

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE (COUNCIL CHARITIES)

**MEETING HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2 - DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, GERNON
ROAD, LETCHWORTH, SG6 3JF
ON TUESDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2026 AT 4.30 PM**

MINUTES

Present: *Councillors: Sean Nolan (Chair), Val Bryant and Mick Debenham.*

In Attendance: *Ian Couper (Director - Resources), Robert Filby (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer) and James Lovegrove (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager).*

Also Present: *At the commencement of the meeting there were no members of the public.*

1 ELECTION OF A CHAIR

Audio recording – 0 minutes 38 seconds

Councillor Mick Debenham proposed and Councillor Val Bryant seconded and, it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Sean Nolan be elected as Chair for this meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee (Council Charities).

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio recording – 01 minutes 07 seconds

There were no apologies for absence received.

3 MINUTES - 19 NOVEMBER 2025

Audio Recording – 01 minutes 10 seconds

Councillor Sean Nolan, as Chair, proposed and Councillor Val Bryant seconded and, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19 November 2025 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Proper Officer on behalf of the Council as per Section 13.4.1 of the Constitution.

4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Audio recording – 02 minutes 19 seconds

There was no other business notified.

5 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – 02 minutes 22 seconds

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be recorded.
- (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.
- (3) The Chair advised that for the purposes of clarification clause 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution did not apply to this meeting.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio recording – 03 minutes 11 seconds

There was no public participation.

7 RESPONSE TO PLANNING APPLICATION FOR HITCHIN TOWN HALL GYMNASIUM AND WORKMAN'S HALL TRUST

Audio recording – 03 minutes 13 seconds

The Director Resources presented the report entitled 'Response to Planning Application for Hitchin Town Hall and Workman's Hall Trust' and advised that:

- The Sub-Committee were acting as the Trustee for the Hitchin Town Hall Gymnasium and Workman's Hall Trust.
- There was a degree of alignment between the property owned by the Trust and Hitchin Town Hall and North Herts Museum as seen in Appendix A to the report.
- The works to the building were part of the project to decarbonise Council buildings and the Council had notified the Trust of the planning application submitted.
- This report had been brought to the Sub-Committee to notify it formally of the planning application, to seek views on whether the proposed works aligned with the purpose of the Trust as detailed in paragraph 8 of the report, and to provide comments to the Council in its capacity as both the Planning Authority and the Project Executive.
- There may be a need to form a legal agreement between the Trust and the Council for the works, and this would be entered into through delegated powers as per paragraph 5.11.4 of the Constitution.

Councillor Mick Debenham proposed the recommendations in the report, and this was seconded by Councillor Val Bryant.

The following Members took part in the debate:

- Councillor Sean Nolan
- Councillor Mick Debenham

The following points were made as part of the debate:

- This was the right thing to do for the future given what had been done already on decarbonisation, and it would also help to preserve the buildings.
- The removal and upgrade of old plant would be a positive.

Having been proposed and seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Sub-Committee:

- (1) Commented on the planning proposal for the decarbonisation works at Hitchin Town Hall and Museum (as they shared a footprint with the Trust property of the Gymnasium and Workman's Hall Trust) and determined whether to make any representations on that planning proposal.
- (2) Considered whether to make any representation to the Council on the proposed works being undertaken and the impact on the Hitchin Town Hall Gymnasium and Workman's Hall Trust property.
- (3) Noted that an agreement (between the Council and the Trust) may be required for the decarbonisation works to take place. This would be entered in to in accordance with the delegated powers set out in the table in paragraph 5.11.4 of the Constitution.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: The planning proposal covers the Trust property of the Gymnasium and Workman's Hall Trust. The Council has therefore provided a notice to the Trust that they have made a planning application. It is therefore appropriate that the Trustees, via the Cabinet Sub-Committee, can comment on the planning application.

The meeting closed at 4.40 pm

Chair