

WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Youth and Community Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 17th February 2025
at 7 pm in Russell House, Market Square, Westerham

Present: Councillors: Mrs D Coen (DC) – Chair
Mr M Bortolozzo (MB)
Mr K Thompson (KT)

Town Clerk: Mrs A Howells (AH)
PC Wilson

Item		Action
1.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Dicker – work commitment and Cllr Hussain – illness.	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest not previously declared</u> None.	
3.	<u>Minutes of the Meeting on 11th November 2024</u> The minutes of the meeting on 11 th November 2024 were approved at the Council meeting on 2 nd December.	
4.	<u>Information items arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda</u> 7.9 the Public Access Trauma First Aid Kit with Tourni-key had been ordered. 11.1 SDC Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations – A response had been sent. 11.2 Kent Fire and Rescue – Cllr Bortolozzo reported some statistics regarding the service. Kent was the first county to have a firefighting robot. 11.3 KCC draft Strategy for the Future of Education in Kent 2025/2030 – Cllr Coen had responded.	
5. 5(1)	<u>Community Engagement Projects</u> <u>Crockham Hill – Coffee, cake and chat</u> Cllr Coen reported that there had been 24 attendees at the January session. A query had been raised about the state of the tennis courts, the Deputy Clerk had arranged to have them jet washed straight away and the resident was very grateful for the very timely response from WTC.	
5(2)	<u>Crockham Hill School and Churchill School</u> Cllr Coen reported that there had been positive engagement with the Head Teacher at the Crockham Hill newcomer's party. The Head Teacher planned to write a piece on the Create a Garden scheme for the	

5(3)	newsletter when the shrub planting was completed. Cllr Coen to arrange a date for planting. <u>Valance School and Shop</u> Cllr Bortolozzo reported he had met with some of the young people from Valance School and often spoke to the volunteers in the shop. Posters had been put up advertising the Monday afternoon tea and cake and he would find out how this had been received.	DC MB
6. 6(1) 6(2) 6(3) 6(4) 6(5)	<u>Youth Projects</u> <u>Fitness session</u> Cllr Coen reported that there had been no progress on this since the last meeting as a provider had not been found at a mutually convenient time. Further investigation was needed, Cllr Coen to contact fitness providers. <u>Arts/Craft session</u> Cllr Coen reported that three sessions had been booked for Easter, 15th, 16th and 17th April, 3 – 4 pm. A poster had been sent to the School and Cllr Coen was waiting on teacher feedback on the numbers who have signed up. It was agreed to purchase the Art kits out of this year's budget. <u>Skatepark lessons</u> Skatepark lessons had been booked for the Easter holidays, 7th, 10th, 14th and 17th April at a total cost of £1,600. It was agreed to pay the invoice out of this year's budget. It was hoped that a formal opening of the skatepark could take place during one of these dates. It was further agreed to book summer sessions and these would be formalized at the next meeting. <u>To consider a project with WADS Youth Theatre Group</u> Cllr Coen reported that she had attended a meeting with WADS on 30th January to discuss the project. The WADS representatives had concerns about their capacity to cope with a large group of young people. It was agreed that WADS would seek an independent external person to run the workshops, there would be auditions and the cost would be kept as low as possible. The Committee to discuss how they could help finance the session when more information was available. <u>Crockham Hill After School Football Club</u> The Clerk had requested further information on the funding required for an After School Football Club although it was known that the cost of marking out the pitches for two terms was £360. Following discussion, it was agreed in principle to support the After School Club using the Crockham Hill Playing Field as long as the Football team currently hiring the field were in agreement; up to a cost of £500. A starting date was awaited. If this was before the next meeting, details would be confirmed to the Committee.	DC DC/AH DC/AH
7. 7(1) 7(2)	<u>Community Issues</u> <u>Anti-Social behaviour</u> The Crockham Hill tennis pavilion had been broken into and a report made to the Police by the Deputy Clerk. The case had now been closed due to lack of evidence. Reports of drug use at KGF and CH Field had been reported to the SDC Community Safety Group, requesting a Police presence if passing either area. <u>Police</u> The following information had been received: -	

