

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

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – 6pm**

Present

Cllr Andy Foulsham (Chair)  
Cllr Gabby Barody  
Cllr Charlie Birks  
Cllr Cheryl Briggs  
Cllr Alex Greenaway  
Cllr Lorraine Oates

In attendance

Tim Badcock	Outside Services Manager
Louise Brown	Community Services and Events Officer
Nigel Warner	Town Clerk

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Eric de la Harpe and Cllr Samantha Bowring.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3. Notes**

The Committee received and considered the notes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the meeting of the Covid Response Working Group held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**4. Update from Vale of White Horse District Council**

Cllr Andy Foulsham provided an update from the Vale of White Horse District Council confirming there wasn't any significant updates from the previous meeting of the Covid Response working group that took place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May, but that figures of new Covid Cases remained relatively low and that the vaccines centres were still operating well. Confirmed the Indian variant could be potentially problematic, but that the situation would continue to be monitored

and further updates provided at the next Covid Response Working group meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

## 5. Update from County Council

Cllr Andy Foulsham confirmed there was no update from the County Council since the previous meeting of the Covid Response working group that took place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May

## 6. Covid Recovery project

At the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021, three key objectives were identified for Covid Recovery within the town.

Members discussed them as below:

**Grants:** The Community Services and Events officer confirmed that she had emailed all grant recipients from the last two years to enquire about their needs during the Covid recovery process. The small number of responses so far indicated that most organisations would benefit from financial aid and it was agreed that they would be directed to apply for grants either using the Community Services committee grant application or if it was Covid specific through this Covid Response working group. Further updates on this would be provided at the next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

**Additional Benches within the Town Centre:** Cllr Andy Foulsham thanked members for emailing their location suggestions to the Community Services and Events officer and the list had been distributed among members prior to the meeting.

The Outside Services Manager told members that installing the actual benches was relatively affordable if members went for the standard benches which would come at a cost of approximately £300 per bench. He also confirmed the installation would not require a huge amount of staff time but noted that the maintenance of the benches was likely to be the thing that created extra workload for the outdoor team. He also confirmed that there were more curved benches that members may wish to consider but that these were closer to £1000 per bench.

The Outside Services Manager felt that the installation and maintenance of additional benches could be accommodated by the outdoor team.

Members asked the Outside Services Manager what the options were about putting benches on land that did not belong to the Town Council, he confirmed that we would need to obtain their permission and more than likely agree to maintain the benches going forward. Alternatively, another options would be to suggest locations to the authority that owns the land to see if they were willing to fund and maintain the benches themselves, but acknowledged that this was less likely to result in benches than us funding them ourselves.

It was RESOLVED that The Outside Service Manager would look through the list of suggested locations and compile his own list of areas he felt it was feasible and advisable to install new benches. It was agreed he would bring the list to the next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

Cllr Lorraine Oates asked the Town Clerk if this committee could make decisions without having to refer back to Amenities and Recreation to avoid an unnecessary delay and duplicated work and conversations. The Town Clerk confirmed that this committee had the authority to make delegated decisions through the Town Clerk.

**Engagement with Local Businesses:** The Community Services and Events officer confirmed that she had contacted Melanie Smans from The South and Vale Business group requesting information on any plans they had to support local businesses and was still awaiting a response.

The Town Clerk suggested arranging a meeting with the South and Vale Business group prior to the next the next Covid Response Working group meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June so as not to delay the support provided.

Members suggested to attend the meeting were :

Cllr Rowda Jehanli  
Cllr Lorraine Oates  
Cllr Andy Foulsham

It was RESOLVED that officers would make contact with the South and Vale Business group to arrange this and communicate it out to the relevant members.

## 7. AOB

Members discussed purchasing reusable coffee mugs for the Carbon Cutters event that was taking place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May on the Market Place. The Community Services and Events Officer has distributed three quotes for the mugs, and it was proposed by Cllr Lorraine Oates, seconded by Cllr Charlie Birks and RESOLVED that an order would be placed for 50 reusable mugs from Aspect CPM ensuring that delivery would take place prior to the event.

Members also discussed a request they had received for a Banner to be purchased and displayed at the event and it was proposed by Cllr Gabby Barody, seconded by Cllr Cheryl Briggs and RESOLVED that up to £80 be allocated for the banner.

Cllr Gabby Barody would communicate this back to Carbon Cutters.

Cllr Gabby Barody had sent a poster advertising the event to the Community Services and Events officer who agreed this would be added to the Town Council noticeboards on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Members also discussed additional bins on the Market place, specifically ones for coffee cups and it was proposed by Cllr Andy Foulsham, seconded by Cllr Gabby Barody and RESOLVED that up to £2000 be earmarked for the purchase of these bins and that the Town Clerk would work in consultation with Cllr Gabby Barody and the Outside Services Manager to obtain these.

#### **8. Next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – 6pm

The meeting rose at 7:00 pm