

NORTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**THURSDAY 9 JANUARY 2020
CASTLE HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE, HIGHFIELD ROAD,
IPSWICH IP1 6DG
7.00 PM**

Present: Castle Hill Ward Councillors: I Fisher and E Xhaferaj
Whitehouse Ward Councillors: C Wright
Whitton Ward Councillors: D Heaps, S Meudec and C Shaw
Suffolk County Councillors: D Goldsmith and I Lockington

There were 7 members of the public in attendance.

55. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Trenchard and Councillor Vickery.

56. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 7 November 2019

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2019 be signed as a true record.

57. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

Resolved:

that the Order of Business be as printed on the Agenda.

58. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

59. Police Priorities

- 59.1. Kirsty Graefe, Acting Inspector, provided an overview of the police priorities for the West of Ipswich and confirmed that three new sergeants had recently joined the team.
- 59.2. The current three main priorities for the West SNT included tackling antisocial behaviour and violent crime around Austin Street in the South West of Ipswich, continuing to tackle the issue of 'cuckoo'ing' and working with other partners to support victims of this, and thirdly increasing patrols in parks in the North West of Ipswich and tackling antisocial behaviour in Garrick Way/Castle Court. The priorities continued to be fluid and would be changed based on demands and resources moved where necessary.

60. Chairs Update on Actions from the Previous Meeting

- 60.1. The Chair reported that the North West Area Committee had agreed funding of £319.98 in January 2019 towards an application for a grit bin on Highfield Road. However, this had been rejected as the location had not met the criteria required in the Grit Bin guidance and application procedure. Therefore, the Committee had been recommended under the financial update at item 12 to return this money to the North West Area Committee's unallocated budget.

61. Ward Councillors Feedback from their Communities

Whitton Ward

Councillor Heaps confirmed that he and Councillor Shaw had attended a carol service at Whitton Church over the Christmas period. An Easter Fayre would be held at Castle Hill Community Centre on 4th April 2020.

Clarification would be sought with regards to the Aldi on Meredith Road and if this would be kept open following recent reports.

Whitehouse Ward

The Chair reported that some work had been carried out on certain verges within the ward following damage which had been caused when vehicles were parked on them.

Due to the election, Officers had been legally unable to continue discussions regarding the issues around Whitehouse Skate Park however, work on this had now resumed.

Works to cut back and seed grass on the piece of land on Lovetofts Drive and Kerry Avenue had begun and would be completed shortly.

Castle Hill Ward

Councillor Xhaferaj reported that following a report by a resident regarding the pavement in Clive Avenue, this had been reported to the relevant authorities and was

currently under consideration. He and County Councillor Goldsmith and Councillor Vickery had attended a Christmas Fayre at the Ascension Hall last month and he strongly recommended that residents attend the event in the future.

62. Responses to Public Questions and Open Discussion on Local Issues

62.1. The Chair confirmed that four written questions, which were tabled at the meeting, had been received regarding the high numbers of cars trying to park in Dryden Road, since the pedestrian entrances for both the infant and junior schools had changed. Cars also parked in Castle Hill Church Car Park and on most days the entrance was partially blocked which created a hazard for cars entering/leaving the car park:

Q1 - Who is responsible for carrying out any Risk Assessments?

Q2 - Is it legal to park on the grass verges? I gather that it is an offence under the Highways Act to cause damage to highway verges.

Q3 - Who will be responsible for restoring the grass verges to a safe condition?

Q4 - What action can be taken jointly by you as Local Councillors, us as Church Trustees and the School to solve these issues please?

A response had been sought from Parking Services with regards to Q1 who confirmed that Ipswich Borough Council was only responsible for enforcing parking restrictions which were in place on the public highway and were not responsible for infrastructure. Verge parking was only an offence when it was specifically restricted of which there were some streets in Ipswich where this was the case, such as Everton Crescent and Chiltern Avenue. To enable this to be enforced in Dryden Way, Suffolk County Council would have to make a legal order and install signs notifying drivers that parking on the verge was not permitted.

County Councillor Paul West advised that local County Councillors could allocate money from their Highways Locality Budget to enable restrictions on verge parking in some roads. With regards to risk assessments, the appropriate Officer at Suffolk County Council would be requested to have a discussion with the school to discuss the issues which had been identified.

The resident asked who would be responsible in the event of an accident and the Chair advised that the responsibility of the Highway was a Suffolk County Council issue.

It was agreed that a full written response and update would be provided to the Committee and the resident.

62.2. A resident asked if there were any plans in place with regards to the repair of pavements in Chesterfield Drive. County Councillor Paul West agreed to provide an update on this at the next meeting.

