

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 14th JUNE 2022 IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT: Cllrs. T Lewin (Chairman), Hopkins, Josephson, Pritchitt, and Waters

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Davies, R Lewin

NOT PRESENT: Cllr Moore

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, District Cllr Patterson-Vanegas as a member of the public, and two other members of the public

69/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

- Kate Christie said she felt there was much underlying enthusiasm in the community for the expansion of community services. What had happened to the Car Club?
Cllr Lewin replied that the car club had been a victim of the pandemic when its operation became uneconomic: he hoped it could be re-instated, possibly with electric vehicles.
- The question was also asked whether the befriending scheme was still going as it was a vital service. Cllr Lewin replied that it was still operating, but there had been (and still were) problems with staffing.
- Patricia Patterson-Vanegas wished to alert the Council to the opening of the new community shop.

70/22 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Davies (unwell), and R Lewin (prior commitment).

71/22 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
None			

72/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15th FEBRUARY 2022

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th February 2022 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. T Lewin seconded by Cllr Waters

AGREED

There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting.

73/22 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

None

74/22 COMMITTEE CHAIRMANS COMMENTS

- The number of Ukrainian guests in Forest Row had now levelled out at about 100. Remaining donations (to which Council had contributed) would be distributed among them.
- The 'Speedwatch' & '20's plenty' campaigns (which Council had supported) were gaining traction in the village, and it was hoped to raise the issue again with the County Council.
- As Chairman of Community Services, Cllr Lewin felt Council had lost its initiative with providing for the community and was 'neglecting its mission'. This was due significantly to the fact that the role of Community Service Officer had not been re-instated, with the loss of valuable momentum and networking. He felt Council needed to recommit to service provision and he would be pressing for the CSO post to be revived.
There was some following discussion of the point by Committee, but no votes were proposed.

75/22 FINANCIAL REPORT

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

76/22 FOREST ROW MARKET / VOLUNTARY MEDICAL CAR SERVICE / HEARING AID SERVICE /EV CHARGING UNIT

A report from Sue Young had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

77/22 GAGES COMMUNITY LUNCHESES / THURSDAY CLUB

A report from Sandra Aylen covering these areas had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

78/22 YOUTH SERVICE

The comprehensive report prepared by Mel Mesher for the Annual Parish Meeting had been previously circulated and was NOTED. Cllr Lewin noted that it contained useful facts and figures about staff training, the numbers of youth attending, and the current/ planned programme of activities.

79/22 TO CONSIDER NEXT STEPS WITH THE 'SHED' PROJECT

Cllr Lewin said this was a good example of a project that had been initiated but was currently stalled. There was a vigorous discussion of the purpose of the project and how it might be taken forward. It would provide a meeting point, and potentially practical outlet for older men (and women) who had skills to share and re-invest in the community. It could also act as a social hub, and promote good mental health. It could 'start small' but would probably build by its own momentum.

Cllr Lewin proposed that the project be formally rejuvenated, with an outline specification drawn up, in part to see what would be acceptable to the Planning Department, and what resources would be needed. (Cllrs Hopkins & Waters to take this forward). Seconded by Cllr Josephson and AGREED.

80/22 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

81/22 ITEMS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THIS COMMITTEE OR FULL COUNCIL

- Research to be undertaken as to the feasibility of restarting the car club.
- Further work to be done on the proposed 'carbon audit'.
- Possible transfer of energy contracts (including potential penalty costs)
- Clerk to consider the budget implications of reinstating a Community Services Officer.

The meeting closed at 8:33 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman