

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD IN THE ROOM 11, ROYSTON TOWN HALL, MELBOURN STREET,
ROYSTON ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2018 AT 7.30 PM**

MINUTES

Present: *Councillor Tony Hunter (Chairman), Councillor Bill Davidson (Vice-Chairman), Ruth Brown, Sarah Dingley, Jean Green and Gerald Morris*

In Attendance: *Ashley Hawkins (Communities Officer) and Amelia McNally (Committee and Member Services Officer)*

MINUTES: TRANSCRIBED BY TEMPORARY COMMITTEE CLERK

17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio Recording of Meeting – Start time of Item – 35 seconds

No apologies for absence were received from Councillors.

18 MINUTES - 13 JUNE 2018

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 42 seconds

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 13th June 2018 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

19 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 1 minute 12 seconds

There was no other business notified.

20 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 1 minute and 16 seconds

- (1) The Chairman welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (2) The Chairman advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (3) The Chairman 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.

21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 2 minutes 2 seconds

ROYSTON CRICKET CLUB

David May, Chairman and Nigel, Committee Member from Royston Cricket Club thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding their application.

Mr May informed members of the following:

- Very active club with 150 members - adults, juniors and 5-8 year olds – ECB All Stars Programme;
- Sunday side supported by Therfield and Kelsall Sports Club;
- The Club was trying to grow participation and active sport within cricket and provided sport for those who wanted to participate.
- Team growth was needed and for this to happen; investment in facilities was required to fulfil league ground requirements and to enable segregation and participation with the seniors so they could move up;
- Layered plan to develop facilities at Therfield for improved training facilities and club house;

In response to questions from Members, David May advised that:

- There were three streams of funding – memberships, match fees and year book in which local businesses advertise;
- Funding covered roller, engine repair and capital pot was being developed to enable work to be done;
- 5-8 years - non-competitive; 8-15 years – 50 players; 13-15 year olds could play adult cricket and 15+ played senior/adult cricket;

The Chairman thanked David May for his presentation.

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 7 minutes 55 seconds

NORTH HERTS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

Susan Gibbons, a member of the North Herts Multiple Sclerosis Society, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding their grant application.

- Funding was required for an innovative bike which provided bilateral and symmetrical exercise which enabled mobility, strengthening and coordination for both upper and lower limbs. The stability of the design offered more support to a greater range of users including those who had limited movement or spasms;
- Motivational aspects were included within the programmes which would further enhance the benefits of users, encouraging symmetry and motivation to go further or faster;
- Each physio session was attended by individuals of mixed ability, including wheelchair users;

Wednesday, 12th September, 2018

- New people were all assessed by their well-established physio with the support of a volunteer, retired physio and two pilates instructors (one of whom was also occupational therapy trained);
- Members were also offered other activities;
- 60th Anniversary in 2018. Outings and Christmas lunch all paid for by Society;
- Funds were mainly sourced from donations and flag day participation throughout North Herts during the year;
- Tesco had kindly made a donation towards the bike;
- Lunch was available for £3/head if wanted to those members after physio;

In response to questions from Members Sue advised that:

- 16 members were from the Royston area; 11 from the Baldock area, 29 were from Letchworth area and 30 from Hitchin;
- Initiatives were going ahead which were involved with Parkinson's disease;
- Balance would be provided by the Society;
- Funds had been requested from other committees;
- Exercises were varied for each member on a weekly basis;
- Sessions held in Hadleigh;

The Chairman thanked Sue for her presentation.

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 20 minutes and 2 seconds

TLG MAKE LUNCH

Councillor Ruth Brown declared an interest as she was a member of the Church that ran the project.

Councillor Bill Davidson declared an interest as his wife was on the management committee.

The Chairman was thanked for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding their grant application.

- Make Lunch had now merged with TLG, a national charity which helped to reduce childhood poverty in the UK by feeding hungry children;
- Aim was to have a lunch kitchen in every town/city wherever the need was required;
- Raised awareness of child poverty and influenced change on national level;
- Funding was required for first aid training as one first aider required for each session;
- Grass roots were in Royston, started in 2015 and now 100 across UK and 30 children attended each session;
- Children who were entitled to free school meals (24.9%) could be referred through schools and families who were struggling financially could be invited;
- 350 children in Royston were entitled to free school meals (4% - 29.8%);
- Outgrew kitchen in town Hall and the Oak Room and the Ball Room at the Old Bull offered to cook at cost;
- Children played with crafts and games, aided by volunteers and parents relaxed;
- There was a sponsored Christmas party, hampers were delivered to families and children had holidays with Falcon Holidays;
- Funding from various local, independent and national sources;
- Budget for 2018 was £7,000;
- Were looking for their own building to enable expansion;

In response to questions from Members, including Councillor Morris were advised that:

- The service ran two days' per week during the school holidays only;
- First aiders needed to be retrained and they wanted more than one member of staff with the necessary training;

The Chairman thanked TLG Make Lunch for their presentation.

