

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Southern Rural Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices,
Gernon Road, Letchworth
on Thursday, 30th June, 2022 at 7.30 pm

1 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Members, Officers and members of the public to the meeting.

The Chair advised Members of an error to the published agenda, which had incorrectly included Hitchin Area Committee minutes from the meeting on 26 May 2022. The correct Southern Rural Area Committee minutes had been published as a supplementary document.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received by Councillors Ian Moody and Lisa Nash.

Councillor Terry Tyler was absent.

3 MINUTES - 3 MARCH 2022, 26 MAY 2022

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 3 March 2022 and 26 May 2022 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

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. The Chair welcomed Cllr Ralph Muncer to his first area committee meeting following his election in May.

(2) 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.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair invited Ann Warner and Parish Councillor Yvonne Hart from Holwell Parish Council, to give a verbal presentation for Members in support of their grant application.

7 GRANT APPLICATION - HOLWELL PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That the Committee allocate £1,211 to Holwell Parish Council towards chairs, tables, cooker, and fridge/freezer as outlined in paragraph 8.1.1 of the officer's report.

8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair invited Clare Gooden, as group co-ordinator for the River Hiz Conservation Group, to give a verbal presentation for Members in support of their grant application.

9 GRANT APPLICATION - RIVER HIZ CONSERVATION GROUP

RESOLVED: That the Committee allocate £569 to River Hiz Conservation Group towards conservation work of Ickleford's Chalk Stream as outlined in paragraph 8.1.2 of the officer's report.

10 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

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

REASON FOR DECISION:

- (1) To ensure the Members are kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Team
- (2) This report 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 the 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.

11 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

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

- Potential closure of Kimpton Surgery
- New proposals to build solar parks
- Rand's Educational Foundation

RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL: To discuss the closure of Kimpton GP surgery and the issue of accessibility of healthcare services for residents in rural wards.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: To act as a forum for discussion on matters of local interest and to make arrangements for the provision of information about local services and other matters to people in the area