

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
Community Engagement Sub-Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 7.00pm

Present:	Councillors:	Y Farrell E Cooper T McMahon C Rollins A Slough	Chairman
	Co-opted Members	L Morison	
Also in attendance:		E Farrier Cllr C Slough	Land Improvement Holdings, Linnere Devt
	Officers:	S Gelsthorp	Events Manager

Apologies: Councillors: 0

CESC40 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

No apologies were received.

CESC41 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

CESC42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

CESC43 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2025.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Community Engagement Sub-Committee meeting held on 4th February 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed accordingly.

CESC44 UPDATES FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Updates were invited from representatives from Linnere, Bidwell West, Friends of Windsor Drive and The Memorial Hall. Members were advised of events as follows:

Linnere

- Children's crafting on 12th and 19th April
- The Roam Café at the Farmstead would be holding an Easter Egg Hunt and Trail – details would be confirmed

- The Cycling hub would be opening on 12th April with events planned for the Easter break
- Plans were underway for children's summer camps to run over the four middle weeks of the summer holidays

Windsor Drive

- An application had been made for the Grow Wild Grant. Windsor Drive was working with HRTC to clear and maintain the wooded area at Windsor Drive.
- Windsor Drive was also working with HRTC to have a football pitch painted onto the field
- An application had been submitted to HRTC to fund fitness sessions for adults.

Memorial Hall

- An afternoon tea for over 65s was scheduled for 31st May
- Bookings had been made for craft events with the next one scheduled for 6th April

All Saints Church

- The Spring Fair was taking place on 29th March
- Plans were underway to encourage more people to use the churchyard. Further information was due to appear in the church newsletter
- New accessible toilets would be installed in May

Resolved: To note the report.

CESC45 EASTER EGG HUNT AND EASTER HOLIDAYS

The Easter Egg Hunt was scheduled to take place at Houghton Hall Park on Saturday 12th April 2025 and would include:

- Easter Egg Trail around Houghton Hall Park
- Craft Stalls
- Easter Bunny Bike Activity
- Craft activities for children

It was suggested that information be posted at the library to inform residents that Easter events would be taking place at Houghton Hall Park this year. The Civic and Events Manager agreed to explore this further.

It was confirmed that data would be gathered at this event in order to inform future decisions.

Dinosaur Activity days had been arranged for the 9th and 15th April at Houghton Hall Park, which also included a Dinosaur Trail around the park, with prizes available from the Library.

Resolved: To note the report.

CESC46 VE-80 BEACON LIGHTING

Members were advised that a Beacon Lighting would take place on Thursday 8th May 2025 at 9.15pm for VE-80.

The Friends of Houghton Hall and the Head Gardener had confirmed they would decorate the Kitchen Gardens on the VE-80 theme. The Classics in the Park event, planned for 8th June 2025, would also include some music from the era.

A new flag and burner had been ordered, and the beacon would be alight for approximately 45 minutes.

Resolved: To note the report.

CESC47 PRIDE OF HOUGHTON AWARDS

The Pride of Houghton Awards would take place on Saturday 10th May 2025 at the Memorial Hall. The event was still being planned, and a meeting of the Pride of Houghton Working Group would be called shortly to determine the nominations.

Members were advised that the process of deciding the nominations had been changed and would now involve a panel consisting of previous winners who would look at the nominations. A meeting of the Pride of Houghton Working Group would then be held to ratify the nominations.

It was confirmed that the venue, catering, photographer etc had all been booked and it was now a matter of confirming the winners and ordering prizes.

Resolved: To note the report.

CESC48 UPDATE ON EVENTS IN COUNCIL YEAR 25/26

Members were informed that the following events had been planned so far:

- 24th May 2025 – Dog Show at HHP
- 8th June 2025 – Classics in the Park
- 12th July 2024 – Houghton Regis Carnival
- 23rd July 2025 – Open Air Cinema
- 24th July 2025 – Skate Jam Event
- 26th August 2025- Jemima Puddleduck Theatre Event
- 6th September 2025 – Houghton Rocks

Additional events would be confirmed shortly.

Work was underway on the car show, Classics in the Park, which would include music and a Punch and Judy show.

There were also plans for a Heritage Day in September at Houghton Hall Park, potentially for the weekend following Houghton Rocks.

Members questioned what was due to be shown at the Open Air Cinema event. The Events Manager advised Members that the films were yet to be confirmed; however, the heritage film, which had been commissioned by HRTC, was scheduled to be given its premier at this event. Linmere Devt. had been carrying out work with schools, All Saints Church and local companies as part of the project and filming would take place in April and May.

In response to questions from Members, the Events Manager confirmed they would investigate the possibility of including a film for an adult audience in the evening. It was to be decided whether a charge would be applied in line with previous years.

Resolved: To note the report.

CESC49 REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER

A report from the Community Services Manager would be presented at the next meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.35pm

Dated this 24th day of June 2025

Chairman