22 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 31 minutes and 0 seconds

County Councillor Hill reported some updates:

- A lot of drainage work was in progress with some work resolved and more work was required;
- There were issues on both sides of A10 with leaves only swept in certain areas. This matter had been chased, particularly on the left side going out of Royston. Councillor Hill would chase;
- Drainage programme was 18 months;
- John Street – there was a parking issue on the corner. Due to traffic regulations and the High Street being in a conservation area, yellow lines were not possible however enforcement by NHDC would be taken to resolve this;
- Resurfacing work for 5 nights on A1198/A505 roundabout. Noisy work had been happening on occasion late at night due to weather however they tried to avoid this;
- Work near railway station was due;
- Speed indicator devices were working well. Query over siting at Barkway Road, petition carried out and surveys were being done. Could not be located near trees and this was where most of the damage to vehicles had been done.

Councillor Ruth Brown commented that residents had contacted her about:

- Trucks going along Baldock Road and Baldock Street. She had spoken to Steve Jarvis who advised that they were discussing a weight restriction on the Buntingford/Baldock A507 and were awaiting this before making a decision about Royston; but planned to do this in conjunction with it. This was sitting on the Highways Locality Budget Scheme to have a weight limit. If not resolved, this would cause an impact on the surrounding areas. Lorries could still go through weight restricted area as long as they were conducting their business.

Councillor Morris advised that:

- Anstey Quarry had been closed by the Environment Agency on the 12th September 2018.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Hill for the update.

23 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 41 minutes and 8 seconds

Communities Officer - Ashley Hawkins

7.3. It was confirmed that £8,100 was left for the current financial year for the next few meetings and included £1,000 which came from the Members' Allowances budget which had been returned. If the minimum was requested tonight we would need a total of £5,235 to allocate for the last two meetings.

In terms of issues in the pipeline, there was an issue which would be brought up in the November meeting, Royston Coral Society - £750. There are also other things in the pipeline which would leave £3,735 for the last two meetings.

McSplash from Melbourn were unable to attend.

- Swimming sessions for aged 8+ to adults on a Friday evening;
- 78 members, 46 come from Royston;
- Were seeking support of £338 for swimming gala in November. Unable to take place in 2017 due to lack of funding;
- They would need to apply for grants/funding or rely on donations as South Cambs did not have funds like NHDC;
- It benefited residents of Royston despite coming under South Cambs.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Regarding alternative options there were none proposed other than those detailed in the report.

GRANT APPLICATION: ROYSTON CRICKET CLUB

RESOLVED:

Funding of £1,500 was agreed to help purchase a set of crick sight screens.

REASON FOR DECISION: To help to improve the playing and practice experience for all involved.

GRANT APPLICATION: NORTH HERTS MS SOCIETY

RESOLVED:

Funding of £740 was agreed to help purchase a highly specialist exercise bicycle.

REASON FOR DECISION: To aid members' health and wellbeing enabling them to stay stronger for as long as possible when living with MS.

GRANT APPLICATION: MAKE LUNCH

RESOLVED:

Funding of £450 was agreed to assist with the costs for First Aid Training for the two leaders (£150 each) and 10 volunteers (£50 each).

REASON FOR DECISION: Funding has been requested to ensure that the leaders and volunteers at Make Lunch receive the necessary First Aid training so that they can deal effectively with any first aid incidents at Make Lunch events.

GRANT APPLICATION: McSPLASH SWIMMING CENTRE

RESOLVED:

Funding of £240 was agreed to assist with swimming gala costs.

REASON FOR DECISION: To be used to pay for the hire of additional life guards, facility hire during the gala and for publicity costs.

24 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 56 minutes 56 seconds

PATHWAY AT THE END OF GREEN DRIFT

Councillor Brown had been advised by Councillor Jarvis that once it had been adopted, he would put some of his high priority county budget towards the light. The Communities Officer advised that the delay of 18 months was due to funding of legal fees and this had been costed out and paid for.

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Councillor Brown advised that the visit would coincide with the Arts Festival at the end of September with 47 Germans, 9 Spanish and 1 French. Big band and finale concert on Saturday night.

Thank you to Councillor Dingley for offering to set aside tickets for musicians not involved in the finale concert.

There was an event on Saturday 29th September which had been changed from the Friday. Civic Reception at The Old Bull Inn to which Councillors, County and Town Councils were invited. The Mayor would be invited to speak.

Councillor Brown had taken Councillor Hunter up on the suggestion and met with Simon Ellis to educate herself about how Section 106 worked. Since then numerous meetings had been held with officers and had been able to secure an allocation of £129,000 towards the hockey pitch and also £55,000 from the sustained transport for the A505 cycle bridge.

The Chairman advised that on 26th September 2018 officers would be invited to an informative on Section 106 as each one was different. The invite would be sent to all Committee members and Town Council and County Councillors.

Wednesday, 12th September, 2018

Councillor Brown advised that Councillor Dingley had stated that Section 106 should be something that was discussed regularly at the Royston and District Committee meeting. All individuals, organisations and Councillors could put forward suggestions to the community team and that was why the Chairman wanted an informative so the process worked.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm