

WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Youth and Community Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 23rd September 2024
at 7 pm in Russell House, Market Square, Westerham

Present: Councillors: Mrs D Coen (DC) – Chairman
Mr M Bortolozzo (MB)
Ms C Dicker (CD)
Mr A Hussain (AJH)
Mr K Thompson (KT)

Town Clerk: Mrs A Howells (AH)

Item		Action
1.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> None.	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest not previously declared</u> None.	
3.	<u>Minutes of the Meeting on 24th June 2024</u> The minutes of the meeting on 24 th June 2024 were approved at the Council meeting on 8 th July.	
4.	<u>Information items arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda</u> 4 Responsible dog handling - As no further complaints had been received, it was agreed to close this action. 4 Community Dementia Training – Dates in October had been sent, as these were not suitable it was agreed to ask for dates in early November. 7(6) Homeshare – This had been publicized on social media and leaflets distributed at elderly groups. 7(7) – Samaritans and Foodbank – The Clerk had connected both parties.	AH
5. 5(1)	<u>Community Engagement Projects</u> <u>Crockham Hill – Coffee, cake and chat</u> Cllr Coen reported that following the summer break there had been 22 attendees at the September Café and there was ongoing support for the Café to continue. The Committee agreed this was a worthwhile project and should continue as long as volunteers from WI continued to support. This was an excellent example of partnership working.	
5(2)	<u>Crockham Hill School, Valance School and Churchill School</u> Cllr Coen had attended Crockham Hill School to judge the entries for the Create a Garden competition. There were two joint winners combining	

	autumn and spring planting that fulfilled the brief of using sustainable, hardy and all year-round planting. The Gardner had been approached and the winners would be involved with the planting. The contingency budget to be used to fund the plants and gardeners time. Valance School – Cllr Bortolozzo had been visiting the Valance Shop and the young people would be attending in term time. Cllrs Bortolozzo and Coen to visit in November to chat to the young people. Churchill Primary School – Cllr Coen and the Clerk had a meeting with the Head Teacher on 24th September.	DC/MB
6. 6(1)(2)	<u>Youth Projects</u> <u>Fitness session & Youth Club</u> These items were taken together. On 23rd August Cllr Coen had a productive zoom call with the Youth Contractor following concern about their lack of response to emails and no feedback from the summer term attendees of the Youth Club. The Youth Contractor had stated that the location of a Church Hall may have contributed to the lack of attendance. A survey had been sent to Churchill School at the end of the summer term regarding the future of the Youth Club but no responses had been received. Cllr Coen suggested exploring other activities with a proven track record. Following lengthy discussion it was agreed 1. To cancel the Youth Club in its current form and 2. WTC to investigate boxing as an alternative activity run by the local gym, possibly in partnership with the Youth Contractor. Cllr Coen had met the gym owner earlier and a note of the meeting had been circulated setting out various options. Cllr Coen to discuss with both parties. The Committee agreed that Y&C's focus for youth provision would be 'demand led'.	DC
6(3)	Discussion was also held about running as Arts/Crafts class following a comment from a parent at the Skateboard lessons about the lack of creative arts for young children. Cllr Dicker to investigate. <u>Skatepark lessons</u> The Committee had funded four skateboard lessons in August which had been very well received and there had been a waiting list. Following the agreement at the last meeting to run further after school sessions it had been agreed with Samsara Sports to run 2 sessions weekly on a Thursday after school starting on 19th September for 6 weeks. One session at 4pm for 7 – 12 year olds and one session at 5pm for 12+. The total cost was £1,290 for booking, promotion, all communication with the public, equipment and coaching. This was being funded from the Youth Grant.	CD
6(4)	Cllr Coen attended the sessions on 19th September and there were 10 young people at the first session with a waiting list and two signed up for 12+ session. Cllr Coen spoke to the parents/carers about the sessions , how attendees had heard about them and other future youth provision. The skateboarding sessions were very much appreciated by the community. <u>To consider a project with WADS Youth Theatre Group</u> Cllr Boyle to have a meeting with WADS to explore ideas for a joint project and to report back to the next meeting.	

