

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD IN THE ROOM 11, ROYSTON TOWN HALL, MELBOURN STREET,
ROYSTON ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH MARCH, 2019 AT 7.30 PM**

MINUTES

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

In Attendance: *Ashley Hawkins (Communities Officer) and Lauren Fair (Temporary Committee and Member Services Officer)*

35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None notified.

36 MINUTES - 12 SEPTEMBER 2019

Audio Recording – Start Time of Item – 20 Seconds

The Committee and Member Services Officer advised that the Minutes for 12 September 2018 had been tabled.

However, to enable time for Members to read these Minutes, they would be formally agreed at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 September 2019 that were distributed to Members be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman at the next Royston & District Committee Meeting.

37 MINUTES - 28 NOVEMBER 2019

The Committee and Member Services Officer advised that the Minutes for 28 November 2018 had been tabled.

However, to enable time for Members to read these Minutes, they would be formally agreed at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 28 November 2018 that were distributed to Members be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman at the next Royston & District Committee Meeting.

38 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

39 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio Recording – Start Time of Item – 1 Minute 51 Seconds.

(1) The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the members of the public and those making presentations to the committee;

- (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.

40 PUBLIC PARTICIPATON

Audio Recording – Start Time of Item – 2 Minutes 52 Seconds.

ROYSTON HOSPITAL SITE.

Magaret Allen (Royston Community Health CIC) thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal update on the progression of the Royston Hospital Site as follows:

- The aim is to create a Health Hub, consisting of Physios, clinics, GP's and a care home.
- They also aim to introduce Social Prescribing Projects, including but not confined to digging, bird watching and running along the long strip of land that accompanies the plot.
- The current NHS situation is that the Social Transformation Programme are attempting to form a ten-year plan to re-invest in care in the community to keep people well and also to allow for people to leave hospitals earlier. They cannot work until this GP Network is formed, for which the Deadline is May.

The following Members asked questions and took part in the discussion:

- Councillor Ruth Brown
- Councillor Sarah Dingley
- Councillor Gerald Morris
- Councillor Bill Davidson

In response to the questions raised Mrs Allen advanced:

- That she has not campaigned against the property on Newmarket Road, and she discussed the needs for a diverse range of care homes that this could perhaps fulfil.
- The land is currently owned by the NHS and the major contributors to the business model are still yet to be confirmed.
- That this does not necessarily mean an increase in the number of GP's, but it does mean that GPs in Royston have the opportunity to move to the building to take advantage of the extra help and technology.
- Doctors will have the opportunity to operate out of the hospital, and to run specific clinics from inside the hub.
- The future of the existing surgeries in Royston are still uncertain.

Audio Recording – Start Time of Item – 27 Minutes 57 Seconds

ROYSTON UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Jackie Gellert thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee and gave a verbal presentation regarding the grant funding application for Royston University of the Third Age as follows:

- The application was for grant funding to enable them to purchase electrical equipment in order to assist with their monthly meetings which are growing.

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The following Members asked questions and took part in the discussion:

- Councillor Gerald Morris
- Councillor Tony Hunter

In response to the questions raised Mrs Allen advanced:

- That the money pooled is for upcoming trips so is not technically available. The membership fee currently pays for the town hall and the guest speakers.
- The members are all from the local area.

41 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Audio Recording – Start Time of Item – 36 Minutes 40 Seconds.

The Chairman lead the discussion regarding current and proposed highways schemes, as follows:

- With regards to Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), they have been successful in securing one for London Road but not for Barkway Road. This funding will include repair and maintenance over the next five years.
- Garden Walk has seen the instillation of 20mph flashing signs, and further investigatory work needs to be done for the introduction of a SID. They are also actively hiring an employee to assist with the crossing at the school.
- The crossing at Melbourne Street has now had its safety assessment.

The following Members asked questions and took part in the discussion:

- Councillor Ruth Brown
- Councillor Sarah Dingley
- Councillor Tony Hunter
- Councillor Jean Green
- Councillor Gerald Morris

42 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

Audio Recording – Start Time of Item – 51 Minutes 44 Seconds

The Communities Officer presented the report entitled Grants and Community Update and drew attention to the following:

BUDGETS

Members considered the Area Committee Budget.

That with regards to the pathway at the end of Green Drift, there are no current plans to adopt the pathway, but once it has been adopted as a right of way then plans can progress.

The Coombes Community Association are looking to create an outdoor area to alleviate the issue of anti-social behaviour.

Ref 8.2.7: projects include: not a complete list. This has been cherry picked (TH). Confirmed.

The following Members asked questions and took part in the discussion:

- Councillor Ruth Brown
- Councillor Terry Hunter

In response to the questions raised the Communities Officer advised:

- That a full list will be compiled with regards to item 8.2.7 of the agenda.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the actions taken by the Community Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Royston be noted;
- (2) That any unspent funds from the 2018/19 financial year be allocated to Community and Environmental Initiatives.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Officer;
- (2) To inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee.

43 GRANT APPLICATION - ROYSTON UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Councillor Jean Green had previously declared a disclosable interest in that she is a member of the Royston University of the Third Age. She advised that she would abstain from voting.

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £850 be awarded to Royston University of the Third Age to help towards the costs of providing electrical equipment to aid in their monthly meetings;

REASON FOR DECISION: The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims of the Corporate Plan.

44 GRANT APPLICATION - BANNER FOR PROMOTION OF COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

The committee agreed unanimously grant funding of £100

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £100 be awarded to purchase a banner to better publicise councillor surgeries.

REASON FOR DECISION: The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims of the Corporate Plan.

45 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

Audio Recording – Start Time of Item – 1 hour, 6 Minutes and 18 Seconds

CONCERN OVER FACEBOOK POST

Councillor Morris shared a concern over a Facebook post regarding a car following children in Fairfield and has asked members to be vigilant.

BLACK SQUIRREL CREDIT UNION

Councillor Dingley advised that the new credit union will meet every Monday morning 10AM-11:30AM in the Evangelical Church.

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR 5 GREEN DRIFT

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Councillor Brown advised that following the rejection of the planning application for 5 Green Drift, the applicant has since met with locals to coordinate a more sustainable application moving forwards.

TOWN TWINNING POSTER

Councillor Green presented the poster regarding town twinning in North Hertfordshire.

Councillor Brown advised that the town twinning committee are still looking for hosts for French families in May.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING TEAM

Councillor Hunter advised that they have been successful in getting £50,000 of funding into health and wellbeing team. They work to promote physical activity, promotional wellbeing and supporting the elderly.

A toddlers cycling programme is coming soon and they will be including adults.

Fit fed and read programme for 8-11-year-old children who receive free school meals will be taking place in the summer holidays, working with the Hertfordshire sports partnership.

MIND are currently coordinating gardening projects with Tesco's, supported by NHDC.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Chairman