

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
Community Services Committee
22nd June 2020 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: K Wattingham Chairman
J Carroll
C Copleston
Y Farrell (Joined the meeting at 7.08pm)
S Goodchild
T McMahan
A Slough

Officers: Clare Evans Town Clerk
Tara Earnshaw Community Development Officer
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services

Public: 0

11245 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

11246 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

11247 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

11248 COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

Members were advised that in accordance with Minute 11207 taken at Town Council on 18th March the following committee arrangements remained in place:

Chair and Vice Chair of Community Services Committee

The Chair and Vice Chair of Corporate Services Committee would remain as follows:
Chair – Cllr Wattingham
Vice Chair – Cllr Copleston

Committee Functions & Terms of Reference
These remain as most recently approved.

Resolved: To note the report.

11249 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2020.

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings held on 10th February 2020 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

11250 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 2020/21 BUDGET REVIEW

Members received a report on the Community Services Committees budget for 2020/21 supported by the relevant extract from the approved budget for 2020/21.

Resolved: To note the report.

11251 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

Members received an Income and Expenditure report for 2020/21 for consideration.

Resolved: To note the report

11252 YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES

CBC Youth Club

Members were advised that Groundwork, on behalf of CBC, had delivered a virtual youth club Monday to Thursday due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Youth Café

Due to Covid-19 it had not been possible to continue to provide the Youth Café. This would be re-started once Covi-19 restrictions allowed.

Youth Council

The Community Development Officer had regularly engaged virtually with members of the Youth Council. Members received a verbal update:

The Community Development Officer advised members that she had been in constant contact with the Youth Council via snapchat and video chat, they were keen to deliver a Halloween event.

Members were advised that the Youth Council had received a Crime Beat Highly Commended award from the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire.

Community Services

Members received a verbal update from The Community Development Officer on the community engagement work that had taken place during the Covid-19 crisis.

Members were advised that the Shop Local scheme had ended in March, however the new scheme is on hold until confirmation of stores reopening. The Exotic pets day event held before the implementation of lockdown had been successful and had attracted a large number of residents.

Work had included vouchers to elderly residents, care home activity packs, dementia tabards, essential supply packs to disadvantaged and vulnerable households, financial support to Houghton Regis Helpers and virtual community and civic events.

Members requested it be noted that special thanks were given to the Community Development Officer and Councillor Copleston for their dedicated work in supporting the community.

11253 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS AND CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

Events Working Group 5th March 2020

Combating Crime Working Group None to present

Resolved: To receive the following Minutes:

Events Working Group 5th March 2020

Combating Crime Working Group None to present

11254 SUMMER ACTIVITIES

To provide members with an update on changes proposed to the HRTC summer activities due to Covid-19.

Members were advised that additional funding had been received from Cllr Hamill via the Ward Councillor Grant scheme.

Members requested that special thanks go to CBC Councillor Hamill for his support of the Houghton Regis community.

Resolved: To support;

- 1. the provision of summer family activity boxes for families as an alternative to the planned summer play scheme and summer family day trips;**
- 2. a family day trip in the October half term (Covid restrictions permitting)**
- 3. a Halloween event**

11255 GRANT FUNDING FROM THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Members were advised that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) launched a project to improve certain locations for young people. The OPCC had won a small amount of funding (£29,000) from Central Government for suitable projects in Bedford, Central Bedfordshire and Luton.

This was part of the money that was secured by the OPCC from Central Government for the establishment of a Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU).

The funding could be used by Town and Parish councils for a wide range of projects that would improve locations for young people with the ambition of deterring them from unsafe spaces or by investing in areas where young people could socialise in safety.

Applications were restricted to £5000 and the submission date was 10th June 2020.

Members were advised that an application had been submitted by HRTC for £4800 to fund improvements to the services and facilities on offer to the Youth café at the Village Green Pavilion. The intention was to provide a welcoming and more youth focused venue, through improved seating and lighting, IT and gaming equipment, sports and recreational equipment and kitchen equipment.

Members were advised that the selection of equipment was transferrable therefore extending its longevity.

A decision was expected week commencing 22nd June 2020. Members would be kept updated once a decision had been made.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.33pm

Dated this 1st day of September 2020

Chairman