

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Hitchin Committee held in the Christchurch, Bedford Road, Hitchin, SG5 1HF  
on Tuesday, 28th June, 2022 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Judi Billing, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg and Kay Tart.

Councillor Chris Lucas was absent.

### 2 MINUTES - 1 MARCH 2022, 26 MAY 2022

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Committee held on 1 March 2022 and 26 May 2022 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

### 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 Members attending their first Hitchin Committee meeting and the members of the public 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.

### 5 HITCHIN BID MANAGER

The Chair advised that the Hitchin BID Manager, Tom Hardy, was unavailable for this meeting. Councillor Keith Hoskins provided a brief update.

### 6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair advised that Anni Sander from Plastic Free Hitchin was unable to attend this meeting and would be invited to a future meeting.

The Chair invited Lisa King, Treasurer at Hitchin Fun Club, to give a verbal presentation for Members in support of their grant application.

### 7 GRANT APPLICATION - HITCHIN FUN CLUB

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee allocated £1,100 to Hitchin Fun Club towards funding to help cover the cost of their annual Holiday Clubs as outlined in 8.1.2 of the officer's report.

### 8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**Tuesday, 28th June, 2022**

The Chair invited Adam Howard from Back2Schoolival CIC to give a verbal presentation for Members in support of their grant application.

**9 GRANT APPLICATION - BACK2SCHOOLIVAL CIC**

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee allocate £1,035 to Back2Schoolival CIC towards a project that will support the creation of volunteering/work experiences for local students in the North Hertfordshire area as outlined in paragraph 8.1.1 of the officer's report.

**10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair invited Paul Chambers, co-founder of PoetsIN charity, to give a verbal presentation for Members in support of their grant application.

**11 GRANT APPLICATION - POETSIN**

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee allocate £1,000 to The Creative Mental Health Charity PoetsIN towards delivering ten of their One Hour Wellbeing Workshops to Hitchin-based schools as outlined in 8.1.3 of the officer's report.

**12 INFORMATION NOTE - AIR QUALITY IN HITCHIN**

The Chair led a discussion with Members on Air Quality in Hitchin.

**13 CHARNWOOD HOUSE UPDATE**

The Chair provided Members with an update on the work being done at Charnwood House and led a discussion regarding this.

**14 TOWN TWINNING**

The Chair provided Members with an update on the work being done regarding a potential new Twinned Town for Hitchin.

**15 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE**

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee be recommended to endorse the actions taken by the Community Engagement team to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Hitchin.

**REASONS FOR DECISION:**

- (1) To ensure the Members are kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Team.
- (2) This report is intended to inform Members of the financial resources available. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation by assisting in the effective financial management of budgets. 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.
- (3) 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.

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

The following items were discussed in relation to Ward Matters and Outside Organisations:

- Plastic Free Hitchin
- The Dell

**17 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Chair notified Members that the following items would be included on the next agenda; Car Parking Charges review and a public presentation from Plastic Free Hitchin.

The Chair also raised the possibility of a discussion at the next meeting regarding the future of Hitchin Town Talks, given the decline in attendance at these at recent meetings.