

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

**Meeting of the Hitchin Committee held as a Virtual Meeting
on Tuesday, 2nd March, 2021 at 7.30 pm**

1 WELCOME AND REMOTE/PARTLY REMOTE MEETINGS PROTOCOL SUMMARY

The Chair welcomed everyone to this virtual Hitchin 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 Chair, Councillor Ian Albert, started the meeting proper.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kay Tart.

3 MINUTES - 10 MARCH 2020 TO 1 DECEMBER 2020

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Hitchin Committee held on 30 June 2020, 29 September 2020, 1 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;
- (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 some of the speakers listed under Item 8 – Public Participation would be invited to address the Committee alongside the other agenda items with which they were concerned.

6 MESSAGE FROM THOMAS FESER - LORD MAYOR OF BINGEN AM RHEIN

The Committee received and viewed a video message from Thomas Feser, Lord Mayor of the City of Bingen am Rhein twinned with Hitchin.

7 HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Sergeant Alan Clarke, Hertfordshire Constabulary, presented the annual update on crime reporting and prevention in the Hitchin Committee area.

8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair invited Ms Aletheia Mashiri – Getting Rooted CIC to present to the Committee in support of their grant application.

The Chair thanked Ms Aletheia Mashiri for her presentation.

N.B The details of the decision relating to the grant application of Getting Rooted CIC are detailed at Minute 54 – Grant Application – Getting Rooted CIC.

The Chair invited Mr Allan Hooker, Mr Keith Birch and Ms Dinah Birch to present to their paper on accommodation from Hitchin Band.

The Chair thanked the representatives from Hitchin Band for their presentation.

N.B In view of later discussion regarding community space for organisations in Hitchin the debate and decision regarding this presentation has been included at Minute 55 – Ward Matters and Outside Organisations.

9 HITCHIN BID MANAGER

Mr Tom Hardy, Hitchin BID Manager, thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding the issues and activities in Hitchin Town Centre.

The Chair thanked Tom Hardy for his presentation.

10 CITIZENS ADVICE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE - PROVISION OF SERVICES IN HITCHIN

Ms Rosie Waters, CEO North Hertfordshire Citizens Advice thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a presentation regarding the future provision of services in the Hitchin area and the accommodation needs of the Citizens Advice service.

The Chair thanked Ms Rosie Waters for her presentation.

11 DISCUSSION ITEM - CHARNWOOD HOUSE

The Chair invited Councillor Keith Hoskins to provide a summary update on the Council's position with respect to Charnwood House.

Mr Bernard Eddleston, Charnwood House Management Association, thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a presentation on Charnwood Management Association's vision regarding the future of Charnwood House as an asset for community use.

The Chair thanked Mr Bernard Eddleston for his presentation.

12 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER - HITCHIN BRIDGE CLUB

The Senior Estates Surveyor presented the report entitled "Community Asset Transfer – Hitchin Bridge Club" along with the appendices.

The Chair invited Ms Margaret Eddleston, Hitchin Bridge Club, to address the Committee.

The Chair thanked Ms Margaret Eddleston for her presentation.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That Cabinet provides its decision in principle to grant a leasehold interest in land at Cadwell Lane, Hitchin to Hitchin Bridge Club as per Recommendation 2.1 in the report due to be considered by Cabinet on 16 March 2021.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: To ensure that Hitchin Committee is able to comment on the report entitled Community Asset Transfer – Hitchin Bridge Club.

13 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee endorse the actions taken by the Community Engagement team to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Hitchin.
- (2) That the report of the Policy & Community Engagement Manager be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (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 January 2020.

14 GRANT APPLICATION - GETTING ROOTED CIC

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £1070 be awarded to Getting Rooted CIC to assist with the cost of training volunteers working at the Ron's Plot project.

REASONS FOR DECISION: The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims of the Council Plan.

15 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) That consideration be given to the need for community space in Hitchin for a number of organisations, including Hitchin Band, Citizens Advice North Herts and Hitchin Bridge Club;
- (2) That Officers be encouraged to engage with these groups in order to make initial enquiries regarding need and future options that may be available.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: To promote the development of local organisations which provide benefits to the Hitchin community.

The Chair led a discussion on the proposed 2021/2022 Inflationary Tariff Increases for NHDC Off-Street Managed Car Parks.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) That the Proposed 2021/2022 Inflationary Tariff Increases for NHDC Off-Street Managed Car Parks be implemented;
- (2) That Officers be encouraged to review the balance of short, mid-term and long stay spaces in the car parking estate in Hitchin;
- (3) That Officers be encouraged to explore options for pay-on-exit or other alternative payment collection systems to facilitate ease of use and accurate charges.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: To protect and support the economic vitality of Hitchin town centre while respecting the need to meet revenue needs in the car parking estate.

16 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair requested that, should any Members have any suggestions for agenda items for future meetings, they advise himself and the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer.