

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD IN THE ROOM 11, ROYSTON TOWN HALL, MELBOURN STREET,
ROYSTON ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2018 AT 7.30 PM**

MINUTES

Present: *Councillors 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 McInally (Committee and Member Services Officer)*

MINUTES: **Transcribed by Temporary Committee Clerk**

25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 18 seconds

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Ben Lewis

26 MINUTES - 12 SEPTEMBER 2018

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 30 seconds

RESOLVED:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 September 2018 were not available and would therefore be approved at the next meeting.

27 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 2 minutes and 42 seconds

There was no other business notified.

28 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 2 minutes and 48 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.

29 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - ROYSTON HISTORICAL PAGEANT

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 3 minutes and 38 seconds

ROYSTON HISTORICAL PAGEANT:

Councillor Ruth Brown declared that her husband was a treasurer.

Councillor Sarah Dingley, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding their grant application.

Councillor Dingley informed Members of the following:

- Royston had a rich heritage including the cave, the medieval market town layout; linked to James I and had not done enough to broadcast the features;
- Several people volunteered to join the Committee and Heads of local schools had been approached to take part and Scouts and Guides had been invited to contribute;
- The event would be held on the Heath with various events from the age;
- Children would learn something of their heritage and it would draw people to the town;
- As an established date in the calendar, it would put Royston on the map;
- Items, reminiscent of the day, would be sold to raise funds for future events

In response to questions from Members, Councillor Dingley responded as follows:

- Interest had been expressed from various people and Councillor Dingley had lots of experience having worked for Creative Royston which had given an idea as to how to engage the community in this type of event;
- Date of event was 7th July 2019;
- Toilets and marketing had not been included in the £2,650 which was why it had climbed to £4,000;
- Despite its popularity, jousting had been ruled out due to cost. It would also have drawn more people and hence cars which would all have to be accommodated;
- There were camping restrictions on the Heath therefore all those taking part would have to attend on the day;
- As it was the first event of its kind for Royston and to accommodate as many people as possible, the timetable of events was still undergoing change;
- Licensing would be required;

The Chairman thanked Councillor Dingley for her presentation.

30 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - ROYSTON BOWLS CLUB

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 10 minutes and 22 seconds

ROYSTON BOWLS CLUB:

Steven Kilford from Royston Bowls Club thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding their grant application.

- Royston Bowls Club had been established since 1927;

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- Funds were required to purchase a de-thatcher machine. This would reduce the thicker grass otherwise known as thatch on the green which in turn produced weeds and the need for the use of herbicides and pesticides for maintenance. The de-thatcher would compact the green, make it flatter and an improved surface on which bowls could be played;
- Wide range of ages played, including teenagers;
- Royston Bowls Club were beneficiaries of a large legacy and the stipulation was that they had to become a registered charity with the money being used to build a brand new clubhouse with any remainder only being set aside for any improvements and associated bills;
- The club wanted to be able to cover its costs with the money coming in throughout the year which was difficult when it was only operational from May to September with no income for the remaining seven months. To cover the costs of the clubhouse, losses were made every year with a loss of £22,000 over the last nine years;
- 1000 people used the club over the five months however there was a limit of 48 people being able to use the club at any one time;

In response to questions from Members including Councillors Brown and Morris, Mr Kilford advised that:

- The clubhouse was not rented out but members could use the facility free of charge. They were trying to gain new sponsorship by use of advertising boards around the green and were already sponsored by a couple of companies;
- The hall had been hired out but not as a rule to the general public. They were not licenced to hold music events due to the risk of damage to the green and to keep the peace in the residential area;
- The facilities were going to be used in 2019;
- Green was currently maintained by a scarifier, motivators and mowers. The use of a de-thatcher would reduce the need for addition of topsoil which would add to the costs as well as increasing the height of the green;
- A profit had been made since 1927 following the sale of land at the site of the Jehovah's Witnesses' church which had been used to cover the losses year on year;
- The current account held about £9,000;
- There were 132 members of which 96 were playing members and the remainder were social members. The Club was always looking to increase its numbers however bowls had been portrayed as an 'old people's sport however in recent years the game was now consumed by young players and catered for both social and competitive games;
- Tesco had provided £1,000 for their Bags of Help and representatives from the club would be in the store for two months from 1st February 2019;

The Chairman thanked Mr Kilford for his presentation.

31 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - ROYSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 28 minutes and 2 seconds

ROYSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Carole Kaszak from Royston Choral Society thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding their grant application.

Councillor Brown declared an interest.

