

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
Community Services Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on
17th July 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present:	Councillors:	Y Farrell N Batchelor E Billington P Burgess D Jones T McMahan A Slough	Chair Substitute
	Officers:	Ian Haynes Tara Earnshaw Louise Senior Amanda Samuels	Head of Environmental & Community Services Community Development Officer Head of Democratic Services Administration Officer
Public:		0	
Apologies:	Councillors:	C Rollins	
Also present:	Councillors:	J Carroll E Cooper	

12510 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Rollins (Cllr Jones substituted).

12511 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Item 12 – Parkside Recreation Remodelling & Feasibility.

It was suggested that the building was not suitable for remodelling as it had been built during the 1970s to an inferior standard.

It was emphasised that the suggestions in the report would provide a building on par with other wards in the town. It was suggested that the cost would be minimal and could lead to a new building, however rising costs of building materials were of concern, it was suggested that funds be taken from EMR and should not wait for a year to start construction.

12512 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

12513 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Members were invited to elect a Vice Chair for Community Services Committee for 2023/24.



12518 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT 2023/24

In accordance with the committee functions a review of the income and expenditure of the committee should be undertaken periodically.

Members received, for information, the budget report for Community Services Committee alongside the Budget Explanation.

Of note the following projects were anticipated during 2023/24:

- Parkside Recreation Ground Pavilion (Remodelling Feasibility)
- Visitor Publication

Members received this report for information.

12519 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

Members received the income and expenditure report, with appropriate commentary, for Community Services Committee to date.

Members were advised that there were no items of note within the report, and expenditure would be tracked throughout the financial year.

12520 YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE (JUNE) 2023.

Members were updated on the activities of the youth and community services.

Members were advised the pop-up café was going from strength to strength with new young people signing up, hearing about the facility through word of mouth with attendees coming from a diverse range of backgrounds, an art session had been run by Time2Connect with a positive level of interest.

It was hoped that there would be some contact with outside agencies and within Central Bedfordshire Council to connect with young people.

Enhanced activities had been planned for the summer which included golf and inflatable fun.

An update was requested on the progress of Youth Worker recruitment. Members were advised that the closing date for the current advertisement was Wednesday 19th July and shortlisting and interviews would take place after this date with the hope of a suitable and successful appointment. Suitable venues for outreach provision work were being sought.

Members received, and noted, this report.

Resolved: To note the report.



12521 PARKSIDE RECREATION GROUND PAVILION (REMODELLING FEASIBILITY)

Members were invited to consider options for the potential remodelling of the Parkside Recreation Ground Pavilion.

Members discussed the suitability of the available space within the current facility.

Members suggested that the £5,000 funding for the feasibility study to be spent on an extensive consultation process to determine what type of facility was suitable for all user groups of the proposed building.

A new motion, to supersede the original three officer recommendations, was proposed by Cllr Burgess seconded by Cllr Batchelor to read:

- To consider and recommend that the expenditure for delivery of this project is taken from EMR for New Office Provision, therefore the project and delivery can start as soon as the EMR has been approved at full Town Council.

The officer recommendations read:

- 1) *To consider that the allocated funds of £5,000 for the feasibility of remodelling the Parkside Recreation Ground Pavilion be used for alternative projects agreed by the appropriate committee.*
- 2) *To consider and recommend to Council that monies be allocated within the emerging 2024/2025 Budget to hire a stand-alone building temporarily (Subject to positive community consultation).*
- 3) *To recommend to the Leisure and Environment Services Committee that they consider the development of a ten-year planned maintenance plan, including an estimated life expectancy and possible replacement costs, to aid in long-term financial planning.*

Members queried how much was to be requested from EMR New Office Provision with the proposed new motion. It was confirmed that the amount to be requested was the full amount of funds held in EMR and this was to be split over three wards.

It was confirmed to members that £5,000 was available for youth provision funded by YIF was for Parkside for the winter months.

It was clarified that £50,000 suggested in the report would be for a standalone building to be hired for as long as the council chose, at a cost of approximately £50,000 per year.

Members voted in favour of the motion proposed by Cllr Burgess, seconded by Cllr Batchelor.

A further motion was proposed by Cllr A Slough, seconded by Cllr Billington

- Part or full amount of £5,000 to be spent on a consultation event with residents of Parkside.

Members voted in favour of the additional motion.

A further motion was proposed by Cllr Billington, seconded by Cllr McMahon to read:

- Both of the above motions be put forward for consideration.

Members voted in favour of the third motion:

It was requested that draft plans for a consultation event be available for the full Town Council meeting in October.

- Resolved:**
- **To consider and recommend that the expenditure for delivery of this project is taken from EMR for New Office Provision, therefore the project and delivery can start as soon as the EMR has been approved at full Town Council.**
 - **To use part or full amount of £5,000 to be spent on a consultation event with residents of Parkside.**
 - **Both of the above motions be put forward for consideration.**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Dated this 7th day of November 2023



Chairman

