

Concerns were expressed regarding the distribution of leaflets pertaining to lead in pipes of older social housing properties in Houghton Regis. It was suggested that a means of confirming that checks and any resulting remedial works were completed on former social housing properties. It was requested that the Community Engagement Manager look into this.

796 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr S Goodchild declared a non-pecuniary interest in the HRN2 community building.

797 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2018.

Matters arising:

Members requested updates on the following:

- If a response had been received from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding parking issues in Parkside Drive.
- If a response had been received from Highways regarding parking restrictions on the layby in Bedford Square.
- Members were advised that there was no update to date on the Woodside Link Consent Order 19.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2018 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

798 COMMUNITY FOOTBALL PROVISION

Mr. Neil Fearn was in attendance and presented to members aspirations for the development of a community football provision in Houghton Regis and explained how this would help clubs overcome some of the issues they currently face.

Members were advised that there were 15 teams active within Houghton Athletic and some of their needs were not being met as facilities were inadequate, there were:

- no separate toilets for spectators to use
- no parking facilities
- nowhere to hold events
- no clubhouse to interact and socialise after a game
- adult pitch was too close to the junior pitch, and presented an injury risk to the younger players
- the grass needs clearing of dog foul before each game
- nets needed to be erected at each game
- motor bikes ride across the pitch

Members were advised that some of the funding may be obtained from the F.A. and some would be raised by the club, Houghton Regis Town Council would not be expected to fund the entire project.

Members were advised that Councillor Delgano was to attend a meeting. The Town Clerk was to send out confirmation details to councillors.

Members requested a copy of the HIF bid submitted and were advised that a summarised version was awaited and would be sent when received. It was requested that the Town Clerk contact Central Bedfordshire Council to chase the document up.

799 HOUGHTON REGIS CENTRAL

Mr. Keaveney, Assistant Director Housing Services, CBC was in attendance and updated members of the Houghton Regis Central project. Members were advised that an informal stakeholder group had been formed made up of members and officers, a digital survey for the naming of the building had been made available to residents and had in excess of 3,000 registrations. The Assistant Director of Housing Services reported that a substantial amount of expressions of interest had been received for the commercial retail offer.

Members requested that the shops in Bedford Square were kept updated as the project progressed.

Assurances were sought regarding parking during the works it was advised that the contractor would be made aware of the concerns and would be encouraged to offer workers a park and ride service to avoid parking congestion in the Town Centre.

Cllr Hegley stressed the importance of communication as this was a long term project and wished to retain the momentum of communication. Members requested that billboards be updated with the predicated start date rather than 'coming soon'.

Mr Keaveney assured members that Central Bedfordshire Council remained committed to protecting the Red House.

Mr. Keveney advised members that he would like to attend a future meeting, a suggested meeting was April.

Members thanked Cllr Hegley and Mr Keveney for their attendance. They left the meeting at this point.

800 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE TOWN PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Members of the Town Partnership Committee were invited to provide a verbal report on matters of relevance to Houghton Regis arising in particular from the Committee/s on which they serve.

Cllr Swain had been unable to attend the DMC meeting, however Cllr Swain updated members from the minutes;

Corporate Resources and Scrutiny Committee had recommended a taskforce be created to consider future funding for infrastructure organisations.

The mid-term finance plan had been accepted, housing being built by the council was to be supported and were looking to support volunteer organisations.

Cllr Goodchild had attended the Corporate Parenting Meeting, and advised members that their Terms of Reference had been altered. Their structure for meetings had changed, they were now meeting during the half term break. Central Bedfordshire Council have done a fantastic job with looked after children, and the intention was to approach Central Bedfordshire Council for council tax exemption to the age of 25 for care leavers.

Members were advised that interest free aid was available for foster homes that needed adaptation to accommodate siblings.

Cllr Kane advised members that HRN1 would be opening a centre near Sundon Road, which would showcase HRN1 developments.

A Central Bedfordshire Council briefing had been held for HRN2 members were advised a map had been produced for HRN2.

It was suggested that HRN2 visit and meet with Town Council, and were to be invited in.

Cllr McMahon advised members of updates from the Environment & Leisure Committee.

- Parkside Pavilion had been refurbished
- skate park lighting was in place and being used
- Graffiti project for the skate park seating was underway
- graffiti removal project was ongoing.

In addition, as chair of Events Working Group members were advised of the success of Pride of Houghton, concerns were raised that the event was growing in popularity it may outgrow the Memorial Hall. The following events were advised; fireworks, Celebration of Christmas and Remembrance day with the Drumhead Memorial. The poppy display had been completed and looked spectacular and the raffle to light the beacon was to be drawn on 8th November 2018 with all proceeds given to Royal British Legion.

801 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Members received the updated Partnership Committee's workplan.

Members requested the update report on NEET, ASB and Town Centre and Estate Parking be deferred.

Concerns were raised that Houghton Academy had not offered a 6th Form provision, as students faced difficulties in travelling to Barnfield using public transport.

Members requested that s106 monies update report be provided in more detail in January, as some monies were time sensitive. Members were directed to the Central Bedfordshire Council website for further information on s106 secured funds. The s106 report would be received by each Town Council committee meeting before April.

It was suggested that the meeting in January focus on Town Centre and Estate Parking and NEET.

802 CBC UPDATE REPORT

Members received the CBC update report for consideration.

Members were disappointed that data in the report showed Houghton Regis Medical Centre attained 127.9% of their target for the health check, whereby Wheatfield Surgery reached only 60.3% of target.

Members expressed concern and disappointment that when the CCTV room was visited, two of the three monitors for the redeployable cameras were out of action, and after two visits to date, only one camera had been seen in operation. It was subsequently discovered one camera was faulty and needed repair. It was requested that the Community Engagement Officer look into this and feed back to the Town Clerk.

Concerns were raised that the street lamps along Park Road North by the Chequers were always out. Members were advised that this stretch of lighting was not on the new reporting map on Central Bedfordshire Council website. It was requested that the Community Engagement Officer looked into this matter.

Members acknowledged the increased use of the leisure centre and hoped that this would continue after the opening of the refurbished centre in Dunstable.

Members discussed street sign cleaning and who was responsible. It was suggested that Houghton Regis Town Council clean the signs and were reimbursed by Central Bedfordshire Council. Members were advised that this would only be a possibility if there was funding available which would then be redirected.

Members received an update on the Houghton Hall Park Café and were advised that the operator had withdrawn. This would be discussed further at the board meeting scheduled for 13th November.

Members raised concerns over gully cleaning, which had been noted on the report as completed. It was advised that several gullies remained blocked and needed further attention.

Resolved: To note the report.

803 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATE

Members were advised that the Chair and a town councillor along with the Clerk attended a joint review meeting of the Partnership Committee's Terms of Reference. Feedback from this meeting was currently being considered and a further report back to the Partnership Committees would be made in due course.

Members were advised that consideration was being given to improving the joint committee. To date the Chair was a Central Bedfordshire Councillor and the Vice-Chair was a Houghton Regis Town Councillor, consideration was being given to alternating this year on year.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Dated this 29th day of January 2019

Chairman

DRAFT