

**HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Leisure & Community Services Committee was held at Huntingdon Town Hall on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Present: Councillors A Blackwell; K Brockett; D Cole; S Gifford; M Kadewere; P Kadewere; P Kennington; B Luckham; A McAdam; S McAdam; A Norton; T Sanderson (Chairman); P Pearce; and K Webb.

53. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors M Baker and J Cole.

54. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

55. **PUBLIC ADDRESS**

There was none.

56. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the Leisure and Community Services Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (M4) had been circulated to Members before the meeting, the draft having received informal approval by the Chairman.

With no comments or questions, it was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes which were duly signed by the Chairman.

57. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUB COMMITTEES**

Members had before them the minutes of the Media Sub Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 (M6) and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (M7).

With no comments or questions, it was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to receive, approve and adopt the recommendations contained within the minutes.

58. **HUNTINGDON IN BLOOM**

Members had before them a report from the Assistant Town Clerk on Huntingdon in Bloom. Members noted that the opportunity to represent Anglia In Bloom at the national Britain In Bloom awards for 2023 was a huge achievement for Huntingdon, and commended the team for the work that had gone into the project. Members also commented that it was good to see so many different groups from different areas of the town involved.

With no further comments or questions, the report was noted with thanks.

59. **CONEYGEAR CENTRE MANAGER UPDATE**

Members had before them a report from the Coneygear Centre Manager regarding recent activities at both the centre and Coneygear Park.

Members noted that the Centre intended to go cashless from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, and pointed out that some people may not have the ability to make card payments, and it was important not to exclude them from accessing the services at the centre. It was explained that the move was intended to reduce the amount of cash needing to be counted and banked by staff. As stated in the report, cash would still be accepted when needed.

Members were reminded that the Easter Garden Day event would be taking place the next day at the park.

With no further comments or questions, the report was noted with thanks.

60. **HEAD GROUNDSMAN UPDATE**

The Head Groundsman had issued his apologies for the meeting and the Town Clerk gave the following updates on his behalf:

- The Estates Team had started emptying bins and litter picking over the weekends to prevent a build up of litter.
- The spring bedding had all been planted around the town.
- The summer planting was being prepared at the new greenhouses.
- Grass cutting at the cemeteries and crematorium was ongoing.
- Delivery of the new electric van scheduled for April 2023 had been delayed until mid-May. Due to the delay, the van had been upgraded to a newer model at no extra cost.
- The wet pour floor at the Pond Close play area had been damaged and pulled up again and would require repairs.

With no comments or questions, the updates were noted with thanks.

61. **BID MANAGER UPDATE**

The BID Manager was unable to attend the meeting, and had submitted a written report which was read by the Town Clerk:

- Funding applications for the Town Centre speaker system and outdoor event equipment projects had been submitted.
- Capital funding from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) and HDC had been approved for a Visitors Centre in the Commemoration Hall. The Centre would promote shops and services in the town, and sell 'Discover Huntingdon' merchandise. Work was due to start imminently once the listed building consent was granted to widen the internal doorway for accessibility. It was requested that discussions take place between BID and HTC to discuss potential ongoing funding for the Visitors Centre.
- BID had reached out to the new owners of St Benedict's Court to discuss potential opportunities from the Shop Front Renovation Scheme through CPCA.

- Funding had been secured from the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) to offer free community screenings of the King's Coronation, Coronation Concert, and Eurovision final at the Commemoration Hall. Members were informed that this was not to be promoted publicly until both CPCA and BID had officially announced it.
- Other upcoming events included the Vegan Market on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and Pirate Day on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

With no further comments or questions, the updates were noted with thanks.

