

## HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

### Community Services Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 at 7.00pm

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

Officers: Clare Evans Town Clerk  
Tara Earnshaw Community Development Officer  
David Ramsay Lead Youth Worker

Public: 0

Apologies: Councillors: C Copleston

Also Councillor: C Carroll  
present:

#### 11819 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Copleston (Cllr Kennedy substituted).

#### 11820 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

#### 11821 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllrs Goodchild, Thorne and McMahon declared an interest in item 11, as they were members of the Houghton Regis Heritage Society.

#### 11822 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS AND CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

Events Working Group 26<sup>th</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Combating Crime Working Group 18<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Recommendation: To receive the Minutes detailed above.**

#### 11823 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

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

It was brought to members attention that under cost centre 302 4227 – the available budget did include money that was hoped to be used on the older peoples project.

#### **11824 REPORT FROM GROUNDWORK**

It had been expected that Antony Fuller, Senior Youth Worker, Groundwork East would be in attendance at the meeting to report on the youth work Groundwork had recently completed in Houghton Regis on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council, unfortunately he was not in attendance.

#### **11825 HRTC YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Members received a report on the community and youth work recently completed including

- Pop-up youth café
- Youth Council
- Older people
- Local organisations

At the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September members were advised that CBC Ward Cllr grant funding had been applied for to deliver a youth project around training and development opportunities in catering and hospitality. Unfortunately Ward Cllr grants were only available for the purchase of equipment and as such this project did not meet the criteria.

Members supported a project designed for the older members of the community.

It was requested that thanks be given to the Community Development Officer for her work with the Youth Council and their Halloween event and the forthcoming project for the elderly. It was advised that the Youth Council were considered an asset to the council.

Members expressed their disappointment on the council being unsuccessful in their bid for funding for the training and development opportunities in catering and hospitality.

#### **11826 SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

Members received a report on the 2021 summer activities and suggestions for a programme for summer 2022.

Members were advised that the events in the summer months had received a higher number of attendees than the Easter events, however, activities had still attracted 10 – 15 young people. New ideas were being explored utilising the kitchen garden for future enhanced sessions, ‘grow it, cook it, serve it’.

Members were advised that several young people had enjoyed the experience of attending the circus during enhanced sessions.

Members suggested that the Community Development Officer and the Lead Youth Worker link in with the Bidwell West Community Development Worker to enable outreach work in Bidwell West.

Members discussed the success of the 2021 summer family fun days held on the Village Green, members expressed their support for similar to be held in 2022.

**Resolved:**

- 1. To deliver 4 family fun days over the first 4 weeks of the summer holidays;**
- 2. To deliver 2 family coach trips during 2022, one during the Easter holidays and the second during the summer holidays.**

#### **11827 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE DRAFT BUDGET 2022/23**

Members received the officer draft budget for 2022/23 along with explanatory notes for the Community Services Committee.

The draft budget reflected on ongoing budgetary commitments along with anticipated budgetary commitments arising from the Council Vision 2020/24.

Members were advised of budget updates. Community Services Committee (305-4219) agreed a Large Capital Grant for £1,000 for the Singing Café; The Events Working Group Budget (304-4222) initially had requested £47,000 however, after recalculation the request had been amended to £50,800.

399-4804 members were advised that £6,000 would secure a suitable tree as a feature, however the location was yet to be confirmed.

399-4034 cost of the website update had been quoted at £6,000, if members were minded to include this in the budget, competitive quotes would be sought.

Members agreed that the Town Guide would be put on hold for the time being.

It was suggested that sponsorship be sought from new enterprises coming into the town.

#### **11828 VISION UPDATE**

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

Members were advised that the Vision be reviewed in January to enable a more substantial review at committees during spring 2022.

#### **11829 KEY PARTNERS - ANNUAL REVIEW OF EXISTING**

At the Community Services Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October members were asked to consider the annual review of Key Partner grants. This included the grant for the Houghton Regis Heritage Society. However due to 3 members declaring a non-

pecuniary interest in this application the meeting was not quorate. As such this grant application was deferred until this meeting. Members received the Key Partner Renewal application form for consideration.

Houghton Regis Heritage Society                      £500.00

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

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.02pm**

**Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February 2022**

**Chairman**