

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

Community Services Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

4th July 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: K Wattingham Chairman
P Burgess
Y Farrell
S Goodchild
T McMahon
A Slough

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

Public: 1

Apologies: Councillors: C Copleston

Also Councillor: J Carroll
present:

12106 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Copleston.

12107 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

12108 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

12109 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Members were invited to elect a Vice-Chair for Community Services Committee for 2022/23.

Nominee: Cllr McMahon Nominated by: Cllr Burgess
Seconded by: Cllr Goodchild

No other nominations were received. On being put to the vote, Cllr McMahon was duly appointed as Vice-Chair of the Community Services Committee for the municipal year 2022 - 2023.

12110 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2022.

vw

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings held on 7th February 2022 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

12111 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.

12112 REPORT FROM GROUNDWORK

Anthony Fuller, Senior Youth Worker, representative from Groundwork was in attendance to update members on the work completed on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council.

Members were advised that a wide age range of young people attended the Youth Club of, 12 – 18 years of age. Pool, table tennis and football (sponge ball) were offered to the young people and all had been enjoyed, with a preference for the pool table. Members were advised that staffing levels had increased.

Five boxing sessions had been booked and had been well attended, and an international trip was still being looked into.

It was suggested that a multi-agency approach could benefit some young individuals who were displaying negative behaviour and causing a disruption during sessions.

12113 HRTC YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Members were provided with an update on work undertaken by the Community Development Officer and the Senior Youth Worker.

Members were advised the Family Day Trip to Southend had sold out extremely quickly, an increased capacity was being looked into.

Members were advised that the Pop-up-Café numbers had dropped. A suggestion of a multi-agency approach would benefit young people in attendance at the Pop-up-Café as they had experienced some disruption to sessions due to negative behaviour.

12114 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS AND CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

Events Working Group

3rd February, 3rd March, 31st March and 28th April 2022.

kw

Combating Crime Working Group 19th January, 16th February. 16th March, 20th April and 18th May 2022.

Resolved: To receive the following Minutes:

Events Working Group 3rd February, 3rd March, 31st March and 28th April 2022.

Combating Crime Working Group 19th January, 16th February. 16th March, 20th April and 18th May 2022.

12115 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE BUDGET 2022/23

Members received the approved budget for this committee for 2022/23 along with the budget explanation notes.

A member queried why so much funding had been allocated to the carnival. It was highlighted that several aspects of modern day Health and Safety requirements heavily impacted the financial costs to safely run the carnival.

It was suggested that a survey be carried out to investigate whether residents had alternative ideas to some of the events held, to be more inclusive of diversity.

Members received this report for information.

12116 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

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

12117 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS EXTENSION

It was agreed under minute number 11928 to purchase a living Christmas tree and to continue to display one in the corner of Bedford Square near All Saints Church until the living tree became established in 5-10 years.

Members were advised that there was £6000 in the capital budget for new Christmas lights. Some of this would be used to replace existing street column lights (£3900) which were beyond economical repair.

Members were asked to consider purchasing additional Christmas lights for 2023. Options to include:

- Lighting up the trees in All Saints church.
- To create an avenue of lights attached to the trees fronting East End along the Village Green parallel to the Village Green, or along the lampposts leading toward Houghton Hall House.

Other suggestions were welcomed.

Members were requested to confirm their preferences and costs would be researched. A report back to the committee would be made.

12118 GRANT SCHEME REVIEW

KW

Members were invited to review the council's grant scheme to ensure it remained fit for purpose.

Members were reminded that previously the Houghton Regis Community Grant scheme had been offered at 20% match funding, however, since the increase of match funding, interest had diminished.

Members agreed to revert from April 2023 to the match funding of 20% to encourage a greater uptake of grant funding and to relaunch the scheme in 2023.

Resolved: To relaunch the Houghton Regis Community Grant scheme from April 2023 to include:

- 1. Key Partner Grants – as existing**
- 2. Project Grant Scheme – to offer funding for up to £800 to deliver a capital project or a one-off community initiative. To reduce match funding requirements from 50% to 20%. To look to set a budget of £4,000 in 2023/24.**

12119 TOWN CENTRE TOILET – APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR

Members were presented with quotes for the cleaning of the town centre toilets.

Members highlighted the importance and value of having public toilets in the town centre, however reservations had been raised due to Central Bedfordshire Council having taken over the community centre side of the building. It had been suggested that they should pay for the upkeep of the facilities.

After discussion, members agreed that to keep the public facilities available at the high standard Houghton Regis residents had become accustomed to, Houghton Regis Town Council would need to ensure their upkeep.

Members acknowledged their appreciation and thanks to the current team who had done a fantastic job of keeping the facilities to a very high standard and winning Loo of the Year several times.

- Resolved:**
- 1. To seek to appoint contractor 2 as the contractor to deliver the cleaning of the town centre toilets for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2025 under the cleaning only option;**
 - 2. To request that Town Council authorise the use of General Reserves up to £2000 to fund this contract in 2022/23.**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.33pm

Dated this 5th day of September 2022.

Chairman

