



# Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the **REGENERATION COMMITTEE MEETING** of **OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL** on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 10.08am**

The meeting was conducted virtually in accordance with Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020

**PRESENT:** Councillor Lucas (**Chairman**) Cllrs Stewart, Grainger, Copus and the Deputy CEO

**OTHER PERSONS PRESENT:-** County Cllr Claire Wright, Cllr Green, two representatives from Ottery In Bloom (Keith Spittlehouse and Brian Nelson) Mark Gerry, EDDC. Dave Moss joined for Confidential part of the meeting only

R20/08/01

**TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Cllr Johns

R20/08/02

**TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND RECEIPT OF REQUESTS FOR NEW DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIS) DISPENSATIONS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Stewart	Council representative of Ottery In Bloom
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Keith Spittlehouse requested that Item 7 be moved to the top of the Agenda in order that he could leave the meeting after that point, to which the Chairman agreed. Brian Nelson said he would remain for the duration of the meeting.

R20/08/03

**IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 (PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED): TO AGREE ANY ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH AFTER THE PUBLIC AND PRESS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED**

It was agreed that Item 4 be moved to Confidential Session at the end of the meeting with the public excluded, due to the confidential nature of the data within the documentation to be discussed with Dave Moss.

R20/08/04

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference document was agreed by the Committee

Chairman`s Initials.....

R20/08/05

**TO DISCUSS THE OVERALL PLAN AND APPEARANCE OF THE TOWN AND TO CONSIDER CONTRACTING A PROJECT MANAGER TO DELIVER ON ENHANCING THE APPEARANCE OF THE TOWN (EG FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS, PLANTING AND GENERAL PRESENTATION)**

Keith Spittlehouse said he believed there was implied criticism of Ottery in Bloom in the wording of this Agenda Item and did not feel that a Project Manager and the volunteers would sit very well together. Brian Nelson added that it would be a waste of money and they would not have the expertise that Ottery in Bloom has.

Cllr Stewart explained that the reasoning behind proposing a Project Manager, who would be more relevant to other Regeneration items the Committee were looking to take forward, ie Item 8 and that the Committee needed an experienced person to take these on and make recommendations. He said the Council considered Ottery in Bloom to be doing a fantastic job and were experts in their field. This was reiterated by the Chairman who said the proposed Project Manager was being recommended to work through a plan of larger long term projects to make them progress more quickly and effectively, put a better support structure in place to work to provide better support to all the organisations who are trying to improve the town in different ways and that the Council delivers on the promises it has made. Cllr Stewart apologised for the unfortunate wording of the Agenda Item. (Keith Spittlehouse left the meeting)

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Committee look at bringing in a Project Manager once it had a better roadmap/plan and to decide formally at what point to bring them in to help with the workload to make faster and more effective progress, whilst keeping on top of tasks.

R20/08/06

**TO CONSIDER A SAFE SPACE FOR WALKING AND CYCLING RE CORONAVIRUS AND IN PARTICULAR TO CONSIDER THE MATTERS RAISED BY A PARISHIONER**

The Deputy CEO read out the email received from the said Parishioner. Cllr Wright explained that the fund the parishioner had referred to was very small, the deadline was really tight being some weeks ago and most of the money went to Exeter with a large number of applications and only a small amount actually allocated so cannot be pursued further at this stage. She said there might be other things which can be looked at and has been working on the Feniton to Tipton to Ottery to Sidmouth cycle route which was always in the East Devon Local Plan but has been missed off in the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) which she has made Cllr Stewart Hughes aware of. The Chairman agreed that Cycling is something close to a lot of Ottery parishioners' hearts and the concern of the traffic situation has been talked about many times. He said this would be one of the priorities of the Regeneration Committee in conjunction with the work previously carried out which would be discussed in the Confidential Item on the Agenda. It was agreed that it was disappointing not to be able to pursue the fund but suggested moving onto the next Agenda point as a lot of this was discussed in the Full Council Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and would be relevant to the later Item on this. It was **RECOMMENDED** that Committee would look at pursuing alternative funding to assist with the on-going development of regeneration to help these issues and hoped it puts the parishioner's mind at rest that the Committee will be taking this seriously and trying to find solutions wherever possible, whilst working with Cllr Wright in any way to move things forward.

Chairman`s Initials.....

R20/08/07

**TO DISCUSS INVESTIGATING THE GOVERNMENT KICKSTARTER SCHEME IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO A COUNCIL LED YOUTH PROJECT**

The Chairman requested this as an Agenda Item as he had many conversations with people who feel strongly there is a lot available for the younger children of Ottery, but not so much for the teenage population and there needs to be more alternatives. There is a varied demographic all with different interests and there has been some money available from the Government for getting these type of schemes on board. Mark Gerry said he is now not a Youth worker but a Community Development Manager but had looked at the Kickstarter scheme targeting businesses and encouraging older people to get onto apprenticeships and training opportunities with some money available. He asked how much involvement there had been with the Station and the work they are beginning to do. The Chairman explained they had not had any direct contact with them with what activities are there and what involvement, at which age ranges. A long discussion took place about this and various projects Mark had been involved in.

Cllr Stewart explained about the plan to improve the Land of Canaan for the Section 106 money which EDDC had approved in principle but was refusing to act on. He said that as soon as possible, the Council wanted to put in more bridges working with a charity to involve young people and put in a gazebo with them contributing to the build and in the car park to put up a bus stop type of structure potentially with a charger for phones but a waterproof space. He also said that with regard to the Kickstarter Scheme, no-one has any details on how it will work and nothing has been released by the Government, other than apprenticeships.

It was **RECOMMENDED** in principle to support looking at the Youth project work and will actively seek solutions and alternative funding and premises etc, wherever possible and readdress this at the next meeting, working with Mark Gerry in the future.

It was also **RECOMMENDED** that in order not to lose touch with this, it should be a permanent Item on the Full Council Meeting Agenda so that it has a focus kept on it month by month.

R20/08/08

**TO REVIEW AND ACTION PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY VOTED ON AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020 AND SIGNED OFF READY TO IMPLEMENT**

The Committee reviewed and actioned each item from the Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> July – see separate Appendix

R20/08/09

**TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO REGENERATION**

Cllr Stewart reminded the Committee of The Coleridge Memorial Trust's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary the year after next and how they would like the Council to be more active in celebrating it. The Trust is looking to build a structure with the funds it already has and actively doing things to celebrate it. It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Trust be invited to the next Regeneration Committee meeting to discuss further

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Cllr John Green be appointed to the Regeneration Committee member.

Chairman`s Initials.....

**CONFIDENTIAL PART OF THE MEETING**

R20/08/10

**TO CONSIDER ANY REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS (IF APPROPRIATE) IN RESPECT OF THE REGENERATION OF THE TOWN**

Dave Moss who had previously put together a number of Regeneration reports joined the meeting at this point.

He said the main thing that came out of the report was the need to develop and refine a plan of action and that since 2016 little tangible had come out of it, other than his comprehensive report. A long discussion took place about the need for a proper and fully inclusive plan, ways to deliver it and a timeline, together with identifying the need for funding and a resource necessary to push it forward, especially what Regeneration actually means including heritage, traffic and tourism. Cohesion and consistency will be vital and Council members/volunteers are not capable of taking on the whole workload and size of this nature. The Chairman reiterated to Dave that this was a long term project which will be taken seriously by the Committee and Council and that Regeneration meant every aspect of the town and its people.

Cllr Stewart asked the parishioner if any effort for funding had been sought following the report and Dave clarified that it had not been pursued. Cllr Stewart said that the Committee and Council were prepared to invest money and commitment to gain the professionalism required to take Regeneration forward.

The Chairman thanked Dave for joining the meeting and for all his hard work and commitment in the many hours spent putting the comprehensive report together and invited him to the next meeting and to carry on working with the Committee in the future, to which he agreed.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Committee meet again to formally define what Regeneration actually means, clarifying the projects, putting together objectives to solve the problems, deliver on the promises and decide how a Project Manager is going to fit in with that, using the data in the report produced

The meeting concluded at **11.54PM**

<b>SIGNATURE OF CHAIRMAN</b>	
<b>DATE OF SIGNATURE</b>	

Chairman`s Initials.....