

Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership

Action Notes of the Meeting held remotely via Zoom on Monday, 22 March 2021 at 6.00pm

Core Membership:

ESC Councillors – Cllr J Cloke (Chairman), Cllr A Cackett, Cllr T Goldson, Cllr D Ritchie, Cllr C Topping.

SCC Councillors

Town and Parish Councils – G Catchpole (Beccles Town Council), S Collins (Bungay Town Council), A Dunning (Halesworth Town Council), C Ellis (Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Parish Council), B Matthews (Wissett Parish Council), B Prior (Bungay Town Council), W Summerfield (Worlingham Parish Council).

Partnership Organisations – F Bedding (Community Action Suffolk), E Healey (Halesworth Volunteer Centre), P Love (Access Community Trust).

Others present – S Carter (Democratic Services Officer), S Halsey (Communities Officer), N Rickard (Head of Communities).

In attendance – S Kenward

Item	Discussion
1.	Welcome and Apologies The Chairman of the CP, Councillor Judy Cloke, welcomed everyone to the meeting and set out a few housekeeping points to assist with the smooth running of the meeting. The Chairman reminded those present that the meeting was being broadcast live on the Council's YouTube channel. No apologies had been received. The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Beryl and Caroline from Wissett and Shadingfield, two of the CP's rural parishes. She also welcomed Sam Kenward, the new Communities Officer who would be replacing Stuart Halsey. He was attending the meeting this evening to meet everyone before starting his new job on 19 April. The Chairman advised the CP members that Stuart was leaving his current role for a promotion on a two-year secondment. Stuart would be working more in the

	south of the Council's area. The Chairman offered congratulations and thanked Stuart for his input, enthusiasm and support in carrying the CP and its projects forward. He would be missed.
2.	Notes The Notes of the meeting held on 1 February 2021 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the attendance of Cllr T Goldson being noted under ESC Councillors and not SCC Councillors. ACTION: Sarah Carter In response to a question, the Democratic Services Officer advised that whilst Cllrs Goldson and Ritchie were also County Councillors, they were on the CP in their role as a District Councillor.
3.	Feedback from the Community Partnership Board on 1 March 2021 The CP received a report which provided details of the progress and outcomes of the CP Board meeting on 1 March 2021. The Chairman was happy to take the report as read unless members of the CP had specific questions. The Chairman highlighted the fact that one year on £247,951 had been committed to projects across all eight CPs. By working in partnership, total project costs across all CPs amounted to just over £604,000 with combined funding; that was quite an achievement. The Head of Communities reported on the success of the Grandpads which had been provided to older people who were isolated and had no IT or wifi. Some were still available and if CP members knew anyone who would benefit from a Grandpad, they should get in touch with Stuart or herself. Similarly, with the EAST bags, or goodie bags, there were some left over from other areas and these were now available. The Communities Officer advised that if anyone was interested, he would sort out how to get them out to those isolated or lonely people identified by the CP members or perhaps arrangements could be made for collection from Riverside.
4.	Small Grants Scheme The Chairman reported on the successful Small Grants Scheme and confirmed that £3,726.00 remained out of the initial allocation of £10,000, full details of which had been published with the Agenda papers. The Chairman advised that Ditchingham Men's Shed had not been able to use the grant for the application that had been

	submitted, so the offer had been withdrawn and the £400 put back into the available pot of money. The £3,726.00 would be carried forward to the next financial year.
5.	Halesworth Community Bench The Chairman invited Emma Healey from Halesworth Volunteer Centre to provide an update on progress with the 'Meet us at the Bench' project. Ms Healey reminded the CP of discussions that had taken place prior to lockdown and the original proposal for the wellbeing bench to be placed on the Millennium Green. Since then, further discussions had taken place and it was now proposed that the bench would be placed in the town park which would be easily accessible to all in the town. There was no firm timescale for installation of the bench as the proposal was to be considered by the Halesworth Town Council for final approval. Ms Dunning from Halesworth TC confirmed that there were ongoing negotiations with the ESC regarding the location of the bench in the park and she confirmed that the CP's contribution would be match funded by the Town Council. The Communities Officer advised that an Outcome Proposal Form would need to be completed, submitted and agreed prior to the end of the financial year, or the money would be lost. He confirmed that he would make contact with Emma and Annette outside of the meeting to follow up. ACTION: Stuart Halsey
6.	New Projects Task and Finish Group Ms Healey reported back on the meeting of the Task and Finish Group, during which the Group had discussed the range of options put forward. At the last meeting of the CP, Bungay had put forward a mental health initiative and that proposal had received a buy-in from Beccles and Halesworth Town Councils to work alongside each other. That would focus on this year's funding. The Task and Finish Group had considered other projects and ideas as follows: <u>Clinks Care Farm</u> Focussing on the aftershock of lockdown of wellbeing, obesity, long Covid, to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing. It had been agreed further information was required and this could be brought back to a future meeting.