## 62. **PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS**

The Chairman explained that as the public consultations for the Sallowbush Road dog walking area and Bevan Close and Maryland Avenue play areas had only recently ended, it had not been possible to produce full written reports for this meeting. The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the results of the consultations, and it was noted that a full report would be presented at a later date.

i – Sallowbush Road dog walking area – the majority of responses were in favour of the existing area being retained solely for dog walking to enable the separation of large/small or anxious dogs. There were requests to provide additional dog waste bins. The outcome of the public consultation would be formally presented to HDC before the new fence was installed.

ii – Bevan Close and Maryland Avenue play areas – most response were in favour of retaining the play areas and installing new equipment. Additional benches and bins were also requested, as well as 'no dogs allowed' signage.

iii – Members had before them a draft consultation letter for the Stukeley Meadows trim trail replacement plans. Members felt it was beneficial to have a realistic idea to present to residents when discussing what to do in the area. It was questioned if the consultation letter would be delivered to the whole estate, and it was felt that it should be, as the area was used by people from all around the estate, not just the surrounding streets.

A Member noted that he had been asked by a member of the public if residents would still be asked what they would like to see done with the area, not just what they thought of the proposal to install outdoor gym equipment. It was explained that the gym equipment was being presented as a potential idea, but that the consultation form also asked if there was anything else residents would like to see in the area.

With no further comments, it was then proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to approve the draft consultation letter for the Stukeley Meadows trim trail replacement plans.

## 63. **CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 20MPH APPLICATION**

Members had previously been asked to consider areas in the town to nominate for the CCC 20mph application. The Bird Estate in Hartford, and Stukeley Meadows estate had been highlighted as potential locations.

A Member questioned who would police the 20mph limit. It was noted that feedback from Members conversations with residents suggested there was not much support for 20mph zones, except around schools. It was questioned if it would be possible to enforce 20mph limits only during school hours, and it was noted that was not possible as part of this scheme.

Members discussed the ongoing speeding around Stukeley Meadows, particularly Lake Way, Wertheim Way, Provence Road and Salon Way. It was noted many people used the estate as a cut through to skip traffic on the B1044. Some felt that a 20mph limit would not prevent speeding if drivers were already ignoring the 30mph limit.

While Members agreed that the 20mph zones would not prevent all speeding, it was noted it would be beneficial to at least slow down some of the traffic.

A Member suggested nominating American Lane as a 20mph zone instead of the proposed Local Highway Improvements (LHI) bid. If the 20mph was feasible, this would save money from the LHI budget.

It was then proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to nominate the Stukeley Meadows estate, the Bird estate in Hartford, and American Lane for the CCC 20mph application.

*1 Member voted against*

*1 Member abstained*

#### 64. **LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS (LHI) BIDS**

Members had before them a report on the LHI bids for American Lane and Coneygear Road. Members raised concerns about the proposals for American Lane. It was felt that the road was too busy for a give-way feature. It was also noted that the give-way feature was intended to also act as a pedestrian crossing point, but the proposed location was not at the point in the road where most pedestrians currently crossed.

Concerns were also raised about the installation of speed cushions, and the impact they would have on the residents in the area who would have to use them most often. It was pointed out that driving over speed bumps could cause pain and discomfort for some people with disabilities or injuries.

Members were advised that the cost of installing the speed cushions was £32,782. It was noted that normally the Town Council would contribute 10% of the cost of LHI bids, but as CCC's maximum contribution was £25,000, HTC would be expected to contribute more.

Members felt that further clarification was needed on the costs of the proposals, and the contribution required from HTC.

A Member advised that some of the improvements may be able to be made as part of the Surface Dressing Scheme and suggested that Officers contact CCC to investigate.

With no further comments, the report was noted with thanks.

#### 65. **FUSION**

Members were informed that the meeting between HTC and Fusion planned for the previous week had needed to be rescheduled, so a full report could not be given at this time.

Members briefly discussed items to be considered when drawing up heads of terms, including what responsibilities the Town Council would take on, and what would happen if Fusion were unable to afford to maintain the building.

A Member questioned when public consultation on the project would begin. It was explained that there would be the opportunity to comment during the planning application process. HTC would run an additional public consultation when more details on the project were known. It was noted that public consultation was a condition of the Council's resolution to proceed with the project.

With no further comments, the update was noted with thanks.

68. **DATE & AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as to be confirmed.