



Penrith Town Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the:

COMMUNITY, CULTURE & ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

Held on 11 February 2019 Monday at 4.05 pm – 5.05 pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Baker
Cllr. Burgin
Cllr. Donald
Cllr. Lawson
Cllr. Jackson
Economic Development Officer

**MINUTES FOR THE
COMMUNITY, CULTURE & ECONOMIC GROWTH
COMMITTEE
11 FEBRUARY 2019**

CCEG/18/72 Apologies for Absence

Members received apologies from Cllr. Kenyon.

CCEG/18/73 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community, Culture & Economic Growth Committee held on the 10 December 2019 as a true and accurate record with an amendment to CCEG/18/70 to show that the grant award of £8,500 was awarded from the PTC Events grant and not the devolved EDC events.

CCEG/18/74 Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

Members were asked to receive any declarations of interest by elected or co-opted Members of any disclosable pecuniary or other registrable interests relating to any items on the agenda for the meeting and to decide requests for dispensations. None received.

CCEG/18/75 public Participation

Members noted that no members of the public had requested in writing to speak prior to the meeting.

CCEG/18/76 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 – Excluded Items

RESOLVED that there were no agenda items that should be considered without the presence of the press and public, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 2.

Councillor R Burgin joined the meeting at 4.10pm.

CCEG/18/77 Post Office Proposal and Consultation

Members were asked to consider and agree a response regarding the transfer of Penrith Post Office into WH Smiths branch Angel Lane. Those present considered the proposed location and accessibility to the store.

RESOLVED that the following letter be returned as the Town Council's response to the consultation:

CCEG/18/77 Post Office Proposal and Consultation Continued

“Dear Mr Hall

Local public Consultation, Penrith Post Office, Crown Square, Penrith, CA11 7AA

Penrith Town Council would like to express concern with the proposal to move Penrith Post Office to WHSmith, Unit 4 Angel Square, Penrith. The reasons for our concern regarding this proposal are outlined below.

How easy is it to get to the new location?

The present location has two free, parking bays to the front of the building and several free on street bays close by. These bays are used by the elderly and customers with mobility issues as well as by customers who are dropping off heavy parcels.

The proposed location is in a shopping street with no vehicle access. Paid parking, is available 80 metres away at a cost of £1.30 for one hour however disabled parking is limited and often full.

Are the new premises easy to get into and accessible once inside?

WHSmith is a relatively small congested retail space. Concern has been raised about the accessibility for people with sight impairments, those using wheelchairs, mobility scooters and parents with push chairs. The aisles are narrow and getting through the front doors can be difficult at the present time if a number of people are queuing to be served. Crowding will also be an issue particularly for the elderly and those suffering from anxiety.

If the move were to proceed is there anything, we could do to make it easier.

The refurbishment of the space should take into account issues concerning all members of our society including, but not restricted to, those mentioned above.

A review of disabled parking within easy access to the store should also be carried out.

Although the Town Council recognises that this is a commercial decision and not restricted to Penrith, they would like to express the concern and apprehension that this decision has caused for the residents of Penrith. The Town Council would also like to ask what the plans are for the sorting office which is behind the Post Office and also what is planned for the Post Office Building itself.”

CCEG/18/78 Resolutions Report

RESOLVED THAT:

The Resolutions report from the 10 December 2018 meeting be noted.

CCEG/18/79 Committee Work Plan

RESOLVED THAT:

The updated Work Plan for the Economic Development Officer be noted.

CCEG/18/80 Britain in Bloom

Members received a verbal report from the Economic Development Officer.

Members were informed that the Economic Development Officer had attended a seminar for finalists and that help and support had been offered by one of the CiB judges to assist the Penrith entry.

RESOLVED THAT:

The Economic Development Officer be authorised to make arrangements for a promotional film to be made to support this year's entry.

CCEG/18/81 Plastic Clever Penrith

Members received an oral update from Cllr. Lawson who advised the Committee that the next meeting of the group would be held on Wednesday 13th February and that all were welcome to attend.

Grants

CCEG/18/82 Exit Reports

RESOLVED THAT:

The exit report from Penrith Parish Centre be noted.

CCEG/18/83 URGENT LATE ITEM – EDC Council Plan Consultation

Members considered and agreed a response to the EDC Council Plan Consultation. Members agreed that the document contained many laudable goals but was short on detail and that they would like to be able to respond on the supporting policies rather than generalised statements.

RESOLVED THAT:

The following letter be sent to Eden District Council:

CCEG/18/83 URGENT LATE ITEM – EDC Council Plan Consultation Continued

“Dear Sir or Madam

Penrith Town Council thanks you for the opportunity to comment on Eden District Council’s Draft Council Plan 2019-2023 and welcomes the general laudable goals outlined within.

The document was considered at Committee on the 11th February 2019. The Committee considered that the document provided is short on detail, definition is required for the “Priorities, goals and promises”, no background to the development of the plan is given, and no supporting policies are included. It is these policies that Penrith Town Council would like to be able to respond to.

It is also felt that the document would benefit from an outline of exactly how EDC would seek to deliver the “Priorities, goals and promises” within its Council Plan and make more mention generally of working with partner organisations such as CCC and the parishes.

The Town Council would also like to raise particular points against the different headings:

Council

“Commercial initiatives

- “Review the devolution programme and plan for the next phase.”

EDC are asked when reviewing their Devolution Plan to pay particular attention to how EDC is working with parishes.

Penrith Town Council would also like to express concern over the delays to devolving assets and whether the process is fit for purpose.

“Economy

Supporting Communities”

This also needs to include Rural Transport.

“Tourism

- Develop the Council owned land at Redhills as the gateway to the Lake District.”

Concern was raised questioning if this is the correct place. Members expressed the view that marketing this area as a gateway to the Lakes may mean that visitors could by-pass Penrith. Penrith Town Council. Would also like to ask if there is a Cultural Strategy for Eden.

CCEG/18/83 URGENT LATE ITEM – EDC Council Plan Consultation Continued

“Health and Wellbeing

Right homes, right place

- Develop a strategy which supports innovative sustainable and affordable housing.”

Penrith Town Council are concerned about the amount of affordable housing being built as it seems that developers often reduce the amount from 30% citing viability grounds.

Penrith Town Council would like to enquire exactly how stakeholders are to be engaged in the delivery of these “Priorities” and how does the Council Plan fit into other organisational plans and aspirations.

Eden District Council are also asked to consider that if the Council Plan is to aid in a Review of the Eden Local Plan that EDC takes into account prevailing public opinion and that the expressed wishes of residents are considered. Opposition to current District Council proposals should not be underestimated.”

CCEG/18/84 Close

Members noted that the next meeting date would be resolved at the Annual Town Council Meeting 2019.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE:

For the attention of CCEG Committee Members

And for information for all Town Council Members