7.	<u>Community Issues</u>	
7(1)	<u>Anti-Social behaviour</u> Only minor littering. Two stolen bicycles had been recovered by the Police.	
7(2)	<u>Police</u> The following information had been received: - • Regular updates from My Community Voice <u>IAG (Independent Advisory Group)</u>	
7(3)	Apologies had been sent for the meeting on 18 th July. No-one had been able to attend. A date was awaited for the next meeting.	
7(4)	<u>Chamber of Commerce – Westerham</u> Cllr Bortolozzo had attended the August meeting at Penn Farm. Attendance at the Chamber of Commerce had been about meeting Westerham businesses but as not many attended Cllr Bortolozzo felt he should be raising the profile of Westerham. He was therefore gathering information about the businesses to enable him to do this.	MB
7(5)	<u>Christmas Lights event</u> The Clerk had applied for an Events Grant for events from SDC and was still waiting to hear if this had been successful or not. If it was it would be used to provide more entertainers. It was agreed to hire a stage this year to provide safer protection for the young people. Cllrs would be needed as marshals for the event.	AH/Cllrs
7(6)	<u>Forget-me-not café Awards</u> Following the nomination of Steve Grange for the Dementia Friendly Kent Awards 2024, the Clerk had been informed he was a finalist. The Clerk would be taking two of the helpers to the awards on 21 st October.	
7(7)	<u>Transport to hospital leaflet</u> The Clerk had sent the draft leaflet to be printed and the leaflet was circulated. It was agreed it would be circulated as widely as possible; at the elderly groups and placed in coffee shops.	AH
7(8)	<u>Litter project</u> Cllr Bortolozzo reported that the litter pick had taken place on Saturday 14 th September at KGF. It had not been as well attended as he had hoped, possibly due to the Fayre happening on the same day but Cllrs Breminer and Hussain had also volunteered. Litter had been picked up and those at KGF had been informed about the reasons for the litter pick. Two football managers and two young people had also helped. The litter pick had raised awareness of the litter issue and Cllr Bortolozzo planned another litter pick on a Sunday. Cllr Bortolozzo also litter picked following the Fayre on The Green.	
7(9)	<u>Businesses</u> Cllr Bortolozzo and the Clerk had met with the owners of the proposed Butchers/fishmonger/farm shop and the Chinese restaurant. The owners believed that Westerham had the potential to attract people to the town and wished to invest in Westerham. They wished to join the community and use local produce. They had concerns about parking and charges and were urged to contact SDC to raise their concerns. They regarded their new business ventures as a long-term investment.	
8.	<u>Financial Statement to 31st August 2024</u>	

	The Financial Statement had been circulated. There were no queries. The Clerk to request the amount left in the Youth Grant.	AH
9.	<u>ECO Action Plan</u> The Y&C ECO Action Plan had been circulated and was reviewed. Following discussion, it was agreed to add the Create a Garden competition to the Plan. Cllr Dicker to investigate new ECO ideas.	CD
10.	<u>Risk Assessments</u> The list of Risk Assessments had been circulated. The majority provided by external contractors. There were no alterations to the Litter picking RA.	AH
11.	<u>Summer Family Fun sessions</u> The Clerk had circulated a video of the Summer Family Fun sessions to the Committee. It was noted that the free sessions had been appreciated and this was a good use of the budget.	
12.	<u>Correspondence</u> 12.1 Information on the KALC Health and Wellbeing Conference on 18 th October had been circulated, Cllr Dicker and Hussain wished to attend.	CD/AJH
13.	<u>Reports from Councillors</u> Cllr Bortolozzo had seen the WTP newsletter in coffee shops and felt WTC could communicate in a similar way. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllrs Dicker and Hussain would review the WTC Communication Strategy, and this would be discussed at the next meeting. Cllrs Coen and Hussain had taken part in a Speedwatch in Crockham Hill on 12 th September. Cllrs Boyle and Coen had attended the blue plaque presentation for Catherine Hall at 'Little Squerryes', she was a trail blazer – a champion of women's rights, founder member of the RSPB and pioneer of Battersea Dogs Home among many other things. Cllr Thompson reported that the Fayre on 14 th September had a good vibe. He regularly attended the Warm Space at the Congregational Church; attendance was around 20 per weekly session.	
14.	<u>TN16, Crockham Hill Newsletter and website</u> Transport leaflet.	
15.	<u>Matters for District and County Councillors</u> None.	
16.	<u>Further Matters for Consideration at the next meeting</u> Communication Strategy.	
17.	<u>Date of next meeting</u> Monday 11 th November 2024	

The meeting was concluded at 9.35 pm
Minutes confirmed as a correct record:

Chairman