

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

BALDOCK AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD IN THE BALDOCK COMMUNITY CENTRE,
SIMPSON DRIVE, BALDOCK
ON MONDAY, 3RD SEPTEMBER, 2018 AT 7.30 PM**

MINUTES

Present: *Councillors Janine Paterson (Chairman), Valentine Shanley (Vice-Chairman), Steve Jarvis, Jim McNally, Michael Muir and Michael Weeks*

In Attendance: *Ashley Hawkins (Communities Officer) and Amelia McNally (Committee and Member Services Officer)*

29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio Recording of Meeting – Start time of Item – 32 seconds

There were no apologies for absence.

30 MINUTES - 4 JUNE 2018

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 39 seconds

Members commented that, in respect of Minute 17 - Section 106 and Unilateral Undertakings, the requested information regarding Arbury and Weston and Sandon Wards had not yet been circulated to the Ward Members and asked that this be done as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 4 June 2018 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman;
- (2) That the Development and Conservation Manager be requested to circulate details of the Section 106 and Unilateral Undertakings regarding Arbury and Weston and Sandon Wards to the Ward Members as soon as possible.

31 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Audio Recording of Meeting – Start time of Item – 1 minute 46 seconds

There was no other business notified.

32 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 1 minute 55 seconds

- (1) The Chairman welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (2) The Chairman advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;

Monday, 3rd September, 2018

- (3) The Chairman drew attention to the item on the agenda's 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. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote.

33 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - BALDOCK CRUSADERS NETBALL TEAM

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 8 minutes and 49 seconds

Mr Ian Knighton, President of Baldock Crusaders Netball Team, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding their grant application.

Mr Knighton informed Members of the following:

- Baldock Crusaders Netball Team was applying for equipment for training and coaching, court hire equipment and training facilities;
- Baldock Crusaders Netball Team began in 2004 as there was very little netball provision locally. There were now 5 senior sides, a youth team (14 – 16 years) and 50 juniors (8 - 14 years) who received regular training. There were accredited trainers, not just from a safeguarding perspective but who were also qualified to teach netball. The team continued to receive applications from aged 8 upwards from Baldock and the surrounding area, not only due to the training but also from a social aspect and taking care of mental health and wellbeing.
- The youth team was growing at the fastest rate so this application was to support the training equipment and the coaching for another 14-16 year old youth team comprising 12 players.
- The cost would be just under £3,000 requesting a grant of £1,000 as there was clearly a demand for supporting facilities for ladies of all ages to play netball. The fact that the club was extremely successful was a credit to those involved.

In response to questions from Members Mr Knighton advised that:

- Letchworth ladies also used the facility as well, although the Crusaders were actually based there and the Council did offer the facility.
- Ian raised as to whether the general matter of finance regarding Saracens and Baldock Crusaders should be discussed. The chairman advised that this application would be considered later.

The Chairman thanked Mr Knighton for his presentation.

34 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - SARACENS CRICKET CLUB

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 2 minutes 34 seconds to 8 minutes 48 seconds

Mr Ian Knighton, Vice-Chairman of Saracens Cricket Club, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding their grant application.

Mr Knighton informed Members of the following:

- The Cricket Club was established in 1929;
- Quite a few new, younger players, were joining the club;
- Equipment was quite expensive and they did not want new players excluded from playing due to lack of equipment;
- The aim was to build up a stock of kit that could be used by new players;
- They also wished to introduce training sessions for the younger/newer players;

Monday, 3rd September, 2018

- It was an inclusive, mixed ability but competitive club which played in the Sunday League;
- The club was family orientated and held a lot of social activities;
- They currently had 30 members and expected growth over the next year of a further 10 members;
- 90 percent of Members lived in Baldock and the surrounding villages;
- Although the majority of members were male they currently had 3 lady members playing on a regular basis;
- The project cost was £3,175 and the requested amount of grant funding was £800.

In response to questions from Members Mr Knighton advised that:

- This was a wandering club that trained and played in around the local area;
- There were qualified trainers within the club to provide training to younger members;
- They encouraged new members through their website, the local press and other cricket networks

The Chairman thanked Mr Knighton for his presentation.

35 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - BALDOCK TOWN CRICKET

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 14 minutes and 44 seconds

Mr Gary O'Brien Secretary and Youth Coordinator for Baldock Town Cricket Club, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding their grant application.