	<u>Norwich Football scheme for the over 55s</u> It had been agreed that it was not the right time to pursue idea with the county still being in lockdown. The proposal could be considered in the next financial year and how the scheme could run post-Covid. Councillor Topping advised she and Councillor Bramley-Crawshaw were using money from their Enabling Budgets to support this project. <u>Transport</u> The final topic was transport which was important to all communities, particularly in the rural areas. East Suffolk Council had commissioned a review of transport so it would be wise to hold back from making any decisions on projects until the outcome of the review was available. With that in mind and the fact that people were likely to be able to travel safely once restrictions were lifted, it was agreed to hold off committing funding until the new financial year. <u>Mental Health Friendly Town</u> Each of the three towns supported the mental health initiative in partnership with Access Community Trust. £5,000 would be allocated to each town and the scheme would also provide bespoke training and support and help deal with the Covid impact on mental health. The Head of Communities welcomed the proposal as it fitted in well with the CP's priorities and the mental health issues that needed to be addressed in current circumstances. She confirmed that the CP Board had set aside funding for transport and the decision of this CP to hold off was sensible until the outcome of the transport review currently being undertaken was known. The Chairman thanked Emma for a very comprehensive report and confirmed that an Outcome Proposal Form would need to be completed for the £15,000 remaining in the CP's budget for the Mental Health friendly Town initiative and approved before the end of the financial year. ACTION: Stuart Halsey
7.	Forward Planning for 2021/22 a) Potential Projects for 2021/22 Funding The Communities Officer advised that a further £25,000 was available in the next financial year commencing 1 April and the CP might wish to consider projects to bring forward. In addition, the Small Grants Scheme was so successful, another round of grant applications was being proposed. The £3,726 was being carried

forward and that could be rounded up to £10,000 or have another £10,000 added to the pot. The CP was reminded that the pre-election period was starting on Thursday that week so a scheme would have to be announced in the next couple of days or after the election in May.

The CP welcomed the proposal for another small grants scheme and had detailed discussions over the time and the amount. It was noted that such schemes could take up to 60 days from launch to considering the applications, however, the Communities Officer explained that the CP could set its own turnaround time.

The Head of Communities proposed that a pre-launch statement could be issued now with a launch date in May so that organisations would have time to think about what they might wish to focus on. This was supported.

The Communities Officer reminded the CP that there was the ring-fenced money of £500 for the three town for Summer Activities which had been held over due to Covid. In addition to running a small grants scheme now, the CP might wish to run a further grants scheme in the Autumn.

Taking into account the CP's views, the Chairman proposed that a pre-launch statement be issued now, the Small Grants Scheme commence on 10 May 2021 to run for 4 weeks offering grants between £500 and £1,000. An appointed Group could meet before the next CP meeting in June to report back on applications. It was further agreed for £10,000 to be added to the pot from finance available in 2021/22.

It was agreed the Small Grants Panel would comprise:

Fran Bedding, Community Action Suffolk
Graham Catchpole, Beccles TC
Phil Love, Access Community Trust/Suffolk Family Carers
Beryl Matthews, Wissett PC
Wendy Summerfield, Worlingham PC
Councillor Judy Cloke
Communities Officer (Sam Kenward)

It was further agreed to allocate an additional £10,000 to the Small Grants Scheme from the 2021/22 financial allocation.

ACTION: Chairman/Communities Officer

The Democratic Services Officer was requested to send the pre-launch press release out to the CP members and all parishes in the CP's area giving them advance notification of the Small Grants Scheme.

	ACTION: Sarah Carter b) Connected Communities The Communities Officer reported on the Connected Communities scheme which involved various partners and aimed to support the over 65s who were potentially isolated or lonely. It was an EU funded project and the successful County Council bid was delivered by Suffolk Family Carers. The scheme operated in three areas; this CP's area; Carlton Colville, Kessingland and Southwold CP area; and further south in Framlingham, Wickham Market and Melton. There were community connectors on the ground supporting older people on a range of issues and giving practical, helpful, non-judgemental advice and helping people to decide what they would like to do to improve their health and wellbeing. The Communities Officer explained that there was 10,000€ available to be spent on local projects in the financial year which ran from January to December. A steering group of local representatives from Statutory and VCS organisations, who meet every couple of months, have already agreed funding to support many worthwhile projects aimed at older people. This included the production of an information brochure providing information for the communities, delivery of Forest Schools to encourage people to get out and about, St Luke's Church in Beccles had received money to help support their lunch club deliveries with money for packaging and volunteer mileage and the Rural Coffee Caravan had also been financially supported. The Communities Officer was bringing this to the attention of the CP so as to avoid duplication of projects and funding and a link to the website would be provided in the notes of the meeting: https://suffolkfamilycarers.org/community-based-team/communityconnectors/connected-communities/ Following a meeting with Community Action Suffolk, the Chairman referred to the rural proofing that was being undertaken and she agreed to share the papers with the CP. ACTION: Chairman/Sarah Carter
8.	Date of Next Meeting It was noted that the meetings would continue on Mondays at 6.00pm. Members of the CP agreed dates for their meetings for the 2021/22 year as follows:

	14 June and 20 September 2021 10 January and 28 February 2022 The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that meeting invites would be circulated in due course. ACTION: All – diary note The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting. Stuart Halsey, Communities Officer, expressed his thanks for everyone's support over the last few years. Everyone had been an inspiration, really helpful, put in hard work and provided him with plenty of support. He hoped that everyone would welcome Sam and support him in the same manner. Sam Kenward advised that he had known Stuart for a number of years through the Waveney Youth Council and he thanked the CP members for allowing him to meet them this evening.
--	--

The meeting concluded at 7.07pm.