

CULLOMPTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the CCA Council meeting convened on Wednesday 19th September 2012

Present

Members of the Council: A Wilce, E Andrews, J Sutton Webb, J McPherson, C van der Salm, M Lear, J Mapson, M Scott, S Vaughan, J Chard, T Duxbury, R Crocker

Members of the public: M & J Smith, Cullompton Community Centre

Apologies: B Mitchell, L Read, C Rutley, J Hill, N Woollatt, D Speaight, A Vigar, P Vile, N Woollatt

Public Question Time

No questions

Minutes

No secretary had been found. JSW offered to take the minutes for the meeting and has someone to ask to become secretary. She will report back before the next meeting.

Proposal: To carry over this item to the next meeting and if no-one comes forward to fill the position, to draw lots as previously proposed by the Chairman.

Prop: AW Sec: SV Resolved as above

Proposal: To accept the Minutes of the previous meeting

Prop: JSW Sec: ML Resolved as above with no amendments

Matters Arising

Way Forward - Proposal: That the matter is not discussed at this meeting, but is the subject of a special meeting.

Prop: CR Sec: JH Not carried

JSW presented a summary of the Constitution, followed by the proposals of the Working Group, as previously circulated.

Main points of discussion:

- It was agreed it was a good idea to have separate committee to manage the fields.
- Clarification was sought on whether someone who lives outside the town could be a member. The answer is yes if they are representing an affiliate group or section.
- Should there be an entertainments committee? Could this come under the remit of fund-raising? It was felt that whilst such a committee might be a desire, a group of people who want to organise it would have to be found first.
- There was some confusion over who owns the CCA land. Eileen Andrews explained that the land had been purchased by the town and held in trust, with provisos.

At the end of the discussion the proposals were broadly welcomed in principle.

Proposal: That the meeting agrees in principle to the setting up of a management committee and a further meeting be held to discuss the terms of reference.

Prop: AW Sec: EA

Amendment: That the meeting agrees in principle to the setting up a management committee, finance committee, fields committee, with a further meeting to discuss the terms of reference (Sections to be discussed later as Agenda item in this meeting).

Prop: CvdS Sec: SV Carried unanimously

Action: AW, EA, LR, JSW, NW to meet again and bring proposals to next meeting.

Whippet Track - The Whippet Club had been in touch with Ashley, asking if the CCA would maintain the track at its own expense, in view of the income to the Town from their annual meet. Ashley had responded that he thought it unlikely but would ask the committee. He suggested to them that they approach the Cullompton Traders Association and Town Council to sponsor maintenance of the track.

Proposal: AW to write to the Whippet Club asking them for a firm date when they intend to come next year, with a response deadline of 1/11/12.

Prop: EA Sec: CvdS Carried unanimously

Action: AW to write to Whippet Club

Track Repairs Grant - Viridor meet on 27th September to make a final decision on the grant application. They have asked for someone to meet with them that morning to view the site.

Action: AW and EA to attend.

Litter/recycling bins - EA met with the deputy manager of Tesco's, Jane Ryder, to ask whether Tesco's would consider providing a recycling bin at their end of the CCA fields, to be moved for emptying by their staff. Jane was open to the suggestion, but is not the final decision maker. She also responded positively to suggestion that the staff might take part in a litter-pick event. Ms Ryder expressed a wish by Tesco's to be more involved with the town.

DS had contacted Cullompton Community College who said they are being proactive in trying to get the students not to drop litter. Are keen to be involved in a future litter-pick event, although cannot make it compulsory as some parents might object.

Action: EA to return to Tesco's next week to follow up requests.

Dog Fouling - Mid Devon have provided some stickers prohibiting fouling, and EA is contacting Devon County Council to see if they will provide some laser writing on the path with the same message. Mid Devon Council can suggest which languages it is most useful to write signs in. There are some concerns that the translation is incorrect on signs already produced.

Action: EA as above

Middle Bridge Repairs - BM has been away on holiday and AW has not yet managed to organise a date with him to carry out the repairs. The meeting then discussed whether or not to pay for the work to be done, given the delay and onset of poorer weather, which will exacerbate the problem of erosion.

Proposal: That J Chard undertakes the bridge repairs in consultation with B Mitchell and A Wilce, reporting back at the next meeting.

Prop: AW Sec: EA: Carried unanimously

Action: JC as above

Playground Repairs - An inspection was carried out by MDDC some time ago recommending repairs, but these had not been arranged and general works are needed on almost every piece of equipment. It is not clear whether the playground is still under warranty.

Action: AW to clarify the warranty situation and to inspect the equipment a.s.a.p., taking any immediate action as required, ensuring safety.

There is a sewer leak close to the playground area. Cullompton Rangers FC is having investigations made on 20th September, with a view to determining the nature of the leak and whose responsibility it is to repair it.

Action: MS to report back.

Holes in Fields - JC has been filling in holes and running over them with his roller lawn mower, but the ground is uneven so it is not perfect. The committee thanked Mr Chard for his hard work at considerable personal expense. JC suggested the CCA review all its grass-cutting before next year, and this suggestion was noted by the Chairman who said he already had it in mind for a future meeting.

Finance

Hockey Field Rental - No rent has been paid since the beginning of 2008 by Cullompton Rangers FC for the use of the hockey pitches, so NW had forwarded a bill for £136 per year (total £544). MS asked for clarification on how the figure was arrived at before agreeing to pay.

