



ATTLEBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

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ATTLEBOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan Committee Held on Wednesday, 8 July 2020 at 6.00 pm

Present:

Cllr E Tyrer – presiding

Cllr V Dale

Cllr W Loades

Cllr A Westby

Cllr T Taylor

Cllr T Crouch

Cllr B Bulmer

Cllr P Leslie

In attendance – Gina Lopes – Chief Executive Officer & Town Clerk
Anne Willett – CEO's Assistant (minute taker)

001.20) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted as follows:

Cllr D Redmond – Apologies noted

Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen, Leader of Breckland Council – Apologies noted due to technical issues.

002.20) Declarations of Interest

a) Declarations of interest received: - None received

b) To receive any requests for dispensation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest -
None received.

003.20) Resident's Questions

The meeting adjourned to allow the Chair to read a question submitted by email from a resident. (See Resident Question Notes attached.)

004.20) Minutes of the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan Committee Meeting held on 20 January 2020

On the motion of Cllr Dale, seconded by Cllr Leslie it was

RESOLVED to accept and approve the minutes of the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting held on 20 January 2020.

005.20) Economic Recovery and Local Economy

The Chairman gave an introduction and there was a very lengthy discussion which included the following:-

- Revisiting of minutes from last meeting, the resolution regarding the Business Directory on the website was still outstanding and at last week's meeting with Business owners the idea of using symbols similar to a pub menu was put forward
- There is a need to start working much closer with our businesses and to do our

utmost to make the Town vibrant and lively

- A post on the re-launch of the High Street featured a photo of non Attleborough shops and needed to be removed from the website and an apology issued. The CEO had spoken with staff and an apology had been issued to Councillors and instructed to remove the photo but it was noted it was still accessible via the website and would be removed first thing tomorrow morning
- It is part of Councillors role to feed in so they can help inform what is happening in the Town into the website and a deadline set that is realistic and achievable, possibly within one month
- The CEO suggested it would be helpful to have some input from the business owners and retailers before creating a new directory, to upload a simple list of names could be done quite quickly, but to make it more appropriate and helpful to businesses, including their logos and some detail would take a bit longer. It would be helpful if businesses supplied their details with logos and a form that could be downloaded could be added for them to complete and return to the Town Council.
- The existing directory was produced by the external company who produced "Attleborough Matters"
- It was felt best to add a preliminary list of Businesses due to urgency and then look to expand and develop it and put on the website work in progress

On the motion of Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Westby, it was

RESOLVED Tomorrow the current Business Directory be removed, that by the end of next week or within a week the Business Directory is re-loaded with a basic directory of the list of Businesses in the Town with a further provision to add a symbol key to represent whether it's open, whether it's doing key worker priority or whether they are offering delivery within the end of the month that could also incorporate a small brief detail of what they do as a company and then by the end of or provisionally it's opened to adding in logos and descriptions.

ACTION CEO/ALL CLLRS

There was then further discussion which included as below:-

- the use of open spaces
- the possibility of a newsletter
- in the longer term closer working with Breckland was needed but more immediately, what do we do now
- now is the time to be thinking of projects and focusing on the local economy
- The CEO asked the Chairman if he would like to go through the list that was sent out by Breckland for the members' consideration

On the motion of Cllr Dale, seconded by Cllr Taylor, it was

RESOLVED to extend the meeting to two hours.

Discussion continued:-

- There are issues with roadworks but they should be finished by end of August
- Have something tangible like a two sided leaflet with information about who is open and also social distancing
- How do we sell Attleborough in the future?
- work with Breckland as well as Fun Fest Team, Business Forum and other Business Groups

Action Points: Newsletter, Website, Work together, Communication.