	Regular updates from My Community Voice PC Wilson attended the meeting and Pub Watch, ASB and drug use were discussed. Westerham and surrounding areas now had a second PC - PC Harry Watson who would be on opposite shifts to PC Wilson. The Police were considering setting up monthly surgeries, details would be sent out when confirmed. A priority for the Police was Violence Against Women and Girls and PC Wilson would investigate having a meeting on one of the girls only skateboard sessions. PC Wilson suggested using the SID to let young people race to discover how fast they could run at during the Summer Family Fun Session.	
7(3)	<u>IAG (Independent Advisory Group)</u> No date had been received for the next meeting. PC Wilson to chase.	
7(4)	<u>Chamber of Commerce – Westerham</u> The Clerk had organised a session in the council chamber showcasing the business 'Bussi Bites' on 14th February. The meeting went well with 27 attendees and there was a good atmosphere. The food samples were well received. It was agreed to contribute towards the food provided. Cllr Coen to investigate a new location for the Chamber meetings.	DC
7(5)	<u>Businesses</u> Cllr Bortolozzo reported that it was concerning that there were a number of empty shops in Westerham. A meeting to be set up with TN Card to see what they could offer retailers. Earlier Cllrs Bortolozzo, Boyle and Coen had met to discuss an approach to WTP to see how WTC could assist them to empower the businesses in Westerham. See 7(9), Cllr Boyle to follow up.	MB/AH
7(6)	<u>Pub Watch</u> The Clerk reported that following the meeting at Frankies it had been agreed that a meeting would be set up with other licensed premises and to invite the pub watch team from Sevenoaks. This had not yet happened; the Clerk was investigating.	EB/AH
7(7)	<u>Christmas Lights switch on event</u> The Clerk reported that the grant for an event had been received for the Christmas Lights event, a sum of £3,200. The grant had enabled the amount of entertainers to be doubled, a safe stage to be erected for the Churchill Choir and hired generators to improve the sound. A report of the event had been sent to SDC. The Clerk was chasing the light for the Christmas Lights competition winner and would keep the Committee update. It was proposed to put the light up for a month so the winner did not miss out.	AH
7(8)	<u>Great British Spring Clean</u> The Clerk reported that the Great British Clean would take place from 21st March for two weeks. Following discussion it was agreed to undertake a litter pick on Wednesday 26th March. It was further agreed that litter picking equipment and black sacks would be purchased.	
7(9)	<u>WTP AGM</u> Seven Cllrs had attended the WTP AGM and there had been a good turnout from the community. Meetings would take place to discuss working together with WTP to promote local businesses.	AH
7(10)	<u>KCC Family Hub provision</u> Cllr Coen reported that despite chasing there had been no response from KCC regarding the Family Hub provision for Westerham. The Clerk to chase.	AH

8.	<u>Financial Statement to 31st January 2025</u> The Financial Statement had been circulated. The two grants (£5,000 and £3200) were shown as sundry income. It was agreed to change the Christmas lights and tree code to read Christmas lights a switch on event. There were no other queries.	
9.	<u>Communication Strategy</u> This matter could not be discussed as neither Cllr Dicker or Hussain were present.	
10.	<u>ECO Action Plan</u> An updated plan had been circulated, there were no queries. It was agreed to investigate providing bird feeders for the pre-school in Crockham Hill.	DC
11.	<u>February/Easter Family Fun sessions</u> The Clerk reported that a session had been booked on Thursday 20 th February with a face painter. A session had also been booked at Easter on Thursday 10 th April, no additional activity had yet been booked.	
12.	<u>Correspondence</u> 12.1 Details of the Expo on 12 th March were circulated. 12.2 A flyer for the Youth Club in Sundridge was circulated. Cllr Bortolozzo and Coen to attend and report back to the meeting.	MB/DC
13.	<u>Reports from Councillors</u> Cllrs Bortolozzo and Coen had attended the WTP AGM. Cllr Coen had made some changes to the Y&C section of the Strategic Business Plan and would circulate for comments. Cllr Coen had attended the Crockham Hill Newcomers party on 19 th January and together with Cllr Sheen had showcased WTC. Cllr Thompson attended the weekly Warm Space at the Congregational Church, they were very grateful for the grant from WTC.	
14.	<u>TN16, Crockham Hill Newsletter and website</u> None.	
15.	<u>Matters for District and County Councillors</u> None.	
16.	<u>Further Matters for Consideration at the next meeting</u> None.	
17.	<u>Date of next meeting</u> Monday 14 th April 2025	

The meeting was concluded at 9.00 pm

Minutes confirmed as a correct record:

Chairman