

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Hitchin Committee held in the Westmill Community Centre,
John Barker Place, Hitchin
on Tuesday, 27th June, 2017 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simon Harwood, Bernard Lovewell, Adrian Smith and Martin Stears-Handscomb.

2 MINUTES - 7 MARCH 2017

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 7 March 2017 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

3 MINUTES - 18 MAY 2017

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 May 2017 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No other business had been notified.

5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chairman thanked all who had attended Town Talk.
- (2) The Chairman welcomed all present, particularly those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (3) The Chairman asked the Committee to join her in thanking former Councillor Allison Ashley, who had decided to stand down as a Councillor, for all of her work in Hitchin and North Hertfordshire over many years as a Councillor.

Members unanimously agreed with the proposal;
- (4) The Chairman welcomed Councillor Ray Shakespeare-Smith back to the Committee;
- (5) The Chairman thanked Councillor Judi Billing for her Chairmanship of the Committee during the 2016/17 Civic Year;
- (6) The Chairman informed those present that, in accordance with Council policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (7) 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.

RESOLVED: That former Councillor Allison Ashley be thanked for all of her work in Hitchin and North Hertfordshire over many years as a Councillor.

6 GRANTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

RESOLVED:

- (1) That all grants be allocated from the 2016/17 carry over amount of £15,300, until it is depleted;
- (2) 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;
- (3) 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.

7 HOMELESSNESS IN HITCHIN

The Head of Housing and Public Protection Service and the Housing Options Manager gave a verbal update regarding homelessness in Hitchin.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Housing and Public Protection Service and the Housing Options Manager for their presentation.

8 HITCHIN TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

Prior to the item being discussed Councillor Judi Billing declared a declarable interest as she was a Director of Hitchin Initiative, She advised that, as this was an information item without any decisions being made, she would remain in the room and take part in any discussions.

Prior to the item being discussed Councillor Nicola Harris declared a declarable interest as she was the NHDC representative on Hitchin Initiative, She advised that, as this was an information item without any decisions being made, she would remain in the room and take part in any discussions.

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 a decision be made as to where a flagpole should be placed in Hitchin and permission be sought to do so, following which this Committee would consider a grant application for the costs of purchasing and raising a flagpole;
- (2) That this Committee consider what capital projects were required in the Town Centre and request that the Planning Department include them as part of any Section 106 agreement associated with planning applications made in the area'
- (3) That the Senior Estates Surveyor be requested to email all Members of this Committee with an update on the current position regarding the proposed bridge at Jill Gray Place and be asked to take whatever actions are required to move this project forward.

REASON FOR DECISION: To improve the services and infrastructure within Hitchin Town

Centre.

9 NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE MUSEUM AND COMMUNITY FACILITY IN HITCHIN TOWN HALL

The Committee received an Information Note regarding the North Hertfordshire Museum and Community Facility at Hitchin Town Hall.

10 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

The following issues were discussed:

- Bench outside Hitchin Town Hall
- Westmill Community Centre
- Update on Work regarding Play Areas

RESOLVED: That Councillors Harwood and Stears-Handscomb be requested to give a further update on the work undertaken regarding Play areas at the next meeting of this Committee, due to be held on 5 September 2017.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Hitchin Committee to consider ways in which it can support play areas in Hitchin.

11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - 8TH OUGHTON SCOUTS

Mrs Erica Lang thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee on behalf of the 8th Oughton Scouts and gave a verbal presentation regarding their activities.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Lang for her presentation.

12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - HITCHIN OUTDOOR POOL

Mr Charles Bunker thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding Hitchin Outdoor Pool.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bunker for his presentation.

13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - ST FAITHS CHURCH SMALL TALK CARER AND TODDLER PROJECT

Prior to consideration of the item Councillor Alan Millard declared a declarable interest as his grandchildren enjoyed attending St Faiths. He advised that, as this was not a pecuniary interest, he would remain in the room during the presentation and any debate and would take part in any vote.

Rev Melanie Crowley and Ms Mary Goose, St Faiths Church, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding their Small Talk Carer and Toddler Group grant application.

The Chairman thanked Rev Crowley and Mrs Goose for their presentation.

14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - HITCHIN SENIOR CITIZENS

Prior to consideration of the item Councillor Richard Thake declared a declarable interest as he was the Council's representative on Hitchin Senior Citizens. He advised that, as this was not a pecuniary interest, he would remain in the room during the presentation and any debate and would take part in any vote.

Prior to consideration of the item Councillor Alan Millard declared a declarable interest as he was a member of Hitchin Senior Citizens. He advised that, as this was not a pecuniary interest, he would remain in the room during the presentation and any debate and would take part in any vote.

Mrs Mick Furr MBE, Hitchin Senior Citizens, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding their grant application.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Furr for her presentation.

15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - FAMILY MATTRES

Prior to consideration of the item Councillor Richard Thake declared a declarable interest as the person representing this organisation at the meeting was a long term family friend. He advised that this would not affect his ability to determine the application for grant funding and therefore he would remain in the room for the presentation and any debate and would take part in the vote.

Ms Charmaine Rogers, Family Matters, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding their grant application.

The Chairman thanked Ms Rogers for her presentation.

16 GRANT APPLICATION - HITCHIN SENIOR CITIZENS

Prior to consideration of the item Councillor Richard Thake declared a declarable interest as he was the Council's representative on Hitchin Senior Citizens. He advised that, as this was not a pecuniary interest, he would remain in the room during the presentation and any debate and would take part in any vote.

Prior to consideration of the item Councillor Alan Millard declared a declarable interest as he was a member of Hitchin Senior Citizens. He advised that, as this was not a pecuniary interest, he would remain in the room during the presentation and any debate and would take part in any vote.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That grant funding of £3,000 be awarded to Hitchin Senior Citizens from the 2016/17 Discretionary Budget as funding towards the cost of venue hire for a two year period;
- (2) That the Communities Officer be requested to signpost this organisation to their County Councillors to consider funding from their Locality Budget.

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

17 GRANT APPLICATION - ST FAITHS SMALL TALK CARERS AND TODDLER GROUP

Prior to consideration of the item Councillor Alan Millard declared a declarable interest as his grandchildren enjoyed attending St Faiths. He advised that, as this was not a pecuniary interest, he would remain in the room during the presentation and any debate and would take part in any vote.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That grant funding of 500 be awarded to St Faiths from the 2016/17 Budget as funding towards the cost of replacing old wooden furniture and the purchase of new toys for the Small Talk Carers and Toddlers Group;
- (2) That the Communities Officer be requested to signpost this organisation to their County Councillor to consider funding from their Locality Budget.

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

18 GRANT APPLICATION - FAMILY MATTERS

Prior to consideration of the item Councillor Richard Thake declared a declarable interest as the person representing this organization at the meeting was a long term family friend. He advised that this would not affect his ability to determine the application for grant funding and therefore he would remain in the room for the presentation, any debate and would take part in the vote.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That grant funding of £1.230 be awarded to Family Matters from the 2016/17 Discretionary Budget as funding towards the cost of a summer holiday programme for children aged up to 10 years for two years;
- (2) That the Communities Officer be requested to signpost this organisation to their County Councillor to consider funding from their Locality Budget.

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

19 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

No suggestions were made at this meeting, however the Chairman asked Members to email her with any topics.