

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

NOTES SHEET

Meeting of the Members of the Hitchin Committee held as a Remote Meeting
on Tuesday, 15th June, 2021 at 7.30 pm

1 WELCOME

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting of Members of the Hitchin Committee that was being conducted with Members and Officers at various locations, communicating via audio/video and online.

She undertook a roll call to ensure that all Member, Officers and members of the public could hear and be heard.

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager outlined the meeting procedure as follows:

- This was not a formal meeting of the Hitchin Committee;
- At the request of Members this virtual meeting had been called to allow for informal discussion of ward matters and to keep Members informed of local issues;
- This meeting had no decision-making power;
- The reports presented at this meeting were for Members' information only;
- Members should observe the usual guidance on the conduct of remote meetings as outlined in the previous Remote/Partly Remote Meetings protocol;
- Members should note that the normal requirements to declare interests remained in place for this meeting.

2 TO ELECT AN INDIVIDUAL TO CHAIR THE VIRTUAL MEETING

AGREED: That Councillor Ian Albert be elected as Chair for this meeting of the Members of the Hitchin Committee.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kay Tart.

4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

The Chair advised that Councillor Simon Harwood would be talking about King George V Playing Fields under Wards Matters (Note 9 refers).

5 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair of the meeting thanked former Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb, who had not been re-elected at the election held on 6 May 2021, for his work for the Committee and for the District.
- (2) The Chair of the meeting welcomed Councillor Nigel Mason, who had been elected at the election held on 6 May 2021.
- (3) The Chair of the meeting reminded Members that declarations of interest should be made in the usual manner.

6 PRESENTATION BY HITCHIN YOUTH TRUST

Helen Owen, Hitchin Youth Trust, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the meeting and gave a presentation regarding the work of the Hitchin Mental Health Recovery Team.

The Chair thanked Helen Owen for her presentation.

7 PRESENTATION BY HITCHIN FESTIVAL

Councillor Keith Hoskins declared a pecuniary interest in that he was a Director of the Hitchin Festival. Having sought advice from the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager, he advised that he would take no part in any debate and vote and would turn off his camera.

Councillor Judi Billing declared a declarable interest in that she was a committee member of the Hitchin Festival. Having sought advice from the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager, she advised that, as she took no part in the financial decisions relating to the Festival, she would take part in any debate.

Councillors Sam Collins and Ian Albert advised that they had donated to the Hitchin Festival Just Giving page.

Glynn Doggett, Hitchin Festival, thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the meeting and gave a presentation regarding the planning of the 2021 Hitchin Festival.

The Chair thanked Glynn Doggett for his presentation.

8 HITCHIN BID MANAGER

Mr Tom Hardy, Hitchin BID Manager, was unable to attend the meeting.

9 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

Councillor Keith Hoskins declared a pecuniary interest in that he was a Director of the Hitchin Festival. Having sought advice from the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager, he advised that he would take no part in any debate and vote and would turn off his camera.

Councillor Judi Billing declared a declarable interest in that she was a committee member of the Hitchin Festival. Having sought advice from the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager, she advised that, as she took no part in the financial decisions relating to the Festival, she would take part in any debate.

Councillors Sam Collins and Ian Albert advised that they had donated to the Hitchin Festival Just Giving page.

AGREED:

- (1) That the Members of the Hitchin Committee supports the award of £2,185 in grant funding to Hitchin Festival to assist with creating a week-long series of events in the Dell Open Air Theatre at Woodside;
- (2) That the Executive Member for Community Engagement be requested to consider and support the grant funding application, as detailed in (1) above.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: 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.

10 DISCUSSION ITEM - ARTS & CULTURE IN HITCHIN

The Chair of the meeting led a discussion on Arts and Culture in Hitchin.

11 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

The following ward matters were discussed:

- Community Space at King George V Playing Field – Councillor Simon Harwood;
- Pedestrianisation of Hitchin Town Centre – Councillor Ian Albert;
- Hitchin Allotment Association – Councillor Ian Albert.

12 TO DISCUSS ANY POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

AGREED: That Fair Trade be discussed at the next meeting of the Hitchin Committee.