

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
Community Services Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on
6th February 2023 at 7.00pm

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

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

Public: 5

Apologies: Councillors: C Copleston

Also present: Councillor: J Carroll

12344 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Copleston (C Slough substituted).

12345 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

12346 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

12347 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th November and 15th November 2022.

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings held on 7th November and 15th November 2022 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

12348 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS AND CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

Events Working Group 27th October & 1st December 2022

Combating Crime Working Group 19th October, 16th November & 21st December 2022

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

12349 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

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

Clarification was sought regarding an overspend on resident Support Packs, it was advised that it was shown as an overspend as income is shown in a different section of the budget report.

It was highlighted that Civic Events was shown as having spent 121% of their budget, it was advised this had been due to the unpredictable increase in prices.

12350 REPORT FROM GROUNDWORK

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

Members were advised that Anthony was moving on, and the Youth Club provision would be taken over by Charley Ashley.

Members were advised the Safer Neighbourhood Team attended a session and met with young people. Siblings of a victim of a fatal knife crime attended a Knife Crime Workshop, it was hoped to offer further workshops with more collaborative working with agencies with a hope to cover ASB, relationships, sexuality and drugs.

12351 HRTC YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Members received a report for November and December on youth and community work completed.

Members were advised that the Support Packs were very well received by the community, funding for which was received from CBC Ward Councillors. Houghton Regis Town Councillors wished to thank Ward Councillors for their financial contribution to enable the creation of the resident support packs.

Members welcomed the opening of the foodbank in Houghton Regis and requested donations and highlighted that donations could be toiletries, sanitary towels, cleaning items or other items aside from food.

Members were advised the Youth Café had been well attended although a drop in numbers had been seen whilst the weather was particularly bad. Young people see the space as a safe place and a place to learn new skills. Young people who no longer attended the provision have visited and updated staff on their progress.

Members were advised there was some intergenerational work planned with the Youth Council and the Later Living Social Group at the Coronation Event.

Members received this report for information.

12352 GRANTS

Members were advised that the following Small Projects Grants had been awarded under delegated authority:

- Houghton Regis Ladies Group £200
- Houghton Regis Bowls Club £200

Small Project Grants

The following applications were received:

Members were advised that £855 remained in the Small Projects grants budget.

Members discussed the applications, it was agreed that Housing 21's request for a defibrillator was to be awarded £500, the remaining balance of £355 be awarded to BRCC for community tea dance events.

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Amount requested</i>	<i>Amount awarded</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
Housing 21	£500	£500	Community defibrillator
BRCC	£500	£355	3 x community tea dance events

Resolved: To consider and determine the Small Project grants detailed.

12353 CORONATION BIG LUNCH - CORONATION GRANTS 2023 24

To enable members to consider the option of providing a grant to residents to enable Coronation Big Lunch events to be held in aid of the Kings Coronation.

Members were advised of the popularity and uptake of the Jubilee Grant. It was felt that a similar scheme for the Coronation should be offered.

Concerns were raised regarding the quantity of applicants and whether this could lead to funding issues. It was agreed that if 100 applicants were reached, the Chair and Vice-Chair of this committee would be consulted.

An addition to the officer recommendation was proposed by Cllr Goodchild seconded by Cllr McMahon to read:

2. To give delegated authority to the Chair and Vice-Chair and for the scheme to be reviewed when 100 applications were reached.

This addition was carried and accordingly became part of the substantive recommendations:

Resolved: 1. To offer a Coronation Big Lunch Grant to residents to be funded from the Small Capital Grants up to the value of £200.

- 2. To give delegated authority to the Chair and Vice-Chair and for the scheme to be reviewed when 100 applications were reached.**

12354 RENEWAL OF SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

Members were invited to consider the Service Level Agreement with Bedfordshire Police to deliver high visibility policing in Houghton Regis under Operation Hana for 2023/24.

The current contract would run until 31st March 2023.

Members were advised that the officer hourly rates had increased. This had been taken into account during the budget setting process.

Resolved: To agree the Service Level Agreement with Bedfordshire Police to deliver high visibility policing in Houghton Regis under Operation Hana for 2023/24 and for this to be signed by the Chair of Community Services Committee.

12355 DETACHED / OUTREACH YOUTH WORK IN HOUGHTON REGIS

Members were advised £72,060 of funding for a two-year project had been received to support outreach work in Houghton Regis. This funding did not require match funding.

The Community Development Office advised members that the sessions would be open sessions.

It was highlighted to members how this funding would show on the budget report as an overspend as the income would show in a different section of the report.

Members were advised this funding would enable youth provision to be offered every weekday evening.

Members were advised that it was hoped that some funding would be used for a residential visit. The value of such visits was highlighted by several members and it was felt this could prove to be an unrepeatable experience of exceptional value to the participating young people.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.26pm

Dated this day of

Chairman