

# **NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **DECISION SHEET**

**Meeting of the Letchworth Committee held as a Virtual Meeting  
on Wednesday, 14th October, 2020 at 7.30 pm**

### **1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to this virtual Letchworth Committee meeting 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 gave advice regarding the following:

- Attendance;
- Live Streaming;
- Noise interference;
- Voting.

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Helen Oliver, started the meeting proper.

### **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gary Grindal (Vice-Chair), Kate Aspinwall and Sean Prendergast.

The Vice-Chair passed on the Committee's best wishes to Councillor Gary Grindal.

### **3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business notified.

### **4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (1) The Vice-Chair welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (2) The Vice-Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded as well as filmed. The audio recordings would be available to view on Mod.gov and the film recording via the NHDC YouTube channel.
- (3) The Vice-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.

### **5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - 7TH LETCHWORTH SCOUTS**

Ms Jackie Hare, Group Scout Leader, 7<sup>th</sup> Letchworth Scouts thanked the Vice-Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee in support of the grant application.

The Vice-Chair thanked Ms Jackie Hare for her application.

**6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - THE SETTLEMENT**

Mr Nigel Carrick, The Settlement, thanked the Vice-Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee in support of their grant application.

The Vice-Chair thanked Mr Nigel Carrick for his presentation.

**7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS**

Ms Lynne Misner, Chief Executive, Small Acts of Kindness, thanked the Vice-Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation in respect of her organisation and its activities.

The Vice-Chair thanked Ms Misner for her presentation.

**8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NORTH HERTS AFRICAN CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY**

Ms Kava Johnson, North Herts African Caribbean Community thanked the Vice-Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee and provided Members with a verbal presentation in respect of her organisation and its activities.

The Vice-Chair thanked Ms Johnson for her presentation.

**9 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - LETCHWORTH SAFE CYCLING AND WALKING NETWORK**

Ms Julia Sonander, Letchworth Safe Cycling and Walking Network, thanked the Vice-Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee and provided the Members with a presentation in respect of her organisation and its activities.

The Vice-Chair thanked Ms Sonander for her presentation.

**10 LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY BID MANAGER**

Mr Chris Wilson, Letchworth Garden City BID Manager, thanked the Vice-Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding the issues and activities in Letchworth Garden City Town Centre.

The Vice-Chair thanked Mr Wilson for his presentation.

**11 LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY HERITAGE FOUNDATION - UPDATE**

Mr Stuart Sapsford, Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, thanked the Vice-Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave the Members a verbal update on the Heritage Foundation's activities over the past few months.

The Vice-Chair thanked Mr Sapsford for his presentation and looked forward to working collaboratively with the Foundation in the future.

*A comfort break was held at 21.14*

*Following the comfort break the Committee Member and Scrutiny Officer undertook a roll call.*

**12 ANNUAL UPDATE ON S106 OBLIGATIONS**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the content of the report entitled Annual Update on S106 Obligations be noted.

- (2) That it be agreed that a report continue to be presented on an annual basis to the Letchworth Committee, which sets out full records of all Section 106 activity for the preceding financial year and which reflects changes in legislation and practice.
- (3) 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. Members must note that the discretionary funds are rapidly diminishing and will not be replaced under current legislation and practice, for reasons that are set out in the report.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (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.

**13 GRANT APPLICATIONS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE**

**RESOLVED:** To endorse the actions taken by the Community Engagement Team to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Letchworth.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Team.

**14 GRANT APPLICATION - THE SETTLEMENT**

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of £2,000 be awarded to The Settlement for electronic and computer equipment to allow online access for participants.

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

**15 GRANT APPLICATION - 7TH LETCHWORTH SCOUTS**

Prior to consideration of the item Councillor Daniel Allen declared a declarable interest in that his children attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Letchworth Scout Group. He advised that he would not take part in the debate or vote.

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of £760 be awarded to 7<sup>th</sup> Letchworth Scouts to support payment of the annual census fee to the national Scouting body.

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

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

The Chair led a discussion regarding Ward Matters and Outside Organisations. The following issues were discussed:

- All Saints Church, Willian
- St Michael's Church, Broadway
- Remembrance Day Events

***RESOLVED:***

- (1) That Members be requested to inform Councillor Levett if they knew of a new home or temporary storage facility for the All Saints church organ which was due to be removed from the building;
- (2) That All Saints Church, Willian be advised to contact the Community Engagement Team to discuss funding stream opportunities.

***REASON FOR DECISION:*** To ensure that the Letchworth Committee is kept apprised of matters affecting Wards and Outside Organisations.