Mr O'Brien informed Members of the following:

- The Cricket Club had been based at Avenue Park for over ten years;
- The request was very specific and for the development of youth coaching and youth participation. As a result of television revenue being taken from satellite networks cricket participation had been dwindling especially in the last 10-15 years and therefore if children could not see the sport, they did not wish to play;
- In previous years, Baldock Town Cricket Club had a youth organisation which brought through players to the senior teams however in the last 3-6 years', children had to travel to other towns despite having the facilities and nets at their own club;
- The club would like children to be active and interested in cricket and to be able to participate in sport with their parents;
- In the last two years 9 year olds had been undergoing training. They had also been in a local league in 2018, having made good progress;
- Nationwide, 15,000 children had participated in an ECB initiative called 'All Stars Cricket. 35 children over the last two summers had attended every Sunday for 8 weeks, took part in all cricket-related activities which also involved their parents. They were provided with a ball, hat, shirt with a monogram bearing their names. Parents and children were therefore able to start playing independent games. Mr O'Brien, was a Level 2 qualified coach and wanted to continue with this and the club was in need of more financial assistance;
- An additional Level 2 qualified coach and also a Level 1 qualified coach were required to assist and help expand;
- Parents had expressed an interest in participation and coaching of both boys and girls;
- Additional equipment was required as many items go missing;
- Expansion of the youth section included under 10's in 2019 and an under 9's team, so commitment of league fees through Hertfordshire Cricket and the balls, stumps, etc;
- Income was generated from parents' through subscriptions but also funded as a cricket club to assist the running of the club;

Monday, 3rd September, 2018

- Through contacts at 'Chance to Shine' and 'Cricket East' there was a cricket club representative throughout our local schools in Summer 2018 which increased the scope for participation of both boys and girls in the town;

In response to questions from Members Mr O'Brien advised that:

- Hartsfield and St Mary's both had 'Chance to Shine' cricket lessons which was something they wanted to continue independently. Richard South was a fantastic coach and had represented the club with the All Stars and the club wanted to enable him to reach out to the schools in Baldock and in the neighbouring towns as Cricket East did not have the scope to cover the schools;
- It was unknown whether they attended St John's School however this was something they wanted to do;
- There had been funding to the youth section however it was thought this was 5 years' ago. The funding acquired 2-3 years' ago was to assist with reconditioning of the showers within Edmund Park and was available for use within the Social Club. It was required by Hertfordshire League Cricket to have shower facilities on a Saturday but it was for multi-use.
- The seasonal training had closed but the club was looking ahead for next season and beyond.
- The club would be continuing All Stars cricket which was for children of 5-8 years and then those who graduated from All Stars could consider moving into playing competitive players' cricket game.

The Chairman thanked Mr O'Brien for his presentation.

36 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Audio Recording - Start time of Item – 26 minutes and 22 seconds

Prior to the item commencing, Councillor Michael Muir declare a declarable interest as he was the President of Royal British Legion.

Prior to the item commencing, Councillor Michael Weeks declared a declaable interest as he was the Treasurer of the Royal British Legion.

Janice Middleton, Secretary of the Baldock & District branch of the Royal British Legion thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding their grant application.

Janice Middleton informed Members of the following:

- That she had been in post for the last 3 years;
- The Legion started in 1921, Baldock had a branch which closed in 1960. The Legion became the Royal British Legion in 1973 and as a branch, Baldock reopened in 2006. It was quite an established branch although very small;
- There were many social events and as many members were quite elderly, it was the responsibility of the younger branch members to carry out the functions;
- For Armed Forces Day 2018 – there was a gazebo in the town and unfortunately a gust of wind just took it! It ruffled all the bars and therefore was beyond repair.
- They were applying for a gazebo and also a banner which, they had been prevented from obtaining due to lack of funds;
- The presence of a banner would hopefully raise the profile of the Royal British Legion. The majority of fundraising was generally done by the Royal British Legion through concerts, raffles, BBQ's, boot sales, parties, etc.