Action: AW to make enquiries with NW then contact MS

MS presented a cheque for £100 on behalf of Cullompton Rangers, which was a donation in thanks for the use of the fields for parking at a recent 6-a-side tournament.

Current financial statement - As printed on the agenda.

Annual subs for the *Open Spaces* organisation had been due over the summer and had been paid after an email conversation between Officers. Retrospective agreement sought.

Proposal: To grant retrospective approval.

Prop: AW Sec: CvdS Carried unanimously

Standing Order had been paid for renewal of membership of Devon Wildlife Trust. Treasurer concerned that this hadn't been agreed by the Council.

Proposal: To retrospectively approve this payment, but to instruct the Treasurer to cancel the Standing Order.

Prop: AW Sec: SV Resolved as above

Treasurer has asked that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be nominated as bank account signatories.

Proposal: As above

Prop: JSW Sec: CvdS Resolved as above

Noted, that EA had received an Invoice from Morrishes (payment previously agreed) to be forward to the Treasurer.

Noted, that CvdS had the contents of the collection bucket from 'Hug Cullompton' to pass on to the Treasurer.

Correspondence

Noted with thanks, a cheque received from Cullompton Town Council for £8.30 as a refund on VAT from past hall hirings.

Requests to become Sections - There had been requests from the Swimming Pool Campaign and Cullompton Community Cinema to become Sections.

Proposal: To delay debate until next meeting.

Prop: JC Sec: JSW Not carried

Discussion followed.

Proposal: That the CCA agrees to delay a final decision on accepting the Swimming Pool Campaign as a Section until the new structure is agreed and implemented.

Prop: EA Sec: ML Not carried

Proposal: That the Council makes a decision on the request (which was suggested by the 'Way Forward' Working Group) at the next meeting.

Prop: JC Sec: JSW Resolved as above

Proposal: That the same apply to the Community Cinema.

Prop: AW Sec: JMCP Carried unanimously

Action: AW to contact both organisations to welcome their request but advise that, due to the restructuring of the organisation we will be unable to consider it until the next meeting.

Letter from Girl Guides - Noted, that the previously separate affiliates of Guides, Brownies and Rainbows will now be incorporated into one Affiliate group: 'Cullompton Girl-Guiding'.

Chairman's Business

Noted, that letters had been sent by the Chairman to D Regardsoe and G Manfield thanking them for their years of service to the CCA and the Town.

Action: JSW to pursue certificates.

Noted, that a letter had been sent to the Environment Agency with regard to the blocked drainage ditch coming under the railway and motorway at Duke St. end. The Chair updated the meeting that the EA had said that it wasn't their responsibility.

Action: EA and AW to pursue.

Facebook - Facebook page has now been set up by AW, who sought retrospective consent for having done so. CvdS suggested linking the page to the Twitter account.

Proposal: A vote of thanks and grant of retrospective consent.

Prop: EA Sec: SV Carried unanimously

Trusteeship - After discussion, it became clear that there was some confusion among Council members over trusteeship and who was a trustee of the CCA. JSW then suggested that as we are restructuring the organisation, this is a good time to consider the issue of trusteeship and to get clarity on where responsibility lies within the Association.

The Chairman advised that the opinion of the Charities Commission was that each member of the CCA Council was a 'Charity Trustee' because there was no other level of responsibility within the CCA. There was a suggestion that the CCA obtains legal advice, but the Chairman referred to the legislation and the Constitution (attached to the Agenda) which was, in his view, unambiguous and consistent with Charities Commission view.

The proposal put forward by the Chair on the Agenda was not seconded since it was felt that trusteeship would be more practically located within the new management committee and so should wait until after this had been carried out. The Chairman advised that this re-location of trustee responsibility would need a revision of the Constitution.

Proposal: That a review of trusteeship and the Constitution be included in the review of the CCA structure, following which those deemed to be trustees sign a written statement of conformity.

Prop: JSW Sec: CvdS Carried unanimously.

Action: 'Way Forward' Working Group to bring forward recommendations.

Any other Business

Information Board - JH had suggested a vandal-proof board at a cost of £495, to include the printed contents, although it was not clear whether this included art-work or VAT. £200 had already been received from the Town Council towards this. Discussion followed.

Proposal: That the committee agrees that a notice board be purchased up to a value of £700.

Prop: CvdS Sec: JMcP Carried unanimously.

Action: JH, ML, CvdS to agree content and purchase notice board.

- Members were reminded of the planting of oaks and replacing trees in Jubilee Wood, to take place at 10am on 7th October.

- JSW had been in touch with school who thought it impractical to ask for orders without sight of actual book.

Action: JSW to ask library to display final proof in Hayridge centre so that parents could place orders for the book if they wished.

- JH asks the Council to confirm whether or not Dave Bonsey will be used to effect repairs, etc. It was agreed that he would be used if there were no other options, i.e. volunteers.
- Grass-cutting across drainage ditch is required. This is done biannually due to the ecosystem which lives there, usually during the autumn.

Action: EA to get quote for cost.

- TD distributed posters about a Devon County Council surgery taking place at the Hayridge Centre from 6.30pm on 3rd October, being hosted by the Leader of Devon County Council, John Hart.
- JC drew attention to the successful 'Hug Cullompton' Craft, Diversity and Well-Being Fair which took place at the community centre the previous Saturday.

Proposal: A vote of thanks to Hug Cullompton for all their hard work and congratulating them on their success.

Prop: JC Sec: JSW Carried unanimously

Meeting closed 21:20.

Next meeting 17/10/12