

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Hitchin Committee held in the Hitchin Boys School,  
Grammar School Walk, Hitchin  
on Tuesday, 5th December, 2017 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alan Millard.

Councillor Adrian Smith had advised that he may arrive late for the meeting.

### 2 MINUTES - 5 SEPTEMBER 2017

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 5 September 2017 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

### 3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No other business had been notified.

### 4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chairman thanked all who had attended Town Talk;
- (2) The Chairman welcomed all present at the meeting, particularly those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (3) The Chairman informed those present that, in accordance with Council Policy the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (4) The Chairman drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.

### 5 GRANTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards from the Development Ward Budgets as set out in Appendix A – Hitchin Area Committee Budget for 2017/18 be noted;
- (2) That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Hitchin;

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To keep Members of the Committee apprised of the latest developments in community activities in Hitchin.

### 6 UPDATE REGARDING THE ONGOING MAINTENANCE OF AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORTANCE

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the evolution of the Management Plans for the next five years as they relate to Oughtonhead Common, Purwell Meadows and Burymead Springs be noted;

- (2) That the Action Plans for Oughtonhead Common, Purwell Meadows and Burymead Springs be supported;
- (3) That the progress achieved to deliver the Management Plans for Walsworth Common, Cadwell Lane and St John's Cemetery be noted.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To keep the Hitchin Committee apprised of the progress made against the management and action plans for the areas of environmental importance in and around Hitchin.

## 7 INFORMATION NOTE - GREEN SPACE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Committee received an information note regarding the Green Space Management Strategy.

**RESOLVED:** That the Parks and Countryside Development Manager be requested to investigate and take forward the ideas and suggestions made at the meeting held on 5 September 2017 (Minute 35 refers) and that of the relevant Cabinet meeting.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To progress, wherever possible, the running of local play areas by local groups.

## 8 THE BID RENEWAL PROCESS

Prior to the item being discussed Councillor Judi Billing declared a declarable interest as she was a Director of Hitchin Initiative.

The Chairman thanked the Democratic Services Manager for his presentation regarding the BID process.

## 9 HITCHIN TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

Mr Keith Hoskins, Hitchin Town Centre Manager, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding the issues and activities in Hitchin Town Centre.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Hitchin Committee places on record thanks to Mr Keith Hoskins, Hitchin BID and Town Centre Manager, for his many years hard work for the Town and their good wishes for the future;
- (2) That the Head of Finance, Performance and Asset Management be requested to advise this Committee how much NHDC earns from filming in Hitchin and how that money is spent;
- (3) That the Head of Finance, Performance and Asset Management be requested to give advice regarding the placement and efficiency of the fountain in Hitchin Town Centre.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To inform the Hitchin Committee about the amount of money earned from filming in Hitchin and how that money is spent.

## 10 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

No Ward or Outside Organisation issues were discussed.

**11 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** That the following subjects be considered at a future meeting of this Committee:

- (i) Car Parking in Hitchin;
- (ii) Stotfold Road – Industrial Area Link Road;
- (iii) The Dell

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To enable the Hitchin Committee to discuss issues and subjects that affect the local area.

**12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - HITCHIN HACKSPACE**

Mr Mark Mellors, Hitchin Hackspace, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding their grant application.

The Chairman thanked Mr Mellors for his presentation.

**13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - HITCHIN INTERFAITH FORUM**

Mr Rodney Hampson, Hitchin Interfaith Forum, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding their grant application.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hampson and Christine for their presentation.

**14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - HITCHIN HEDGEHOG CARE**

Mrs Alison Taylor, Hitchin Hedgehog Care, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding their grant application.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Taylor for her presentation.

**15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - HITCHIN STROKE GROUP**

Patricia and Ken, Hitchin Stroke Group, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding their grant application.

The Chairman thanked Patricia and Ken for their presentation.

**16 GRANT APPLICATION - HITCHIN HACKSPACE**

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of £5,000 be awarded to the Hitchin Hackspace from the 2016/17 Discretionary Budget towards the cost of renovating the former Bancroft toilet block.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To improve services provided by local organisations and groups which are accessed by the community.

**17 GRANT APPLICATION - HITCHIN INTERFAITH FORUM**

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of £984 be awarded to Hitchin Interfaith Forum from the 2016/17 Discretionary Budget towards the cost of purchase and installation of a picnic table bench in the Peace Garden at the Hitchin Friends Meeting House.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To improve services provided by local organisations and groups which are accessed by the community.

**18 GRANT APPLICATION - HITCHIN HEDGEHOG CARE**

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of £592 be awarded to Hitchin Hedgehog Care from the 2016/17 Discretionary Budget towards the cost of specialist equipment needed to care for sick hedgehogs to enable their release back to the wild.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To improve services provided by local organisations and groups which are accessed by the community.

**19 GRANT APPLICATION - HITCHIN STROKE GROUP**

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of £2,000 be awarded to Hitchin Stroke Group from the 2016/17 Discretionary Budget towards the cost of transport and venue hire for the next two years.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To improve services provided by local organisations and groups which are accessed by the community.

**20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - HERTS AND ESSEX AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Ms Aderyn Gillett, Herts and Essex Ambulance Service, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding their grant application.

The Chairman thanked Ms Gillett for her presentation.

**21 GRANT APPLICATION - HERTS AND ESSEX AMBULANCE SERVICE**

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of £650 be awarded to the Herts and Essex Ambulance Service from the 2016/17 Discretionary Budget towards the cost of purchase and installation of a defibrillator attached to their charity shop in Churchgate.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To improve services provided by local organisations and groups which are accessed by the community.