

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
Community Services Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on
28th June 2021 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: K Wattingham Chairman
E Cooper
S Goodchild
T McMahon
A Slough
S Thorne

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

Public: 0

Apologies: Councillors: C Copleston

Also
present:

11684 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Members were invited to elect a Chair for Community Services Committee for 2021/22.

Nominee: Cllr Wattingham Nominated by: Cllr Goodchild
Seconded by: Cllr Thorne

No other nominations were received. On being put to the vote, Councillor Wattingham was duly appointed as Chair of the Community Services Committee for the municipal year 2021 - 2022.

11685 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Copleston.

11686 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

11687 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

11688 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Members were invited to elect a Vice-Chair for Community Services Committee for 2021/22.

Nominee: Cllr A Slough Nominated by: Cllr Goodchild
Seconded by: Cllr McMahon

No other nominations were received. On being put to the vote, Councillor A Slough was duly appointed as Vice-Chair of the Community Services Committee for the municipal year 2021 - 2022.

11689 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2021.

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings held on 8th February 2021 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

11690 COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS & TERMS OF REFERENCE

In accordance with Standing Order 4.j.iv. Council was required to review its delegation arrangements to committees and sub-committees.

These arrangements were set out in the Committee Functions & Terms of Reference. This document set out the system of delegation to the Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups of the Council.

Members received the extract from the approved Committee Functions & Terms of Reference which related to this committee.

Members received this report for information.

11691 REPORT FROM GROUNDWORK

Diana Hedley, Youth Manager and Anthony Fuller, Senior Youth Worker in attendance at the meeting, a representative from groundwork was in attendance to update members on the work completed on behalf of Houghton Regis Town Council.

Members were advised that two nights of provision was being offered in Houghton Regis.

The Youth Club was based in Bedford Square one night a week. The Ash Room could hold a maximum of 8 young people, however, a group of regular young people had stopped attending due to school and exam commitments, therefore detached sessions had been offered as an alternative to opening the Youth Club.

The other night offered was a mentoring session based at Barnardo's Parkside Family Resource Centre, their open door self-referral service empowered young people to be in control of the support they received.

Members asked whether they had seen a rise in young people needing support relative to Covid and the society's situation resulting from the restrictions. It was confirmed that many young people had shown a rise in anxieties with restrictions being lifted and returning to school, looking for work and similar related issues.

It was unable to be confirmed whether there would be an ability to extend the Youth Club to enable a larger number of young people to attend in the near future.

11692 HRTC YOUTH SERVICES

Members were introduced to the newly appointed Lead Youth Worker for the Council, Dave Ramsey.

Members received an update on the relaunch of the Pop-Up Café.

Members were advised that the Youth Council would be meeting towards the end of June / early July. Members would be updated on the work of the Youth Council at future Committee meetings.

Members were advised the Youth Pop-up Café had been refurbished, with some new resources for young people to enjoy. The Grand opening of the Pop-up Café was planned for 19th July and was to be opened by the Town Mayor. The opening event would offer the residents of Houghton Regis the opportunity to see the youth provision being offered by Houghton Regis Town Council.

Members were advised that a large proportion of the funding had been received from VERU to enable some of the refurbishment works and the purchase of resources for the Pop-up Café.

Resolved: To note the report.

11693 HRTC COMMUNITY SERVICES

Members were provided with an update on the work of the Community Development Officer.

Members raised concerns that members of the Youth Council would be leaving as they were reaching 18 years of age. Members were advised that from fourteen Youth Council members, eight had attended the recent meeting with three apologies received, two members of the Youth Council were due to attend university, however, both had specified that they wished to remain in place as Youth Council members until they attended university. Two members had left the Youth Council.

Members highlighted their disappointment that 14 activity packs had been returned when 106 packs had been distributed. Members were advised that feedback received had been positive, the activities in the packs had been enjoyed but some recipients of the activity pack had not wanted to enter the competition.

It was requested that it be minuted that thanks were given the Community Development Officer for her efforts during Covid restrictions.

11694 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS AND CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

Events Working Group	4 th February, 4 th March, 1 st April and 29 th April 2021.
Combating Crime Working Group	20 th January, 17 th February, 17 th March, 21 st April and 19 th May 2021.

Resolved: To receive the following Minutes:

Events Working Group	4 th February, 4 th March, 1 st April and 29 th April 2021.
Combating Crime Working Group	20 th January, 17 th February, 17 th March, 21 st April and 19 th May 2021.

Members highlighted an error in the Combating Crime minutes 19th May 2021. Minute number CC1146 should read: Members were requested to appoint a Chair for Combating Crime Working Group for 2021/22. Minute number CC1147 should read: ‘Members were requested to appoint a Vice-Chair for Combating Crime Working Group for 2021/22’ Minute number CC1147 should read: ‘No other nominations were received. On being put to the vote, Councillor Copleston was duly appointed as Vice-Chair of the Combating Crime Working Group for the municipal year 2021 – 2022’

11695 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

Members received the income and expenditure report, highlighting significant variances, for Community Services Committee to date.

Members queried the cost of website updates, members were advised that although many of the changes could be completed in-house, some of the structural changes within the website could not be achieved in-house and had to be changed by the web host.

It was suggested means be put in place to enable residents to be more involved in community decisions.

11696 COMMUNITY ACTION BEDFORDSHIRE – KEY PARTNER GRANT

Members received a paper from Community Action Bedfordshire outlining a significant organisational change.

Members were reminded that Community Action Bedfordshire (CAB) was a Key Partner (Grants). This organisational change and the transfer of services to Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) has had an impact on the Key partner Status of Community Action Bedfordshire. CAB / BRCC were requesting that the Council consider the transfer of funding from CAB to BRCC to promote, support and enable residents of Houghton Regis to participate in the Chiltern Vale Timebank for the duration of the Key Partner status period. Key Partner Status was awarded to CAB to enable them to provide support to local organisations.

This variation would normally be considered by Community Services Committee at its Grants Meeting in the autumn; however, confirmation was sought earlier to provide certainty of funding to BRCC as soon as possible.

Members were requested to consider this alteration and agree a way forward. There were the following options:

1. Support the alteration for the duration of the key partner status period
2. Defer until the grants meeting in the autumn

3. Decline the alteration at the present time and suggest that BRCC apply to become a key partner themselves such that the timebanking project can be considered on its merits

11697 VISION UPDATE

Members received an extract from the approved Vision 2020/2024 as it related to the work of this committee.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.56pm

Dated this 6th day of September 2021.

Chairman