Vote –

For – 5

AGREED

- The students to carry out a litter survey.

62/15 Twinning

To consider an invitation from Quincy in Northern France to twin with Ongar
Cllr Gode proposed that as Ongar already has an active twinning association that this invitation be passed to them. This was seconded by Cllr Browning.

Vote –
For - 5

AGREED

- To forward this invitation to the Twinning Association

63/15 Clean up slogan on a poster

To consider the attached responses received from members of the public.

It was reported that only 2 entries from local children had been received. A further suggestion from a resident was to copy an idea of posters used in other towns e.g. Chelmsford.

The committee had already agreed to ask students from BCHS to assist with a public awareness campaign so it was AGREED to defer this item until after the students visit in July.

64/15 Committee budget

Due to a clerical error only the budget for community grants was provided to councillors. Final budget information on the financial year 2015/16 and budget to date in the year 2016/17 would be reported to the next committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Signed

Chair of Public Relations Committee

Date