

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP  
COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PEEL STREET  
ON 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Present: Town Cllrs: **J Carroll, Y Farrell, W Henderson (Substitute) M Herber, D Jones**  
CBC Cllrs: **Cllr T McMahon (Chair), Cllr Hamill, C Alderman, S Goodchild**  
CBC Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager (virtual)  
Officers:  
HRTC Clare Evans, Town Clerk  
Officers: Amanda Samuels, Administration Officer  
  
Co-opted member: J Anderson

Apologies: Cllr C Slough (Vice-Chair)  
C Regan  
D Gibbons

Members of the public: 1

**1003 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies were received from Cllr C Slough (Cllr W Henderson substituted)

**1004 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**1005 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**1006 MINUTES**

Members were requested to:

1. Approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023;
2. Receive the notes produced from the informal meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Members referred back to item 7 of the informal notes which outlined their concerns relating to the Houghton Regis Day Centre for Older People and the proposed move to All Saint's View.



While the consultation period had closed on 6<sup>th</sup> November there was still an opportunity to provide input. The Town Council's response to the consultation would go to CBC's Executive and there would be an opportunity at this point for councillors from both Central Bedfordshire and Houghton Regis in addition to members of the public to address the Executive

This item had previously been discussed at the Town Council meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 (minute 12573) with the following resolutions:

1. To express concerns that the proposed new style of provision may not be able to accommodate the current number of service users and would not be able to offer lunch services and to encourage CBC to explore options to address these concerns;
2. To encourage Central Bedfordshire Council ward Cllrs to scrutinise the current provision and the new provision to ensure they fully appreciate the operational implications prior to making a final decision

Members were asked to consider whether they wished to extend the recommendations to include the second resolution of 2<sup>nd</sup> October to support the Town Council's response to CBC in relation to the day centre.

Cllr Goodchild proposed the additional recommendation  
Cllr Jones seconded  
Members voted unanimously to accept the addition

It was also highlighted that a suggestion / statement had been put at the inquorate meeting in relation to the transfer of assets from CBC to HRTC. This statement / question was repeated at this meeting:

*We note at the request of this committees chair and vice chair, a reference to an update on The Redhouse has been included in the workplan at item 12 on the agenda.*

*We propose an amendment to this and ask that a review of all CBC-owned Houghton Regis assets be held, in the spirit of the Localism Act 2011 which states there are now new rights and powers for local communities.*

*The Act makes it easier for local people to take over the amenities they love, and keep them part of local life. To that point we ask for CBC and the town council to work together to make sure all suitable amenities are transferred to Houghton Regis Town Council for the betterment of residents of this town.*

*No monetary gain should be made in transferring amenities to the Town Council, and the principal authority should keep their cost to the minimum.*

*A list of potential amenities to be transferred include;*

- *Parkside Recreation Ground*
- *Tithe Farm Recreation Ground*
- *Grendel Lane*
- *The Red House*
- *Bedford Square Community Centre*
- *Houghton Regis Day Centre*
- *Windsor Drive Open Space*
- *The Scout Headquarters at Cemetery Road*
- *and CBC owned play areas IN Houghton Regis.*

There was some discussion on this and it was advised that further consideration would need to be given to the suggestion.



- Resolved:**
- 1. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and for these to be signed by the Chairman;**
  - 2. To receive the notes produced from the informal meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023;**
  - 3. To encourage CBC ward Cllrs to scrutinise the current provision and the new provision to ensure they fully appreciate the operational implications prior to making a final decision.**

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.22pm**

**Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2024**

**Chairman**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long tail, positioned to the right of the word 'Chairman'.

