

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Southern Rural Committee held as a Virtual Meeting
on Thursday, 4th March, 2021 at 7.30 pm

1 WELCOME AND REMOTE/PARTLY REMOTE MEETINGS PROTOCOL SUMMARY

The Chair welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting of the Southern Rural Committee that was being conducted with Members and Officers at various locations, communicating via audio/video and online and advised that there was the opportunity for the public and press to listen and view proceedings.

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer undertook a roll call and gave advice regarding the following:

- Attendance;
- Live Streaming;
- Noise interference;
- Rules of Debate;
- Voting.

The Chair, Councillor Claire Strong, started the meeting proper.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Faye Frost, Lisa Nash and Sam North.

Councillors Terry Tyler and Steve Deakin-Davies were absent.

3 MINUTES - JANUARY 2020 - DECEMBER 2020

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Committee held on 8 January 2020, 25 June 2020, 29 October 2020, and 10 December 2020 be approved as a true record of the proceedings;
- (2) That the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer be authorised to apply the Chair's digital signature to the minutes approved above.

4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

5 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- (4) The Chair advised that if members of the public wished to ask questions of the Hertfordshire Constabulary representative that they should be of a general region-wide nature and that specific local issues were best directed to their local Police Constable or Police Community Support Officer.

6 HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Sergeant Guy Westwood delivered a presentation on behalf of Hertfordshire Constabulary covering crime reporting statistics, the priority setting process of the Constabulary and the challenges facing the service in the Southern Rural area.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Guy Westwood for his presentation.

7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - DOWN THE WOODS CIC

Ms. Caroline Langley – Down the Woods CIC thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee in support of their grant application and gave a verbal presentation.

The Chair thanked Ms. Caroline Langley for her presentation.

8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - HOLWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Ms Anne Warner – Holwell Parish Council thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee in support of their grant application and gave a verbal presentation.

The Chair thanked Ms Anne Warner for her presentation.

9 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - OFFLEY & STOPSLEY CRICKET CLUB

Mr Mark Tattersall – Offley & Stopsley Cricket Club thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee in support of their grant application and gave a verbal presentation.

The Chair thanked Mr Mark Tattersall for his presentation.

10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - OFFLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Mr David Sample – Offley Parish Council thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee in support of their grant application and gave a verbal presentation.

The Chair thanked Mr David Sample for his presentation.

11 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

RESOLVED: That the actions taken by the Community Engagement team to promote greater community capacity and well-being for the Southern Rural area be endorsed.

REASON FOR DECISION:

- (1) To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work 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 January 2020.

12 GRANT APPLICATION - DOWN THE WOODS CIC

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £890 be awarded to Down the Woods CIC towards the cost of forest school sessions as outlined in paragraph 8.1.1 of the report entitled Grants & Community Update.

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

13 GRANT APPLICATION - HOLWELL PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £744 be awarded to Holwell Parish Council towards the cost of a replacement noticeboard as outlined in paragraph 8.1.2 of the report entitled Grants & Community Update.

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

14 GRANT APPLICATION - OFFLEY & STOPSLEY CRICKET CLUB

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £1000 be awarded to Offley & Stopsley Cricket Club towards the cost of upgrading the electrics of their cricket pavilion as outlined in paragraph 8.1.3 of the report entitled Grants & Community Update.

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

15 GRANT APPLICATION - OFFLEY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £2000 be awarded to Offley Parish Council towards the cost of purchasing playground equipment as outlined in paragraph 8.1.4 of the report entitled Grants & Community Update.

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

16 DISCUSSION TOPIC - SOUTHERN RURAL COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

The Chair led a discussion on the topic of Councillor Surgeries for the Southern Rural area, including contributions from Members and members of the public present at the meeting.

17 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

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

- Knebworth Town Twinning Association – New President – Councillor Lisa Nash
- Knebworth Village Trust – purchase of laptops for school children – Councillor Lisa Nash
- Codicote Neighbourhood Plan – Councillor Ian Moody
- Codifest – Councillor Ian Moody
- Codicote Village Day – Councillor Ian Moody
- Car Parking Charges Strategy – Councillor Claire Strong
- Planning enforcement in the Kimpton area – Councillor George Davies