

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
Community Services Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on
25th October 2021 at 7.00pm

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

Officers: Clare Evans Town Clerk
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services

Public: 0

Apologies: Councillors: A Slough

Absent: E Cooper

11815 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr A Slough.

11816 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

11817 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Goodchild declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Houghton Regis Heritage Society and was also a member of the Baptist Church. Accordingly, she did not participate in discussions relating to those grant applications.

Cllr Thorne declared non-pecuniary interests in Dial-a-Ride, Memorial Hall, and Citizens Advice and was also a member of Houghton Regis Heritage Society. Accordingly, she did not participate in discussions relating to those grant applications.

Cllr McMahon declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Houghton Regis Heritage Society as she was a trustee. Accordingly, she did not participate in discussions relating to this grant application.

Cllr Wattingham declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Memorial Hall as he was the Chairman. Accordingly, he did not participate in discussions relating to this grant application.

11818 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2021.

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings held on 6th September 2021 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

11818a KEY PARTNERS - ANNUAL REVIEW OF EXISTING

Consideration process

Representatives from these organisations had been invited to the meeting to present their annual review / update. Due to a meeting conflict SORTED were unable to attend as it their AGM on the same evening. SORTED had submitted their Annual Report which was available upon request.

Members were reminded that Key Partner status had been awarded to these organisations for the financial years 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Members were reminded that a report was presented to the Community Services Committee on 28th June which highlighted a significant organisational change with services being transferred from Community Action Bedfordshire (CAB) to Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC). Key Partner Status was awarded to CAB to enable them to provide support to local organisations. BRCC would like to use the grant 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.

Representatives from Keech, BRCC, Dial-a-Ride and Houghton Regis Heritage Society were in attendance at the meeting to present their annual review / update.

Members suggested that BRCC apply for Key Partner status in their own right next year and were reminded that they could apply for a small capital grant in this financial year.

Dunstable & District CA	£2,000
SORTED	£2,000
Keech Hospice Care	£2,500
South Beds Dial A Ride	£1,125.50
Houghton Regis Memorial Hall	£2,000
Full House Theatre	£1,500
Houghton Regis Heritage Society	£500

Resolved: To approve the release of funding as detailed for the financial year 2021/22.

Large Capital Grant

Members were advised that the following application had been received for a large capital grant.

A representative from the Singing Café attended the meeting to speak in support of their application.

Large capital grants were awarded within the financial year in which they are received and are budgeted for in the next financial year such that applicants receive the funding in the April of the following financial year.

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Total project cost</i>	<i>Amount requested</i>	<i>Brief description</i>
Singing Café	£4000	£1000	To fund the services of a music therapist to support the weekly Singing Café.

Small Capital Grants

Members were advised that no Small Capital Grant applications had been received.

Members were advised that £2,800 remains in the Small Grant Fund.

End of Award Report

In accordance with the Grant Scheme successful applicants were required to submit an End of Award Report. Members received the End of Award form from Community Action Bedfordshire for 2020/21.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Dated this 7th day of February 2022

Chairman