

WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Youth and Community Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 19th February 2024
at 7 pm in Russell House, Market Square, Westerham

Present: Councillors: Mrs D Coen (DC) – Chairman
Mr E Boyle (EB)
Mr K Thompson (KT)

Town Clerk: Mrs A Howells (AH)
Cllr N Proudfoot
Cllr N Robson
One member of the public

| Item | | Action |
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| 1. | <u>Apologies for Absence</u> Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hussain. | |
| 2. | <u>Declarations of Interest not previously declared</u> None. | |
| 3. | <u>Minutes of the Meeting on 13th November 2023</u> The minutes of the meeting on 13 th November 2023 were approved at the Council meeting on 4 th December. | |
| 4. | <u>Information items arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda</u> 4 The Clerk to chase PC Wilson regarding an article on responsible dog handling in the My Community Voice. 4 Volunteers Meeting – The Clerk to investigate having meeting in March. 4 Community Dementia Training - The Clerk to try and combine the dates. 6 Emergency Plan – Cllr Coen had submitted a piece to the CH Newsletter, but no-one had come forward. The Clerk had chased the Tabletop exercise and was awaiting a response. 8.5 Drill Hall – The Clerk reported that the Drill Hall had been sold but no further details were known. 8.9 Hedgehogs R Us campaign – Cllr Coen had forwarded the free Kent Wildlife Trust Help a Hedgehog scheme link to CH School Head Teacher. | AH AH AH |
| 5. 5(1) | <u>Community Engagement Projects</u> <u>Crockham Hill – Coffee, cake and chat</u> Cllr Coen reported that the January session numbers had been slightly | |

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| 5(2) | <p>down on numbers, 15 had attended largely due to illness and operations. The session was still lively and Cllr Coen had given out the 4-year Strategy cards which attendees completed.</p> <p><u>Crockham Hill Primary School, Valance School and Churchill Primary School</u></p> <p>Cllr Coen reported regarding the Hedgehog link for CH School – see Item 4. A meeting would be set up with the Head Teacher of Churchill School. The Clerk reported that the new Hospice Community store had opened and Valance School pupils would be attending to integrate with the community. The Clerk to find out the best time for Cllrs to visit.</p> | AH |
| 6. 6(1) | <p><u>Youth Projects</u></p> <p><u>Anti-Social behaviour</u></p> <p>Two Cllrs and a resident had attended the meeting to discuss ASB following the resident's communication about possible drug dealing at CH Playing Field. The Clerk had spoken to the Police who had informed her that there had been no police reports regarding CH Field in the last six months. Other actions Y&C Committee had taken were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with the SDC Community Safety Unit (CSU) • A mail shot about reporting ASB had been sent to all households • Kept SDC Cllrs Edler and Maskell informed • Put an article in TN16 and CH Newsletter regarding reporting crime and ASB • Widened and renamed the CH Community WhatsApp group from volunteer to community issues • Used that group to reiterate ways of reporting crime and ASB and repeated the benefits of signing up to My Community voice <p>Cllr Coen also reported that on 5th February 2024 three houses had had sheds/outbuildings broken into and mowers and power tools stolen. The thefts were reported to the Police who attended along with forensics. The residents were happy with the police response and had confidence in the system.</p> <p>The Police and CSU could only act if crimes were reported. Discussion ensued with the attendees, and it was agreed they would forward any other ideas about how to encourage reporting to the Police. WTC would also continue to emphasize to the community the importance of reporting crime as a first step to providing hard data to the Police.</p> | AH |
| 6(2) | <p><u>WKHA Fitness session</u></p> <p>A report had been received from WKHA setting out the recent programme and attendance numbers. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would request the detailed programme for the next term.</p> | AH |
| 6(3) | <p><u>Youth Club</u></p> <p>A report had been received from the Youth Provider and although numbers were not large it was hoped that numbers would grow as the days lengthened. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would find out: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which School the attendees were at? • What food had been purchased? • When would food at sessions commence? • Could an A frame point the way from the entrance to the Church? | AH |