Monday, 3rd September, 2018

- Mr and Mrs Middleton had been the main collectors for the Poppy Appeal for the past 12 years. The money from that did not go directly to the branch; it went to a different section of the British Legion so therefore any funds directly to Baldock branch were as a result of their own fundraising.
- They wanted to use their banner on Remembrance Sunday to entice new members. New members are always being sought however, as with most of the groups in the town, they are diminishing in numbers;

In response to questions from Members Janet Middleton advised that:

- £220 was requested for the gazebo and the banner, with the hope that this would be sufficient. They have tried a couple of different gazebos however despite using the relevant bags and being tied down, the last one still blew away. The new gazebo would need to be more robust.
- They were planning to buy an ordinary gazebo and then put the banner up or tie it onto the gazebo.
- Having been advised by members that there were vents that could be opened if it was windy, Janet Middleton stated that she would seek advice from them about the gazebo type when the time came to replace this.

The Chairman thanked Janet Middleton for her presentation.

37 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NORTH HERTS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

Audio recording – Start time of Item – 32 minutes 20 seconds

Susan Gibbons, a member of the North Herts Multiple Sclerosis Society, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding their grant application for an innovative exercise bike for North Herts Physio Group.

Sue informed Members of the following:

- The bike was recommended by their physio who had 30 years' experience in neuro and physiotherapy and had been working with the group for over 25 years.
- The bike provided bilateral and symmetrical exercise which enabled mobility, strengthening and coordination for both upper and lower limbs. The stability of the design offered more support to a greater range of users including those who had limited movement or spasms.
- Motivational aspects were included within the programmes which would further enhance the benefits of users, encouraging symmetry and motivation to go further or faster.
- The company which provided the bike demonstrated its capabilities at one of the physio sessions and the members were very impressed.
- Each physio session was attended by individuals of mixed ability, including wheelchair users.
- Their physio was supported by a volunteer, retired physio and two pilates instructors (one of whom was also occupational therapy trained).
- The physio, in addition to other activities, was offered to their members.
- The Society was reliant on fundraising as it payed for literally everything. Funds were mainly sourced from donations and flag day participation throughout North Herts during the year.
- Tesco had kindly made a donation towards the bike.
- David Martin, CEO of the MS Trust would be attending a club meeting with a view to developing links with regard to training of health professionals, research, pamphlets and they had their own, informative magazine called Open Door.
- The Society had its own magazines and newsletter.

In response to questions from Members Sue advised that:

- The bike was going to be used once a week at Hadleigh and there was a high possibility that they would be able to expand the number of days and venues. Hadleigh was a central location and the costs were low. Transport would be required to move the bike between locations.
- Hadleigh was social supported living accommodation and was secured by codes. The bike was locked in a cupboard and if anyone were to attempt to take it, they would need to make a lot of noise.
- Non-MS Society members who had MS could still approach the Society with a view to being a part of the sessions.
- A grant committee provided funding for various items of equipment to help members and non-MS Society members who might not be able to get these from Adult Services. The grant team dealt with any incoming requests on merit and in order of priority. Donations could also be made towards specialised equipment.
- This service was advertised on the website.
- The number of people who would benefit from the use of the bike would vary as their needs and abilities differ. The bike could also be programmed for each individual.
- Each new person would be assessed by the physio to assess why they were seeking physio, the problems they had and a treatment plan would be decided upon. Each session would be supervised.
- Attendance varied between sessions but there were usually around 25 people. It was also used as a social event. Lunch could also be provided, at a cost of £3, for members of the Society who wished to participate after their physio session. The funds raised would go towards a lunch in August.
- The qualified staff were self-employed and payments were submitted to the Society.
- The pro-rata calculations were worked out based on the numbers from each particular area. There were 30 people from Hitchin and the Hitchin area, 29 from Letchworth, 16 from Royston and 11 from the Baldock committee in addition to volunteers from Gravelly and Weston.
- The funding of £12,720 was partly for the bike which was £4,800 and the remainder was for running costs of the bike over an 11 month period.

The Chairman thanked Sue for her presentation.

38 GRANTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

Audio Recording - Start time of Item – 53 minutes and 13 seconds

The Communities Officer presented the report entitled Grants and Community Update

RESOLVED:

- (1) That grant funding of £1000 be awarded to Baldock Crusaders Netball Team for equipment for training and coaching, court hire equipment and training facilities and this would be split as follows:

Weston and Sandon: £60 to be taken from 2018/19 base budget
Arbury: £170 (18%) from 2017/18 base budget
Baldock Town: £585 (76%) to be taken from 2017/18 base budget
Baldock East £185 (24%) to be taken from 2017/18 base budget

- (2) That grant funding of £800 be awarded to Saracens Cricket Club for equipment and training sessions. This would be split between Baldock Town and Baldock East as follows:

Baldock Town: £608 (76%)
Baldock East: £192 (24%) – 2017/18 base budget.

