

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

Community Services Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on
6th September 2021 at 7.00pm

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

Officers: Clare Evans Town Clerk
Tara Earnshaw Community Development Officer
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services
Dave Ramsay Lead Youth Worker

Public: 0

Also present: Councillor: R Morgan

11731 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

11732 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

11733 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

11734 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2021.

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings held on 28th June 2021 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

11735 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS AND CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

Events Working Group 3rd June 2021 and 8th July 2021

Combating Crime Working Group 16th June 2021 and 21st July 2021

Resolved: To receive the Minutes detailed above.

11736 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

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

11737 REPORT FROM GROUNDWORK

Diana Hegley from Groundwork was in attendance to update members on the work completed on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council.

Members were advised that detached sessions had been provided, promoting the provision with a limited number of young people and were waiting to get back into the youth club venue. Members were advised that Groundwork were still able to use the youth club for sessions once it is back up and running with the provision continuing at two sessions per week under the new centre management.

11738 HRTC COMMUNITY AND YOUTH SERVICES

Members received reports on youth work recently completed including:

- Pop-up youth café
- Youth Council
- Community services

In addition, members were also advised that Ward Councillor grant funding had been secured for a youth project to deliver training and development opportunities around catering and hospitality. Specifically, the grant would be used as follows:

- Food hygiene level 2 on-site training at the Pavilion for 6-8 young people £300-£350
- Professional Chef session - £300
- Posh nosh for the community- £150 (Young people putting their knowledge into action)
- Trip to take those young people involved to a top or higher end restaurant. Depending on the funding available this could be a local quality restaurant-maybe Chez Jerome in Dunstable (£250), or a Michelin style restaurant (£1000).

This additional funding was very much welcomed and appreciated.

Members were advised that feedback from the summer events held on the Village Green had been positive and had been enjoyed by a wide number of people. Members feedback was that it had been very inclusive, enjoyed by families that found pricey summer activities cost prohibitive.

Members acknowledged the positive impact the events had within the community and feedback from the Lead Youth Worker was that of a real sense of community and partnership working.

Members were advised of consideration being given to establishing a core group of older members of the community for the sharing of ideas and strategies to develop services and facilities to support older members of the community.

Members were advised that Redhouse Court were not encouraging members of the public to pursue activities within the building due to the vulnerability of the residents due to Covid.

Members were updated on the idea of Posh Nosh which would expand young people's experiences with food, culture, and community, young people would learn to create food and experience serving their food, learning skills and higher techniques in addition to a food accreditation in food hygiene.

11739 BULK WASTE REMOVAL SCHEME

Members were advised that this initiative had been well received within the community with a consistent and at times high take up rate. CBC officers had been supportive and accommodating in promoting and managing this project. Members were advised that uptake figures had been 14 collections of fridge/freezers and 49 collections of other items.

Although it was relatively early in the financial year Members may receive an additional funding request to increase this budget for 2022/23. This would be put forward during the budget setting process in due course.

Members discussed the possibility of repurposing of some items and requested consideration be given to possible avenues to enable this strategy to be encouraged.

11740 CHRISTMAS TREE

Members were reminded of previous considerations for the annual town Christmas tree. Issues which were considered related to the difficulty of sourcing a tree on an annual basis, the sustainability of cutting down a tree for a short period and the suitability of the location of the tree.

Officers were tasked with investigating whether there was a more sustainable option of planting a living tree in All Saints View (ASV).

ASV have confirmed a location within the forecourt area at the front of ASV for Christmas 2022. The exact location cannot be advised until the building work was further progressed. Members were requested to consider the suitability of this location. To also consider options to provide a light feature in the current Bedford Square location.

Siting a permanent tree in ASV would be a long term, sustainable option, supportive of the Vision. It would also provide a suitable and safe area for the switch on event. However, it may be perceived as being too far off the main road. However, this could be mitigated by an additional light feature being provided in the current location.

Members raised concerns that the proposed positioning of the tree could look like an ASV Christmas tree, aimed at their residents, rather than a tree for the town's community.

It was requested that members of the community be consulted on the idea of a more sustainable tree option and the relocation of the Christmas Tree to ASV. The findings of the consultation would be reported back to the next Community Services Meeting in November.

11741 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 7.50pm

Dated this 25th day of October 2021.

Chairman