

**Notes of a meeting of the Covid Response Working Group  
held on Microsoft Teams**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – 6pm**

Present

Cllr Andy Foulsham (Chair)

Cllr Gabby Barody (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Cheryl Briggs

Cllr Alex Greenaway

Cllr Lorraine Oates

In attendance

Louise Brown                      Communications, Marketing and Events Officer (CME Officer)

Nigel Warner                      Town Clerk

**1. Apologies**

Ex-officio members Cllr Charlie Birks (Mayor), Samantha Bowring (Chair F and GP/ Leader) and Cllr Eric de la Harpe. **Noted.**

Cllr Andy Foulsham and Mr Nigel Warner (Town Clerk) sent apologies for the beginning of the meeting.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3. Notes**

The Committee received and considered the notes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the meeting of the Covid Response working group held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**4. Update on Free Schools Meals project**

Cllr Gabby Barody provided members with an update; confirming that she and Cllr Andy Foulsham had met with Sue Wiper to let them know that funding was going directly to Schools and that as a result there wasn't a need for the Council to provide meals directly.

The Communications, Marketing and Events officer provided an update as contact had been made with The Vale of White Horse District Council to enquire about the funding that was available. The Vale of White Horse District Council had replied to confirm that funding options were very limited as the Cllr COVID scheme is for not-for-profit organisations, so even if an application came from

the Town Council, as the beneficiaries of the money would be the businesses, it would be outside the scheme criteria.

Cllr Gabby Barody reminded members that there was still a decent amount in the Town Councils Covid Emergency fund as only £2000 of this had been awarded to The Gateway Charity.

Cllr Barody confirmed that all correspondence with Gateway charity about this donation would be sent on to the RFO for auditing purposes.

## **5. Update from Abingdon Coronavirus Response group**

Cllr Alex Greenaway provided members with an update on the Abingdon Coronavirus response group; confirming that requests were still manageable and that the group was well set up should there be a spike over the Christmas period.

*Cllr Andy Foulsham and the Town Clerk joined the meeting at this point. The time being 18:20.*

## **6. Market Place Request**

Members considered the request from ADMS to sing on the Market Place on Saturday 19th December.

Members agreed the event could go ahead but that the following conditions needed to be met. These would be emailed to the organisers:

- Visors would need to be worn by singers at all times.
- A list of the participants names and contact details would need to be kept for track and trace purposes.
- 4 Metres would need to be kept between themselves and any occupied tables on the Market place.
- An additional participant, not singing, would need to be present to disperse crowds if any gathered.
- They would need to be located on the South Quadrant of the marketplace to ensure enough distance was kept between Café traffic and the participants.
- Cafes would need to be notified on the day to make them aware this was a socially distanced, approved event.

It was also agreed that the Communications, Marketing and Events Officer would contact local PCSO Ali Blood and the Covid Marshal at the Vale of White Horse District Council to make them aware this event would be taking place.

## **7. AOB**

Cllr Lorraine Oates updated the members on the attempts to locate a service providing lifts to hospital appointments during COVID. Cllr Oates confirmed that she was awaiting confirmation of an organisation that offered this and that once she had received the details, she would forward them on to the Communications, Marketing and Event officer to be added to the website.

Cllr Andy Foulsham updated the committee about a request that had been sent in for funding from a local group called SOFEA who were looking to set up a community larder in South Abingdon. They had requested £1000 from the Covid Emergency Fund.

Members discussed the application and agreed it was a worthwhile investment.

It was proposed by Cllr Alex Greenaway, seconded by Cllr Andy Foulsham and RESOLVED that £1000 be made from the Covid Emergency fund as a contribution to SOFEA.

Cllr Gabby Barody raised the issue of how much the Council were prepared to pay to Willows Shake Shop for any free school meals needed. Cllr Barody suggested an amount between £3 - £4. Cllr Andy Foulsham agreed this amount was suitable as it was on more of an individual basis rather than a mass scale. Cllr Foulsham also felt that as we would be administering funding for this directly now, there was flexibility on how this would need to be recorded.

Members agreed an amount of £3.50 + VAT if applicable per meal and that an invoice with a daily tally of numbers would be required for the financial support.

Cllr Gabby Barody agreed to communicate this back to Willows Shake Shop and would also obtain some approved wording for the Town Council website.

Cllr Gabby Barody confirmed the Waitrose vouchers had been collected and would be taken to Citizens Advice on Wednesday for them to distribute as they see fit.

## **8. Next meeting**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January – 6pm, unless there is a demand prior to this.

The meeting rose at 6.45 pm.