

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

Present:	Councillors:	K Wattingham	Chairman
		J Carroll	Substitute
		P Burgess	
		Y Farrell	
		S Goodchild	
		A Slough	
	Officers:		Town Clerk
		Clare Evans	Community Development Officer
		Tara Earnshaw	Head of Democratic Services
		Louise Senior	Lead Youth Worker
		Dave Ramsay	

Public: 1

Apologies: Councillors: C Copleston

Also Councillor: T McMahan (Virtual attendance)
present:

The Chair requested to bring item 10 forward in the agenda.

12232 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Copleston. Cllr McMahan gave her apologies as unable to attend in person, however, did attend virtually. Cllr Carroll substituted.

12233 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

It was suggested that the member of the public speak at item 10.

12234 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

12235 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2022.

A member highlighted that within the minutes of the last meeting, it was requested that a kitchen be considered for Parkside pavilion, confirmation was requested whether this had been included in the Environment and Leisure Committee agenda.

It was advised that there would be a discussion on the matter during Budget 2023/24 the Environment and Leisure meeting.

KCW

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings held on 5th September 2022 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

12236 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS AND CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

Events Working Group 25th August and 29th September 2022.

Combating Crime Working Group 17th August and 28th September 2022.

Resolved: To receive the Minutes detailed above.

12237 REPLACEMENT CCTV
(agenda item brought forward)

A member of the public highlighted to members that whilst CCTV is valuable when used to its full potential, it was questioned whether the cost of the CCTV had proved to be economically viable. It was requested that the council consider whether the redeployable cameras work productively before agreeing to spend funds.

Members discussed the value of the re-deployable cameras and positive community feedback.

The option for the replacement cameras and the additional elements included in the new package were discussed, and it was felt that the new deal was better suited to the needs of Houghton Regis Town Council.

Resolved: To support the purchase a 3 new redeployable cameras with 5 year service packs.

12238 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

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

An overspend was queried on Playscheme expenditure, members were advised that this was due to the popularity of the trip, there was a need to hire an additional bus to accommodate demand.

12239 REPORT FROM GROUNDWORK

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

Members were advised that youth provision had been quieter during the summer months, however, the pool table and table tennis had remained firm favourites with attendees and a bicycle repair workshop had been organised with the support of Sustrans.

Concerns had been highlighted regarding the use of Vapes by the younger community, it was hoped that an outside agency would visit and speak to young people about the harmful effects of vaping.

Members were advised that Veru funding had been received to support outreach work in Houghton Regis however, staff capacity had proved an issue.

It was suggested that Houghton Regis may benefit from a full time Youth Worker.

It was highlighted that more youth support may be necessary in Houghton Regis with the growing number of occupancies in the new developments.

12240 HRTC YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Members received a report for September and October on youth and community work completed by Houghton Regis Town Council.

Members were updated on the HRLLSG, since the last meeting, the group had met twice and held three tea and treat sessions with around 10-14 people in attendance. The Southend trip was a great success, 48 retired residents enjoyed on the trip.

The group had planned a pantomime trip in November and a pub lunch in February.

Dementia-friendly signs had been placed at the Town Councils offices, pavilions, recreation grounds, and cemetery.

Family Fun Days were delivered, Skate Jam and Cinema, Magician, Inflatable Fun, Mobile Farm, and Teaching Talons were all well attended. Due to the popularity of the seaside trip to Southend, it was recommended that three coaches be booked for 2023.

Crafty November event was planned with Christmas wreath-making at the Farmstead.

Ward Councillor funding had been granted to help with the cost of living for Houghton Regis residents. The Town Council would create 400 support packs. The packs were to be distributed out to professionals working directly with residents experiencing poverty and any remaining packs would be available at the Town Council offices to collect.

Youth Café Members were advised there had been a varying number of attendees each week. Where possible, detached sessions had been delivered which had enabled engagement in Parkside and Tithe Farm and the opportunity to speak with young people who may not know of, or access, the provision.

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of lighting along the path that runs behind the Village Green Pavilion.

- Resolved:**
- 1. To deliver the family fun days and trips in the same format as 2022;**
 - 2. To seek to increase budget provision in 2023/24 to enable 3 coaches to be hired for the summer family trip**

KW

12241 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE DRAFT BUDGET 2023/24

Members received the officer draft budget for 2023/24 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 expressed their concerns regarding the uplift in many costs.

Members discussed aspects of the budget and focussed on overtime costs. Members emphasised how much the community valued Town Council events and that the events needed staffing, as such the requirement for staff overtime needed to be appreciated. It was suggested that members of the community may wish to get involved with the events and volunteer. Members acknowledged the work of the staff and conveyed their thanks.

12242 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS EXTENSION 2023

Members considered options to expand the Christmas Lights display in 2023.

Members discussed the choices presented to them, and felt that snowflakes projected on the floor by Poundstretcher and snowflakes projected on the wall by the library would be most the most aesthetically pleasing option. It was hoped that it may be possible to achieve this with the 2022/23 budget.

12243 COUNCIL WEBSITE

Members were advised that quotes had been sought for a developer for a new council website. Members received a summary of the quotes received.

Members were requested to appoint a contractor to deliver a website redesign.

Members appointed Company 3 (Setsquare) to deliver the Houghton Regis Town Council redesign.

Resolved: To appoint a Company 3, Setsquare, to deliver a website redesign.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.12pm

Dated this 6th day of February 2023

Chairman