- Car parking is a concern for Businesses
- Cllr Leslie stated the meeting held by the Business Community had good ideas and they need to take the lead on this. The Town Council can help out but I don't want it to be a muscle in by the Town Council to takeover on already very good initiatives elsewhere when there's more capable people than we are to do this. Cllr Tyrer agreed - it's got to come through the NP which is community based and from a personal view if the 5 market towns take control it will fail.
- we need to encourage people to walk into town
- Cllr Crouch reported feedback from elderly residents saying we have a high proportion of elderly and disabled residents who won't be able to walk into town
- Businesses are doing poorly because of parking but a lot are doing deliveries and are a success story
- The CEO confirmed she had raised concerns on car parking back in May on losing parking bays when barriers were put in by Breckland Council and had advised there are a number of private areas we could use but was advised there were no plans for alternative parking. However, at a meeting earlier in the day the Breckland Leader agreed to look at this matter.
- Queens Square car park is open but it is a good idea to encourage people to walk and better for environment
- The first newsletter should advertise shops are open and could have checklists to reflect this
- A car parking strategy was needed and there had been an issue with M & Co which was looked at by Planning enforcement but was privately owned, this should be highlighted to the Breckland Leader
- we don't have everything in Attleborough, we are not a City but we have fantastic shops and our job is to support them
- Transport links everything
- Councillors are urged to read ANP
- The CEO advised the outdoor market could offer businesses opportunities and stalls or barrows are available for existing or start-up businesses
- The newsletter would be delivered through people's doors and would offer an alternative to the internet, it could be produced quickly and the Town Council could fund
- Eating out in August and how to apply these vouchers
- Opening up open spaces and make a café culture and an attractive Town centre
- CEO said the newsletter would be a positive step, printing and delivery with existing suppliers would need to be scheduled. Breckland have assessed the Town and added two temporary benches on Queens Square. Piece of land in front of cottages along from the Town Hall could potentially be used for two benches as well as the Recreation Grounds
- A Hopper Bus was suggested but thought too expensive
- The Government will provide money
- Between the five market towns there could be one bid writer
- The CEO asked if members may wish to consider installing additional cycle racks, she could also ask Breckland for additional benches for the Recreation Ground.

On the motion of Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Bulmer, it was

RESOLVED Providing that the Business Community design a flyer for print and arrange the printing, Attleborough Town Council will pay for the printing.

ACTION: ALL CLLRS

Cllr Taylor confirmed she will contact three local printers for costs and feed this back to Business meeting.

Cllr Tyrer confirmed the costs would come out of ANP budget funds

Cllr Tyrer agreed the ANP meetings would be held on the third Monday of each month and he would come back with some suggestions for key projections and actions.

ACTION: TT/ET

There was discussion regarding a follow up meeting, it was noted IT support and staff time needed to be considered. Cllr Loades suggested that anything to report could be circulated by email.

Cllr Bulmer wanted clarity on picnic benches and bike racks from Breckland.

CEO to find info on Restaurant vouchers.

Cllr Loades stated that ours is the worst market for size and we need to revitalise it.

Hopefully utilising space outside the front of the Town Hall will help to do that.

Next meeting agreed as 20 July 2020 as usual schedule.

ACTION: CEO/ALL CLLRS

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Notes of Residents' Questions

The Chairman read out the question submitted by email from resident within the time allowed for this item which included the following:

- Q. Have the planners involved in the Attleborough housing development, stipulated that all the housing in the scheme must now be carbon neutral in the Construction and Occupation. The world as we are seeing now, is facing an existential crisis and Attleborough must lead the way into an environmentally sustainable future. Not the type of cardboard boxes we see elsewhere. Attleborough must be a leader in good development. This would bring and encourage high tech sustainable industry into Attleborough. We are seeing other areas around the world starting to lead in low impact housing; we must not be left behind. It is entirely possible to build houses with very small running costs.
- A. The Chair answered we recognise it is part of our policies in Neighbourhood Plan particularly core objective CO9 it's what we would like to see but it's not simple to deliver.
- It's got to be the way to go as well as also promoting the best design. It's not a straight forward thing to do - it can put a burden of cost on developers. My own personal view is that we can head a long way to achieving sustainable housing and something we should be aspiring to.
- Breckland planning when looking at planning applications it is very high on agenda and part of their remit.
- With all the new houses in Attleborough it would be nice to be fore runners in that and bring to the fore.
- When planning comes before Council these are the things we need to feedback to Breckland. We need to point these things out; we do want carbon neutral as much as we can we need as a Council to look at this when we send our replies.
- To clarify: Breckland are the Planning authority and for those people who are watching as a Town Council we cannot grant or refuse planning permission but we can give our views on that. Developers should be considering Neighbourhood Plan as a planning policy document Breckland can recognise and its incorporated in their Local Plan. It is a fascinating question and it's where we should be going and things will eventually go carbon neutral.