

**HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD ON 1 MARCH 2021**

660.	PRESENT: Councillor T Pearson in the Chair and Councillors R Hull, J Ord, C Hanley and T G E Gillanders.
661.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Dodds, Ball and Cessford.
662.	MINUTES of the meeting held on 12 January 2021, having been circulated, were AGREED.
663.	<p>MATTERS ARISING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. DEFIBRILLATOR SITE (minute 651a refers). It was noted that a defibrillator is on order and will be placed outside the entrance to the railway station. It will be paid for from the remaining Mayor's allowance and contingency.</li> <li>b. GREEN FLAG AWARD (minute 651e and action log refers). It was noted that Hexham Space for Nature members are considering how to help.</li> <li>c. QUALITY STATUS (minute 651f and action log refers). It was noted that some criteria are not met but that this is in progress.</li> <li>d. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY (minute 654 and action log refers). It was noted that the policy was referred to the Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee and has since been approved by Full Council.</li> <li>e. BANDSTAND SEATING (minute 655 and action log refers). It was noted this is still to be progressed.</li> <li>f. SKATEPARK (minute 656 and action log refers). It was noted that funding towards the cost of resurfacing has been agreed by the Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee, dependant on the balance being sourced by Hexham Youth Initiative, and that this is being referred to Full Council.</li> <li>g. COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD (minute 657 and action log refers). It was AGREED to buy a suitable noticeboard and submit a listed building consent application for it to be placed next to the Town Council noticeboard.</li> <li>h. CORBRIDGE COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING SCHEME (minute 658 and action log refers). It was noted information on this had been circulated.</li> </ul>
664.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: No declarations of interest were made.
665.	HEXPRESS: It was noted that the next edition is expected to be delivered in early May so the Council cannot be involved because of purdah. However, there will be a special edition of the HexPress delivered before purdah starts on the Hexham Neighbourhood Plan and

	referendum, and it was AGREED to contact Hexham Community Partnership about the possibility of delaying the next edition so it is delivered in late May or early June and Council content can then be included.
666.	HEXHAM CULTURAL NETWORK: It was noted that a meeting was to be held on 2 March, to include a discussion about a Hexham summer event.
667.	NALC EVENT ON BEING A LOCAL COUNCILLOR: This was noted.
668.	TOURISM STRATEGY CONSULTATION: An analysis of the responses to the consultation on the draft strategy had been circulated. It was further noted that a market researcher is doing an analysis of the detailed suggestions it contained to be considered for inclusion in an Action Plan, and that the Finance & General Purposes Committee had agreed to some data collection being carried out. It was AGREED to refer the draft strategy to the Full Council.
669.	2020 HONORARY STEWARD AND BAILIFF OF HEXHAM: It was AGREED to award the postponed award at the March Full Council meeting.
670.	FOOTFALL IN HEXHAM DATA: This was noted.
671.	TOWN TWINNING: It was noted that there will be no visits in 2021 due to Covid-19. It was further noted that the Council would be in favour of naming for example, a suitable road or roundabout after Metzingen or Noyon.
672.	NEXT MEETING: It was AGREED that the next Committee meeting will be held online on Monday 19 April 2021 at 6.30pm.

### **Action Log**

Contact Councillor Graham re bandstand seating and research seating options and costs (minute 663e)	Admin Officer
Order an additional noticeboard and apply for LBC to site it by the Council noticeboard (minute 663g)	Clerk
Contact HCP about the possibility of delaying the next HexPress (minute 665)	Clerk
Attend the Hexham Cultural Network meeting minute 666)	Clerk
Refer the draft Tourism Strategy to Full Council (minute 668)	Clerk

Chairman .....