

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
Community Services Committee
1st September 2020 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: K Wattingham Chairman
C Copleston
Y Farrell
S Goodchild
T McMahon

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

Public: 1

Apologies: Councillors: J Carroll
A Slough

11306 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllrs Slough and Carroll.

11307 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

11308 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

11309 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2020.

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings held on 22nd June 2020 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

11310 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS AND CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

Events Working Group 4th June and 9th July 2020

Members noted the following resolutions:

EWG570 CARNIVAL

To recommend to Community Services the unspent budget / funds during 2020 be ring-fenced and used in 2021/22.

EWG571 SKATE PARK COMPETITION

To recommend to Community Services the unspent Budget / funds during 2020 be ring-fenced and used in 2021/22.

EWG572 HOUGHTON ROCKS

To recommend to Community Services the unspent Budget/ funds during 2020 be ring-fenced and used in 2021/22

Consideration was given to a revised budget for 2020/21 at the town council meeting on 20th July. The report which accompanied this did highlight the aspiration of the Events Working Group to ring fence unspent events budget for 2021/22.

Unfortunately, for the council to be able to meet increases in expenditure and adjust to losses in income arising from Covid-19, this was not possible. The Events Working Group, through Community Services Committee, would need to provide the justification for an enhanced events budget for 2021/22 as part of the budget setting process.

Combating Crime Working Group

17th June and 15th July 2020

Resolved: To receive the Minutes detailed above.

11311 REPORT FROM GROUNDWORK

Diana Hedley, a representative from Groundwork, was in attendance to update members on the work completed on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council.

Members were advised that due to Covid, Groundwork's Youth Club sessions had been delivered virtually, however, acting on feedback from the young people, two hour sessions were too long therefore the sessions had been broken up into smaller sessions, with sessions running each day throughout the week. Some sessions had been arranged to be held outside for some young people who found the virtual sessions difficult.

Members were advised that, newly launched, was an open-door service which was open to any young person in the Central Bedfordshire area. This was a self-referral service which allowed young people to take ownership of their own support.

Members were advised that guidance from Central Bedfordshire Council was pending regarding permitted numbers and distancing guidelines to allow the re-opening of buildings for the Youth Club to be operational.

11312 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

Members received the Income & Expenditure report to date for the Community Services Committee.

Members were advised that an early release of funding had been offered to key partners which was reflected in the report.

11313 UPDATE REPORT

Members received a report from the Community Development Officer providing an update on work undertaken between June to August 2020.

Members were advised that the Youth Council had been meeting virtually due to Covid 19. The Youth Council had been active in planning a Halloween event to be held in line with government guidance.

Members were advised that activity packs had been produced for members of the community to purchase at a generously subsidised cost. These were being handed out at the Town Council Offices, Jewels and Houghton Hall Park.

Members requested that special thanks go to the Community Development Officer, for her work in producing the activity bags, and Jewels and Jenny at Houghton Hall Park for their efforts in passing on the bags on behalf of Houghton Regis Town Council.

Resolved: To note the report.

11314 VISION

Members received an extract from the approved Vision 2020/2024 as it related to the work of this committee. Members were requested to note that Covid-19 had significantly impacted the progression of the Vision.

Members discussed that some areas of the Vision would work in conjunction and crossover with others:

1. Grown your own
2. Healthy eating

Members suggested utilising some neglected land to promote family activities such as community growing.

Possible areas discussed were:

- The triangular piece of land opposite the Chequers
- The area of land outside the Community Centre, which has a water source
- A section within the old cemetery.

Further unused spaces could be identified around the town.

Members suggested seeking a way to promote local shops which sold healthy options such as vegetables and meat, also suggested was the creation of a task and finish group to enable quicker implementation of new ideas.

Members noted the benefits of a project like this supporting the mental health and wellbeing of residents.

Members were advised that the brochure for the new vision was close to completion.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.05pm

Dated this 26th day of October 2020

Chairman