



Brixham Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held on 22nd November 2021 at 6:00pm in the Function Room, Brixham Town Hall

Present	Councillors, R Haddock, S Leech, W Okurut, J Regan and O Swain.
In attendance	Linda McGuirk, Deputy Town Clerk and one member of the public.
Welcome	Cllr Haddock opened the meeting
Public Questions	None

21075	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr P Addison due to his attendance at Devon Association of Local Councils training course.
21076	Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda. None.
21077	Minutes and Confidential notes The minutes and confidential notes of the meeting held on the 20.09.21 were resolved and signed as a true record.
21078	Garden Assistance Scheme Members discussed and considered Report 59-2021 'Garden Assistance Scheme' review. The Deputy Clerk reminded members the scheme is a subsidised service offset by the precept, the negative financial figures shown in the report were mitigated by the social impact for residents. It was resolved to accept the recommendations contained in the report: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Continue to operate a Garden Assistance Scheme.2. Introduce a new pricing structure, £15 hour with no reduction for additional hours.3. Remove the limit of ten appointments per household per year.4. Offer a Chargeable garden clearance service, currently valued at £350 per day/ hourly rate pro rata.5. The Finance & General Purposes committee considers employing an additional Lengthsmen who could be responsible for the Garden Assistance Scheme appointments and additional garden clearance jobs.
21079	Lanterns, Lights & 'luminations The Deputy Clerk reminded members the event takes place on Saturday and reiterated the need for volunteers to assist with marshalling duties. Members were updated on recent meetings which had taken place between the Harbour Authority, Police, Licensing, Public Health, Environmental Health, Diverse Events, BTC and Torbay Council Events team to ensure the event was safe particularly regarding covid risks.

	<p>Members discussed the current weather forecast is strong wind and rain, any decision to cancel the event will be made on the morning of the event. The event will not be re scheduled.</p>
<p>21080</p>	<p>Future projects</p> <p><u>Wildflower verges</u> The Deputy Clerk advised conversations have started with SWISCo advising them that BTC has identified a project, as part of its budget setting, to implement wildflower verges/ pollinator patches in Brixham. Members want to ensure that any areas identified by the Town Council are in addition to SWISCo/ Torbay Councils planned works and not instead of. SWISCo were asked whether they have identified any locations in Brixham to increase biodiversity?</p> <p>SWISCo responded “It is the intention to continue with the Pollinator patches created last year as long as there is still the community support to help plant. There are other aspirations to increase biodiversity on verges where possible. However the operational resources are not yet in place to implement these changes.</p> <p>The pollinator patches was a scheme run by Groundwork and SWISCo provided the seed. I am not sure of the locations or if communities in Brixham were involved. If there was further interest from communities there will be an opportunity to create more.</p> <p>In terms of planned works to alter grass cutting, this is something that we work with Brixham Town Council with and at this stage there are no new proposals to change the cutting regime. For information SWISCo are advertising for a new grounds maintenance manager who would be involved with this area of work.”</p> <p><u>Brixham In Bloom</u> Cllr Leech advised he will be attending a meeting with Brixham In Bloom next week to understand how BTC can support the group.</p> <p>Members agreed the group had received little support and suggested an amount be allocated to support them. It was understood the group requires support with administration, printing, Lengthsmen support and use of the Town Hall facilities. Members muted ideas about a celebratory event which might encourage wider support.</p> <p>Members discussed the lack of signage recognising this year’s Gold award achievement. It was resolved to allocate up to £250 from the Community Recovery Fund to purchase and install signage near Churston Farm Shop.</p> <p>It was suggested Brixham In Bloom was included as a regular agenda item.</p> <p><u>Fore Street improvements, cleaning, revitalisation.</u> Members reviewed the agreed Community Recovery Action plan to ‘offer a free gutter clearing along Fore St and Middle St (via the Lengthsmen service). Scheme to be limited to local independents in the first instance’.</p>

	<p>Members raised concerns about the risk of damage to property, particularly as in most cases the business occupying the retail areas did not own the building.</p> <p>It was resolved to concentrate on weeding, cleaning and sprucing up the areas.</p>
21081	<p>Lengthsmen</p> <p>a) To discuss and consider a report on works completed for the period 14th September to 15th November 2021. Members noted the works completed.</p> <p>b) To review the 2021-22 budget. Members were advised the van requires work to the front strut which will cost approximately £600. The budget was noted.</p>
21082	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>To note the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for the 24th January 2022.</p>
21083	<p>Items for future agendas</p> <p>Each Councillor is requested to use this opportunity to raise items for future agendas, giving details of why the Council should consider the item. See table at the end of the minutes.</p>
21084	<p>Exclusion of the Public and Press</p> <p>That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted</p> <p>It was resolved to exclude the public and press.</p>
21085	Civic Award

Item	Reason	Proposed by
Town Emergency Plan	ongoing	
Lengthsman	ongoing	Regular agenda item
Climate & Environment Policy	Action Plan, set targets.	Cllr Hoggart
Queens Jubilee 2022	Update	
Future projects, Wildflower verges, Fore Street improvements.		
Website Review		
Watering review		
Allotments	Increasing availability	Cllr Okurut
Brixham In Bloom	Regular agenda item	Cllr Leech
Community Recovery Plan	Review	Cllr Haddock

The meeting closed at 19:30

Chairperson Date.....