

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

Community Services Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Monday 24th February 2025 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: E Costello Chairman
E Billington (Sub)
P Burgess
E Cooper
Y Farrell
T McMahon

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

Public: 0

Apologies: Councillors: A Slough
C Slough

Also present: J Carroll
D Taylor

13112 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr A Slough (no substitute) and Cllr C Slough (Cllr Billington substituted).

13113 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

13114 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

13115 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October and 11th November 2024.

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings held on 21st October and 11th November 2024 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

13116 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS AND CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

Community Engagement Sub-Committee 17th September '24, 26th November'24

Combating Crime Working Group

18th September '24, 16th October '24, 20th November '24, and 18th December '24

Resolved: To receive the Minutes detailed above and to approve the recommendations contained therein as follows:

CC1471 - To review and revise the 306 Community Safety budget at the next Community Services meeting with a view to adapting the Operation Hana SLA to include Community Safety and Op Hana, thereby allowing greater budget flexibility.

13117 HOUGHTON REGIS SPORTS HALL

Members were updated on the work undertaken around the Houghton Regis Sports Hall.

An Expression of Interest regarding the sports hall had been submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council and a decision was awaited. At the previous meeting of the Community Services Committee there had been a resolution to produce a business plan (Minute 13031); however, it was felt that clarification on costings, including utilities, was required before this could be produced.

Members were advised that the sports hall would no longer close in March while the process progressed.

Future discussion on the sports hall would go to full council.

13118 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

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

The Head of Environmental and Community Services highlighted the main points of the report and informed Members that the expenditure was as expected in the run up to year end.

13119 CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

Members were updated on the outcome of the Central Bedfordshire Council Youth Support Services Contract.

The Children's Society had been successful with their contract. The Children's Society had been holding sessions in Houghton Regis prior to the contract being awarded and were looking forward to working with HRTC's growing youthwork team.

13120 HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL YOUTH SERVICES

Members were updated on the in-house youth services work. Since October 2024, the breakdown of youth engagement and detached youth work (including attendance figures) was as follows:

Monday – Youth Café

16 sessions delivered

42 different attendees, attendance average 12-15

Tuesday – Open Access and Boxing

18 sessions delivered

68 different attendees, average of 13 attending

Wednesday (alternate) – Youth Council

10 members, average attendance 8, 4 new since October

6 meetings

Thursday – Open Access

18 sessions delivered

Average 13 in attendance

Members believed the website should contain more information about youth services and that the information currently published required updating. It was also thought that the Facebook page should have greater visibility. The Head of Environmental and Community Services confirmed they would update items as necessary on the website and would also consider increasing posts on social media.

13121 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY

Members were provided with the Town Council Draft Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy. Members were advised that this was a wholly rewritten policy. The updated Safeguarding Policy was vital for ensuring the safety of children and young people in the community.

Training and support would be provided to staff and Members to ensure all parties were aware of their responsibilities.

Resolved: To recommend approval of the Town Council Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy for consideration by the Corporate Services Committee and Town Council.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.39pm

Dated this 7th day of April 2025

Chairman