

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
Community Services Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on
7th February 2022 at 7.00pm

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

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

Public: 0

Also present: Councillor: J Carroll Virtual attendance

11919 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

11920 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

11921 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

11922 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25th October and 1st November 2021.

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings held on 25th October and 1st November 2021 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

11923 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS AND CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

Events Working Group 28th October and 2nd December 2021.

It was clarified that the EWG requested £50,800 and this had been included in the budget for 2022/23.

Combating Crime Working Group 20th October, 17th November and 15th December 2021.

Resolved: To receive the Minutes detailed above and to approve the recommendations contained therein as follows;

EWG6381:

1. To note the suggested events and dates for 22/23
2. To request a budget of £47, 300 from Community Services.

11924 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

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

Members were advised that unanticipated income had been received for work delivered by Houghton Regis Town Council on behalf of 4YP.

11925 BUDGET FOR 2022/23

Members received the approved budget and explanation for 2022/23 for information.

11926 REPORT FROM GROUNDWORK

Antony Fuller from Groundwork was in attendance at the meeting to report on the youth work Groundwork had recently completed in Houghton Regis on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council.

Members were advised that the Youth Club had been well attended on re-opening in October with 20 attendees at sessions between October and Christmas. It was hoped that day trips could be organised along with an international trip. Work was planned to focus on building relationships with young people at school and with parents. Further information would be delivered at the next meeting.

Members expressed concerns over the impact of Covid on the mental health and wellbeing of young people. Members were assured that the ongoing issue of mental health would be addressed in activity workshops and it was hoped to introduce a mentor strategy. Members were advised funding would be sought to enrich the services and activities on offer to young people.

11927 HRTC COMMUNITY & YOUTH SERVICES

Members were advised that in excess of 300 welcome packs had been delivered to new residents of Houghton Regis, with the expectation of delivering a further 300.

A Later Living Social Group had been set up and planned to meet monthly, they had aspirations of planning day trips, and afternoon tea drop-in sessions.

The Youth Council had ten members and had received interest from a further three. Work was planned towards an activity to raise awareness of LGBTQ+.

Members were advised the Youth Café was still going well, numbers attending the Café had dropped during the colder months, however, recruitment had taken place and some new faces were beginning to attend. The Youth Café had continued to provide a sense of community and family feel. Activity plans were under way and would be presented to members at the next meeting. It was hoped that collaborative working could be agreed with the Kitchen Garden to encourage a holistic approach to food.

11928 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members were invited to consider options for the town's Christmas Tree and an extension to the Christmas lights display for 2022.

Members were advised that feedback from a social media survey was in favour of supporting the council having a living tree on the green. Members discussed the best age and size of the tree for the greatest chance of a successful re-planting.

Resolved: **To seek to site a 6-8ft living Christmas Tree on the Village Green in a location agreed with Environment & Leisure Committee, subject to satisfactory investigations being completed on underground services, with the hope that this becomes the town's Christmas tree in 5-10 years time when it should have reached a suitable size.**

11929 GRANT FUNDING RE QUEEN'S JUBILEE STREET PARTIES

To enable members to consider the option of providing a grant to residents to hold a street party in aid of the Queen's Jubilee.

Members were advised that the funding would be granted retrospectively on receiving receipts, the organiser of the event would be responsible for any risk assessments, insurance, road closures and any other peripheries would be needed to run the event.

Resolved: **To offer a Queen's Jubilee Street Party Grant to residents to be funded from the Small Capital Grants up to the value of £200.**

11930 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 an update on the vision had been included in the Town Crier highlighting the positive achievements Houghton Regis Town Council had completed.

Members highlighted the advantages of installing an electronic noticeboard, members were advised on previous costing investigations it had proved to be cost prohibitive. The Town Clerk would link in with other towns who have successfully integrated the use of an electronic notice board.

Members suggested that grant funding for eco-friendly projects in the town could be applied for. The Town Clerk would look into the criteria for small capital grants and feed back to the committee.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.24pm

Dated this day of

Chairman