Monday, 3rd September, 2018

- (3) That grant funding of £750 be awarded to Baldock Cricket Club for the development of youth coaching and to encourage youth participation. This would be split between Baldock Town and Baldock East as follows:

Baldock Town: £570 (76%)
Baldock East: £180 (24%) – 2017/18 base budget

- (4) That grant funding of £220 be awarded to The Royal British Legion to purchase a more robust gazebo and a banner and this would be split between Baldock Town and Baldock East as follows:

Baldock Town: £167 (76%)
Baldock East: £53 (24%) – 2017/18 base budget.

- (5) That grant funding of £740 be awarded to North Herts MS Society for the purchase of a specialist exercise bike and the associated running costs. This would be split as follows:

Weston & Sandon: £60 to be taken from 2018/19 budget
Arbury: £122 (18%) to be taken from 2017/18 budget
Baldock Town: £424 (76%) from the 2018/19 base budget
Baldock East: £134 (24%) from the 2017/18 budget

- (6) That grant funding of £200 be awarded to purchase a new Union Flag for Baldock High Street. This would be split as follows:

Baldock Town: £152 (76%) from the 2018/19 base budget
Baldock East: £48 (24%) from the 2017/18 carry forward

REASON FOR DECISION:

To improve services provided by local organisations and groups which are accessed by the community.

39 BALDOCK COMMUNITY EVENTS

Audio Recording - Start time of Item – 1 hour, 10 minutes and 38 seconds

The Baldock Cycling Challenge - 15/07/2018

The Communities Officer advised that there was a shortage of participants three weeks' before however there were 180/190 cyclists on the day. It was well organised, well supported and incident-free. Everyone commented on how much they enjoyed it.

Rat Run – Baldock's first ever 5K run

There were 120 booked in at the time of today's meeting. The event had more obstacles including kissing gates, steps and it crossed fields with cattle. Ashley stated that he had walked the course with Sam. The Police had been advised of the necessary road closures required. The Marshall Coordinator was going to walk around the course with the Marshalls so they knew where to stand. Crowd control barriers were going to be used to direct people to the start. Organised by 'Sports Therapy for You' to celebrate 10 years of their presence in Baldock. There was going to be a singer/entertainer appearing on the day. Start time 10am from White Horse Street towards St Mary's Church and Church Street. End time 1pm. Norton Road Bridge would be open with effect from Friday.

Baldock Christmas Fair – 1st December 2018:

Work was underway with the Rotary Club and Baldock Festival to upgrade the Christmas lights. There was a proper switch-on ceremony and music.

Baldock Rotary Club thanked two organisations, The Festival and the Beer Festival contributed £3000 and £3500. The Rotary Club contributed £3000 so there was £9500 being spent to update the lights. 15 new panels were ordered. All the old panels were tested. A digital timer was discussed to replace existing timer.

The event began at 10am and finished at 6pm so it was dark when all the lights were switched on.

Baldock Fair:

The traffic management company who have supported the fair for the last 11-12 years pulled out at the last minute due to staff leaving the company. Five different organisations were contacted and Chevron were asked whether they could cover this year's event and they were chased. Chevron hold all the branded signage so they were asked to return it. A Ringway contact was suggested. Advertising was organised and everything else put into place.

Baldock Community Fireworks - 20th October 2018:

First planning meeting on Friday. Event held at Hartsfield School.

40 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

Audio recording - Start time of item 1 hour, 27 minutes, 15 seconds

Members' Reports

BALDOCK EVENTS FORUM

Councillor Jim McNally stated that Baldock did not have the advantage of a bid and was not there at the beginning when most of the money was handed out by NHDC; so the Events Forum had very little money with no support and had to start from scratch. In order to continue the Forum needed a sustainable income stream. Part of that plan was to have a 200 Club whereby people contribute £10 per month with a maximum of 200 members with the possibility of winning £400 each month. Prize money would be £800 if there were 200 members. 1st prize £400, 2nd prize £300, 3rd prize £200.

Baldock's Events Forum web page – more people needed to sign up. This was due to poor marketing and failure to capture peoples' imaginations.

The meeting closed at 9.04 pm