

**HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Community Services Committee**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on**  
**13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.00pm**

Present: Councillors: Y Farrell Chairman  
N Batchelor  
J Carroll (Substitute)  
T McMahon  
C Rollins  
A Slough

Officers: Ian Haynes Head of Environmental &  
Community Services  
Tara Earnshaw Community Development Officer  
Amanda Samuels Administration Officer

Public: 0

Apologies: Councillors: P Burgess  
E Billington

**12596 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies were received from Cllr Burgess (Cllr Carroll substituted) and Cllr Billington.

**12597 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**12598 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**12599 REPORT FROM GROUNDWORK**

A representative from the groundwork team was not in attendance to provide a verbal update/report.

**12600 YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE**

Members were provided with an update on work undertaken by the Community Development Officer for July – October 2023.

A trip to Southend-on-Sea with the Later Living Social Group had taken place in September. The monthly Meet and Treat meetings had also taken place and the group had met to discuss future activities. A theatre trip and a partnership buffet with Recycled Teenagers were planned and both events had received significant uptake.

Family Fun Days had run through this period, including the re-organised skate jam event and these had also proved to be very popular and well received by the community. A craft event would also occur in conjunction with the library at the end of November.

The Youth Council had continued volunteering at all Houghton Regis events and held a Halloween party that had also proved popular. There had been some departures from the Youth Council team; however, three new members had recently joined.

Following the success of the YIF grant, the Town Council recruited a team to deliver a youth provision across Parkside and Tithe Farm and the team had met with a number of young people since the scheme began in mid-September. The Baptist Church had been booked for the following six months to provide a suitable environment for the youth workers to continue delivering this service. It was hoped that a similar location would be found for the Tithe Farm Road team.

The Youth Café continued to attract a steady number of young people and provided a space for them to employ their cooking skills. Other activities had also been arranged including crazy golf and inflatable fun.

**Resolved: To note the report.**

**12601 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS AND CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN**

Events Working Group	8 <sup>th</sup> June, 6 <sup>th</sup> July and 24 <sup>th</sup> August
Combating Crime Working Group	21 <sup>st</sup> June, 19 <sup>th</sup> July, 16 <sup>th</sup> August and 20 <sup>th</sup> September

**Resolved: To receive the following Minutes:**

<b>Events Working Group</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> July and 24<sup>th</sup> August</b>
<b>Combating Crime Working Group</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> June, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 16<sup>th</sup> August and 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>

**12602 BT PAYPHONE ADOPTION**

BT had identified the public payphone at the Junction Windsor Drive, Lowry Drive, Houghton Regis LU5 5SJ as no longer needed. There was an opportunity for the Town Council to adopt the payphone as an asset for ongoing use.

It was suggested that the kiosk could house a defibrillator if the adoption application were accepted. The Friends of Windsor Drive would also have an interest in using the sides of the payphone as a noticeboard for items of local interest.

**Resolved: To consider and endorse that the Town Council requests to adopt the payphone at the Junction Windsor Drive, PCO1 Lowry Drive, Houghton Regis, Dunstable LU5 5SJ – 01582, for use as a community asset.**

**12603 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT**



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

It was queried why only a fraction of the allocated budget for Enviro-Crime appeared to have been spent. It was explained that the figures reflected more of items already invoiced rather than committed expenditure and would increase once outstanding invoices were processed. Increases in expenditure were also expected for promotional materials which had remained low.

#### **12604 THE MILLION HOURS FUND**

This fund was open to bids from £30,000-£100,000 and was to provide extra support to young people in areas where they were at risk of anti-social behaviour. The Old Houghton Hall Ward met the criteria to be eligible for the award, based on the number of calls from residents relating to anti-social behaviour, and the application would most likely be centred around the village green. The award needed to be spent by March 2026 although it was not expected to be implemented before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Any funds were likely to be allocated to lead youth workers or youth support workers, focussing on getting teams into schools.

**Resolved: To consider and endorse that a suitable application be made to The Million Hours Fund to enhance the provision in the Old Central Bedfordshire Houghton Hall Ward.**

#### **12605 PARKSIDE RECREATION GROUND PAVILION (REMODELLING FEASIBILITY) OR PARKSIDE COMMUNITY HUB UPDATE**

At its meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, the Town Council was presented with the considerations of the Community Services Committee from the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2023. The following recommendations have been resolved (minute item 12571):

1. To advise the Community Services Committee that Town Council considered their resolution put forward from its meeting on 21st July but, on balance, felt that the Town Council corporate plan process should be concluded and the supporting Town Council budget be considered and agreed before a consultation exercise being carried out with residents;
2. To encourage the Community Services Committee to consider an informal approach being made to potential stakeholders to gauge their interest and support for community hubs.

Therefore, this item would be brought back to the Community Services Committee for consideration after the Town Council corporate plan has been completed.

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.38pm**

**Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024**

**Chairman**