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- Royston Choral Society had been established since 1973 and was committed to performing at least four pieces annually;
- Involved Royston and the surrounding villages;
- The Choir was going to perform JS Bach's "St John Passion" in German at Easter which was quite challenging for an amateur choir and involved a small orchestra and soloists the cost of which, including hospitality, was estimated at £5,000;
- Funds were to be raised through membership, website, posters, ticket and bar sales and advertising within programmes, with an estimated income of around £2,000 with a projected deficit of over £3,000;
- The club made a loss of £500 last year;
- They would like to expand their reputation to involve more younger people;

In response to questions from Members including Councillors Morris, Carol Kaszak advised that:

- Concert numbers varied depending on the event but there were usually around 200 and the costs were the same for each performance;
- Local children who studied music for GCSE and A' level might be invited to perform the specific pieces of music that they were studying but this was due to be discussed at the Society's next meeting;

The Chairman thanked Carol Kaszak for her presentation.

32 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 37 minutes and 7 seconds

County Councillor Fiona Hill advised that:

- Highways Liaison Meeting attended by various Councillors and Officers from around the district;
- Highways Together project where County Council and Councillors worked with Town and Parish Councils on various projects and a date for meeting was being discussed;
- Winter programme had already begun and included community salt and the County Council had taken up that offer;
- There were questions from the 'A10 Safer Crossing Group' who wanted an update. They had received a commitment from the executive member of the current works by Hertfordshire County Council and he was organising a meeting between Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Officers and Members to try to progress things;
- Hertfordshire's feasibility study to maintain a bridge had been agreed in principle and that was for the benefit of all non-vehicular users;
- North Herts Council had pledged a Section 106; Town Council and businesses had pledged funds. Grants from PCC had been applied for and work had been done to apply for the Hertfordshire let funding;
- Speed indicated devices were up all over the town and had been successful. Surveys had been carried out on Barkway Road. There was a little funding remaining on the Highway's Locality Budget so it was likely that further sockets would be up there.

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- Had worked with Councillor Dingley to try to identify and educate people on speeding;
- There had been an application at Town Council level to the PCC fund for more speed indicated devices and were awaiting decision.

Councillor Steve Jarvis advised that:

- The work for next year was starting to be set out however had not yet been committed both in terms of highways locality budgets and in terms of the county wide repair budgets. A decision was expected once the PCC application decision was known;
- The safety issue which concerned the sign being knocked down and which pointed towards the bypass at the Macdonald's roundabout; had been delayed until next year. It had been agreed that LED halos could be fitted at the crossing and the work was thought to be due this financial year.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors for their updates.

33 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 43 minutes and 12 seconds

GRANT APPLICATION: ROYSTON HISTORICAL PAGEANT

RESOLVED: Funding of £500 was agreed.

REASON FOR DECISION: To assist with costs for putting on a large historical event for the town in 2019.

GRANT APPLICATION: ROYSTON BOWLS CLUB

RESOLVED: Funding of £1,000 was agreed.

REASON FOR DECISION: To purchase a machine to de-thatch the green, to help reduce disease and improve the playing surface.

GRANT APPLICATION: ROYSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

RESOLVED: Funding of £750 was agreed.

REASON FOR DECISION: To assist with publicity, event and equipment hire costs for their performance of St John Passion at Royston Parish Church on 6th April 2019

THE PATHWAY AT THE END OF GREEN DRIFT:

To progress the order, the legal fees had been paid. No further progress had been reported. There was no end in sight at the moment. It was being chased with little response.

COOMBES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION:

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There had been some anti-social behaviour at the Kings Community Centre and they were working in conjunction with the Police and Community Safety to address this issue.

ROYSTON CHRISTMAS MARKET

Was due to be held for the first time on Saturday 1st December 2018 in Fish Hill Square which had been organised for Councillor ***** (58:30).

ROYSTON FIRST BID

The consultation period had begun and if agreed the new BID would start on 1st April 2019.

SECTION 106

Nothing had been received from Councillor Perry regarding bicycle racks but this would be chased by Councillor McNally. A lot of work had been done as to where they would go but it was unknown as to whether or not the costings had been done and this would need to be clarified by Highways.

Councillor Dingley thanked the Community Officer for all his hard work during the Winter Fair as it was a major job.

34 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

Audio Recording – Start time of Item – 1 hour 2 minutes and 5 seconds

There was a Planning Application for 5 Green Drift which was initially refused and then another Planning Application was made. The committee refused it and Councillor Brown was pleased to report that the Applicant had arranged to meet with some of the residents who had objected, to find out their concerns and try and come up with a new Planning Application that everyone would be happy with.

The launch of the Drive Safe Scheme was currently going through the bureaucracy and it was hoped that it would be launched shortly. Police provided equipment to check speeding.

People from Germany and France were visiting next year and Town Twinning were also hoping to entice some Spanish to join them for the Royston Festival. Another school exchange had been arranged between Meridian and Villanueva de la Canada. £294 had been raised from the Rotary Swimathon for which had had been received half of that.