62.3. A resident reported that the grass on the pavement in Shenstone Drive had overgrown which was causing mobility issues. The Chair advised that this was the responsibility of Suffolk County Council whom funded the clearing, of which Ipswich Borough Council would undertake. Currently, only one clearance of the pavements was funded per year however, the Chair agreed to take this issue further with Parks & Open Spaces and the appropriate Portfolio Holder.

63. The North West Big Local Trust - Update

63.1. Lorraine Ganuszko, North West Big Local Trust representative, presented an update to the North West Area Committee and confirmed that the Big Lottery Fund had provided £1m to the NW BLT five years ago for improvements to be made in the communities of Whitehouse, Whitton and part of Castle Hill Wards.

63.2. Following a recent change, the Castle Hill Community Centre Trust had become the NW BLT's Local Trust Organisation, who were now responsible for holding the finances. This had been a positive improvement for all and would help to ensure changes could be made within the area. Some of the community improvements made, using the money which had been provided, included a Dementia Café, Book Club, Castle Hill Community Garden and support to the Whitton Youth Partnership.

63.3. Ms Ganuszko explained that the NW BLT continued to look to the community for suggestions as to what improvements they felt would have a positive impact and encouraged any interested residents to contact the group via their website.

63.4. With regards to the grant applications, it was confirmed that it was anticipated that the grant system would be opened from February 2020 onwards of which more information would be provided at that time.

63.5. A number of events had been organised to take place over the year including:

- Easter Egg Hunt on 11 April 2020 at The Meeting Place Community Centre, Limerick Close, IP1 5LR
- Family Fun Day on 30 May 2020 in Whitehouse Park.
- The Dog Show on 5 September 2020 in Castle Hill Park.

64. NWAC/19/15 Funding Request: Whitton Youth Partnership

64.1. Mr Jim Manning, Secretary and Founding Trustee of Whitton Youth Partnership, presented a funding request to the Committee which sought £5,000 funding towards the Whitton Youth Partnership for the development of a senior youth club to meet on a weekly basis for 48 weeks of the year, for an initial one year period.

64.2. Mr Manning provided an overview of what the partnership offered and confirmed that 80 young people were currently on the register, of which approximately 40 attended each week. The services provided were free and

due to the age gaps emerging, it had become necessary that the group be split between juniors and seniors, so that activities could be targeted at the appropriate age group. The Whitton Youth Partnership continued to grow, adapt, listen and provide a well needed group for the young people who attended.

It was RESOLVED:-

that £5,000 funding be allocated towards the Whitton Youth Partnership to develop a senior youth club for an initial period of one year to meet on a weekly basis for 48 weeks of the year, which would complement the WYP's existing Junior Youth Club.

Reason:

1. To contribute towards the cost of a senior youth club, for the young people of the north west of Ipswich
2. To meet the priorities of the North West Area Committee Action Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan and to increase meaningful engagement with young people.

65. NWAC/19/16 Funding Request: Friends of Castle Hill Schools - Defibrillators

65.1. Marie Whiting, Representative for Friends of Castle Hill Schools, presented a funding request to the Committee which sought £1,000 funding for the installation of an Artificial External Defibrillator device at Castle Hill URC Church, Dryden Road, Ipswich.

65.2. Councillor Fisher asked what the total cost of a defibrillator was and Ms Whiting confirmed £1482.00. The Committee agreed to fund the full amount of funding required.

It was RESOLVED:-

that £1,482.00 funding be allocated to the Friends of Castle Hill Schools for the installation of an Artificial External Defibrillator device at Castle Hill URC Church, Dryden Road, Ipswich IP1 6QF.

Reason: to sustain the health and wellbeing of residents in the North West area of Ipswich.

66. NWAC/19/17 Area Committee Budget Update

66.1. Mr Minnican, Operations Manager – Finance, presented the Area Committee budget report for noting and confirmed that the Committee had also been recommended to return the £319.98 funding, which had been allocated towards a grit bin on Highfield Road and had subsequently been rejected, back to the unallocated budget.

66.2. The Officer confirmed that should the £319.98 be returned, and pending the financial commitments made at the meeting, the North West Area Committee had an unallocated budget of £12,824.20 remaining to spend on the priorities of the Area Action Plan.

It was RESOLVED:-

- 1. that the £319.97 funding awarded towards an application for a grit bin on Highfield Road (ref NWAC/18/16), be returned to the unallocated budget.**
- 2. that the financial position of the North West Area Committee be noted.**

Reason: to provide clear and transparent details of the amount of funds available to the Area Committee to deliver the priorities in its action plan.

67. Dates of Future Meetings 2020/21, to be held at 7.00pm

Dates of Future Meetings 2020/21, all to be held at 7.00pm

Thursday 5th March 2020 – Castle Hill United Reformed Church, Dryden Road, IP1 6QF

Thursday 4th June 2020

Thursday 16th July 2020

Thursday 10th September 2020

Thursday 5th November 2020

Thursday 21st January 2021

Thursday 11th March 2021

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Chair