

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Southern Rural Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices
on Thursday, 21st October, 2021 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2 MINUTES - 24 JUNE 2021

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 24 June 2021 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair, with the following addendum:

At Minute 60: "The grant awarded previously by this Committee to Offley & Stopsley Cricket Club was for £2000, meaning that if a like award were to be made the amount should be increased by £500 only."

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 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 attendees that the Council was running a public consultation on its electoral cycle and drew attention to the details available on the Council website.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Committee received presentations from the following public participants & groups:

- Offley Allotment Association
- Wymondley Parish Council

The Chair thanked the public for their presentations.

6 GRANT APPLICATIONS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

The Community Engagement Team Leader presented the report entitled Grant and Community Update along with Appendices A and B.

It was:

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RESOLVED: That the Committee endorse the actions of the Community Engagement Team to promote greater community capacity and wellbeing in the Southern Rural area.

a) GRANT APPLICATION: OFFLEY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED: That the Committee **DEFER** consideration of this application to until the next meeting.

REASON FOR DEFERRAL: To allow officers and the applicant to further explore financial options beside grant funding to support the project.

b) GRANT APPLICATION: WYMONDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That grant funding of **£1925** be awarded to Wymondley Parish Council towards the purchase and installation of a Tier 1 defibrillator.

7 FLY-TIPPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME IN THE SOUTHERN RURAL AREA

The Community Protection Manager and Community Safety Team Leader gave a presentation on fly tipping and environmental crime in the Southern Rural area.

8 INFORMATION NOTE: HITCHIN RURAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD REPORT

The Committee received the information note of the Hertfordshire Constabulary entitled Hitchin Rural Safer Neighbourhood Report.

9 SECTION 106 ANNUAL UPDATE 2020/21

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee note the content of the report.
- (2) That the Committee agree that a report shall continue to be presented on an annual basis to the Area 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 this report.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (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.

10 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

Councillor Lisa Nash provided an update to the Committee on Knebworth Festival and the Knebworth Town Twinning Association.

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Councillor Claire Strong provided an update to the Committee on an event with the 'Within the Walls,' project from Down the Woods CIC.