

Billingham Town Council

Minutes of the [Community Wellbeing](#) Committee Meeting Thursday 17th June 2021 at 12.00 noon Held at Café in the Park, John Whitehead Park, Billingham

Present Councillors: Ann McCoy (Chairman of the Committee)
Michelle Bendelow
Clare Gamble
Gina McCall

Official: Vicky Lloyd, Deputy Town Clerk

Apologies: Cllr Helen Atkinson (Business)
Cllr Sheila Smart (Personal)

29/21 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the usual announcements about housekeeping.

30/21 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

31/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present and no questions received on this occasion.

A member of the public had forwarded an article from social media about patients feeling lonely are being prescribed coffee by Teesside GPs available at a Hartlepool café. Thanks to generosity of customers with a "pay it forward" drink scheme over 200 people are donating beverages each month. The café has funding to give away 1,000 free coffees over the next few months.

The café has teamed up with Hartlepool and Stockton GPs to encourage patients to pop in for a drink and chat. Every Wednesday, the GP federation has a social prescribing link worker on hand at the café who can help them deal with loneliness by just chatting to them or encourage them to try social clubs, classes, or sport teams.

Members expressed an interest in visiting the café to explore this is a potential initiative for café in the park. Further information on social prescribing to be obtained from NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group.

**32/21 MINUTES OF COMMUNITY WELLBEING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 20th MAY 2021**

Members were asked to approve the above minutes.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the minutes of the above meeting held on 20th May 2021, a copy which has been previously circulated to each member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

33/21 REVIEW OF ACTION PLAN

Members discussed initiatives identified in the action plan and recommendations made to the Café Management Sub Committee.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised members that in conjunction with the Billingham Community Partnership Healthy Household Check initiative throughout week commencing 21st June different agencies such as Thirteen, Learning & Skills and Carers Service will be in attendance at café in the park to give out advice and support.

To tackle loneliness the café will be offering two different types of afternoon tea: traditional and ploughman's lunch style for 4 people selected every two months and incorporate the Chatty Café Scheme.

A community bookshelf and book lending scheme will be set up from the café Cllr Gina McCall will lead on this. The café will have different games such as dominos, scrabble etc for adults and children's games available for people to play. The Deputy Town Clerk to email members to request book and games donations.

The café will offer different themed weeks throughout the year in conjunction with national promotions such as pie and vegan week.

The Town Council is looking for entries for our 2022 calendar photograph competition. Photographs taken must be of Billingham and the winning artwork will feature in the Town Councils 2022 corporate calendar. Details of the competition will be posted on social media and entries will close in September 2021.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) Update on initiatives identified in the action plan to be actioned as appropriate.

34/21 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Chairman of the Council informed members that in the past there has been a free Community Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day at St Aiden's Church which was organised by a member of the Church. This initiative was well supported by local volunteers and businesses. However, this has not happened for the last few years.

This is something that the Chairman would like the Town Council to look into whether we can potentially deliver (subject to funding). Although not from the café as it would not accommodate the kind of numbers we would be looking at.

RESOLVED

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) The Chairman of the Council to bring further information to the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 1.00 pm with Councillors Bendelow, Gamble, McCall & McCoy present.

Signed.....A McCoy..... Date 16.09.21
Chairman of Community Wellbeing Committee