

# **NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **DECISION SHEET**

**Meeting of the Southern Rural Committee held in the  
Council Chamber, Council Offices. Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City  
on Thursday, 10th October, 2019 at 7.30 pm**

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Bishop and Terry Tyler.

### **2 MINUTES - 7 MARCH 2019**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 7 March 2019 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

### **3 MINUTES - 21 MAY 2019**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21 May 2019 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

### **4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business notified.

### **5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (1) The Chairman welcomed those present; particularly speakers at Public Participation;
- (2) The Chairman introduced and welcomed Matthew Hepburn, a new Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer, who would be clerking future meetings of the Committee;
- (3) In accordance with Council policy the meeting was being audio recorded. Members of the public and the press may use their devices to film/photograph, or do a sound recording of the meeting;
- (4) Members were reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and were required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda.

### **6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - OFFLEY VILLAGE HALL**

Mr Lawrence Cowley, Offley Village Hall, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding their grant application.

### **7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - WYMONDLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Mr Craig Bacon, Wymondley Baptist Church, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding their grant application.

**8 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE**

***RESOLVED:***

- (1) That Members discretionary budgets be included within the Base budget of £5,900 as outlined under item 10, Financial Implications;
- (2) That the Ward budgets for Councillor Henry and Councillor Spencer-Smith be removed from the Budget sheet for 2019/20;
- (3) That the actions taken by the Community Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for the Southern Rural Area be endorsed.

***REASONS FOR DECISIONS:***

- (1) To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Team;
- (2) To inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation by assisting in the effective financial management of the Area Committee's budget. This ensures that all actions are performed in line with the Authority's Financial Regulations, the Council's Constitution, and the guidance of the existing Grants policy as agreed by Cabinet in June 2016.

**9 GRANT APPLICATION - OFFLEY VILLAGE HALL**

***RESOLVED:*** That grant funding of £389.00 be awarded Offley Village Hall towards the cost of the purchase and transport of a Christmas Tree and provision of a children's disco.

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

**10 GRANT APPLICATION - WYMONDLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

***RESOLVED:*** That grant funding of £1,500 be awarded to Wymondley Baptist Church towards the cost of converting existing toilets so that they are accessible to wheelchair users and those with mobility issues.

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

**11 ANNUAL UPDATE ON S106 OBLIGATIONS FOR THE SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE**

***RESOLVED:***

- (1) That the content of the report entitled Annual Update on s106 obligations for the Southern Rural Committee be noted;
- (2) That the Development and Conservation Manager be requested to present a report regarding Section 106 contributions to the Southern Rural Committee on an annual basis;

- (3) That S106 Monitoring and Planning Compliance Officer be requested to investigate the criteria for funding towards community projects;
- (4) That, other than where a contribution has been negotiated for a specific purpose or project, Ward Members of the area where the Section 106 Obligation or Unilateral Undertaking funding is generated and the Area Committee be consulted prior to funding being allocated away from that area.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

- (1) To ensure that there is a robust system for negotiating and managing Section 106 Obligations and Unilateral Undertakings, that records activity for each financial year and is placed in the public domain.
- (2) To ensure that the process is kept under constant review and Member scrutiny and that the risk associated with this activity is managed in an appropriate manner.

**12 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS**

**RESOLVED:** That Polling Places, as illustrated in the Returning Officer's Proposals set out in Appendices A and C be designated.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places. The compulsory review must commence and conclude between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020 (inclusive).

**13 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS**

Members gave updates on the following Ward Matters and Outside Organisations:

- Knebworth Town Twinning Association – Councillor Lisa Nash;
- Knebworth Village Trust – Councillor Lisa Nash;
- Hertfordshire Police and Crime Plan – Councillor Sam North.

**14 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** That the following be discussed at future meeting of this Committee:

12 December 2019

- Local Plan Update.

26 March 2020

- Parish Councils to be invited to attend an informal meeting before the Southern Rural Committee commences in order to raise any concerns with District Councillors;
- The formal meeting of the Southern Rural Committee due to be held on 26 March 2020 to commence at 8.00pm.

**REASON FOR DECISIONS:** To enable the Southern Rural Committee to agree items to be included for discussion at future meetings.