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| 6(4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could more posters be put up? • Could a banner be purchased? The Hospice shop had agreed to display the banner. • Could the poster be re-sent to the Primary School? <p>It was agreed that Cllrs Coen and Thompson would visit the Youth Club on 5th March, the Clerk to advise the Youth Provider.</p> <p><u>Skatepark lessons</u> A request had been received from APFOS regarding funding for skatepark lessons at Easter and the summer holidays. Following discussion, it was agreed that Y&C would fund the lessons using £1,000 from the grant and £600 from the Play Provision budget. The Committee would like to see girls only sessions. Dates to be confirmed.</p> | AH DC/KT AH |
| 7. 7(1) 7(2) 7(3) 7(4) 7(5) 7(6) | <p><u>Community Issues</u></p> <p><u>Community Warden</u> Following the KCC Community Warden consultation, KCC had agreed that in future there would be a minimum service level across the county with more warden presence in areas of highest need. The service would continue with six teams, covering two districts each. There would be a minimum of three wardens per team plus a team leader who also provided a uniformed presence and worked operationally. Wardens would need to work more flexibly, responding outside of these areas when the need arises. Westerham would not have a dedicated warden.</p> <p><u>Police</u> The following information had been received: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular updates from My Community Voice • Police updates • Reports from the local Police Officer <p><u>IAG (Independent Advisory Group)</u> Cllr Coen had attended the first meeting of the new IAG on 25th January. The IAG were a group of community volunteers who work with Kent Police to improve policing services across the county acting as critical friends. The Chief Inspector had reported that Sevenoaks was a safe area with low crime numbers. The CI had stressed the importance of reporting crimes. The CI reported that she had no control over the number of officers allocated to an area but she could control what they did. The current focus was on domestic violence and violence against women and girls.</p> <p><u>Rural Market Towns</u> Cllr Coen had attended a virtual seminar on 29th November on Rural Health and Care. It had focused on attracting and retaining health care providers into rural settings, not particularly relevant to Westerham.</p> <p><u>Chamber of Commerce - Westerham</u> The Clerk had attended the meeting on 14th February at the Hospice Community Shop.</p> <p><u>Christmas Lights</u> Cllr Boyle reported that excellent feedback had been received regarding the lights. Following discussion, it was agreed to contribute £100 to Ruach and £40 to 21 The Green towards the cost of electricity for the Christmas lights from their respective shops.</p> | |

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| 7(7) | <p><u>Citizens Advice funding</u> Cllr Coen reported that following the news that SDC were proposing to cut funding to CA due to their budget shortfall, a letter had been sent from WTC to SDC Cllrs Esler and Maskell stating the considerable financial value of the positive outcomes from CA involvement. The number of residents attending Westerham CA had greatly increased in the last six months demonstrating it was an essential service. Letters had also been sent from the Foodbank.</p> | |
| 7(8) | <p><u>Westerham Foodbank AGM</u> Cllr Coen and the Clerk had attended the Foodbank AGM on 2nd February. This had included a tour of the stock in the sheds and discussion with trustees.</p> | |
| 7(9) | <p><u>Telephone box – High Street</u> The Clerk reported she had received a further quote for refurbishing the telephone box in the High Street which housed the defibrillator. The quote was £750, which was considerably lower than the previous quote. Following discussion, it was agreed to accept the quote using the remainder of the contingency budget and surplus from the summer Play scheme budget.</p> | AH |
| 8. | <p><u>Financial Statement to 15th February 2024</u> The Financial Statement to 15th February had been circulated. It was noted that currently 83% of the budget had been spent.</p> | |
| 9. | <p><u>KALC Winter Support Scheme</u> Cllr Coen reported that following consultation with Cllrs an application had been made on behalf of the Westerham Foodbank for £1,500. The outcome was awaited. Thanks were given to Cllr Coen for completing and submitting the application.</p> | |
| 10. | <p><u>ECO Action Plan</u> The Y&C ECO Action Plan had been circulated and was reviewed. Cllr Coen reported that data had been received from CH School regarding the number of birds they had noted during the summer from the bird boxes donated by Y&C. Cllrs to send ideas for new items to the Clerk.</p> | All Cllrs |
| 11. | <p><u>Family Fun sessions – February Half Term</u> Cllr Coen reported that she had visited the session and there were 59 young people in attendance and there was a good vibe. There was a bouncy castle, crafts and circus skills. Feedback had also been received that the session had been well received by those attending making this a very worthwhile project. WTC would provide drinks for the young people at the next session.</p> | |
| 12. | <p><u>Reports from Councillors</u> Cllr Coen had attended the Art Exhibition at CH Primary School celebrating “Our Differences”, in which every child had participated.</p> | |
| 13. | <p><u>TN16, Crockham Hill Newsletter and website</u> Kent Libraries and Home Library Service</p> | |

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| 14. | <u>Matters for District and County Councillors</u> None. | |
| 15. | <u>Further Matters for Consideration at the next meeting</u> None. | |
| 16. | <u>Date of next meeting</u> Monday 15 th April 2024 | |

The meeting was concluded at 8.55 pm

Minutes confirmed as a correct record:

Chairman