

WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Youth and Community Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 14th April 2025
at 7 pm in Russell House, Market Square, Westerham

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

Town Clerk: Mrs A Howells (AH)
Cllr I Breminer

Item		Action
1.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hussain - traffic issues.	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest not previously declared</u> None.	
3.	<u>Minutes of the Meeting on 17th February 2024</u> The minutes of the meeting on 17 th February 2025 were approved at the Council meeting on 17 th March.	
4.	<u>Information items arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda</u> None.	
5. 5(1) 5(2) 5(3)	<u>Community Engagement Projects</u> <u>Crockham Hill – Coffee, cake and chat</u> Cllr Coen reported that there had been 24 attendees at the February session and 23 at the March session. The next session was on 16 th April. This was a well-supported and worthwhile project. <u>Crockham Hill School and Churchill School</u> Cllr Coen reported that the summer planting for the 'Create a Garden Scheme' was completed on 21 st March. The School were thrilled with the results. The School had spoken to Cllr Coen regarding the state of the path across NT land that WTC had helped to install. This had been cleared on 11 th April. Art sessions would take place at Churchill School on 15 th , 16 th and 17 th April. <u>Valance School and Shop</u> Cllr Bortolozzo reported that the Monday afternoon tea and cake was not being well supported but would continue for the moment.	

	Valance School was hosting the Festival of Motoring on 18 th May, Cllr Dicker would attend.	CD
6.	<u>Youth Projects</u>	
6(1)	<u>Fitness session</u> Cllr Coen reported that there had been no progress on this since the last meeting and it was agreed that this item would be removed from the Agenda for the time being.	
6(2)	<u>Arts/Craft session</u> Cllr Coen reported that three sessions had been booked for Easter, 15 th , 16 th and 17 th April, 3 – 4 pm.	
6(3)	<u>Skatepark lessons</u> Skatepark lessons had taken place during the Easter holidays with one more session on Thursday. Cllr Thompson had attended all the sessions and reported that the younger sessions had been very well supported but there had been lower numbers for the older sessions; however, this meant the tuition was very focused. The age group split may be adjusted for future sessions. The feedback from the sessions had been amazing. PC Wilson had attended one of the girls only sessions. The Instructor hoped that a Westerham skateboard Club could be formed. Following discussion, given the success of sessions, it was agreed in principle to fund two weeks of lessons in the summer holidays subject to cost.	
6(4)	Cllr Coen and the Clerk to investigate. <u>To consider a project with WADS Youth Theatre Group</u> No further information had been received from WADS, so it was agreed to remove this item from the Agenda until a response was received.	DC/AH
6(5)	<u>Sundridge Youth Club model</u> Cllr Coen and Bortolozzo had attended the Sundridge Youth Club on 11 th March and a report had been circulated. They had both been very impressed with the Youth Club and felt that the premises were key to running a successful club. The site was secure and there was an outside area. The Club was run by parents of the young people. Following discussion, it was agreed to investigate locations in Westerham and consider how to involve parents in the project and to discuss at the next meeting.	
6(6)	<u>Skatepark 1st anniversary event</u> The anniversary event had taken place at 11am while one of the skateboard sessions was taking place. There had been a great turnout. A press release, and photos had been placed on Facebook and WTC website. At the same event the Squerryes Estate had been thanked for gifting the northern part of King George's Playing Field to WTC; the entire field would now be maintained in perpetuity for the community's use for sport and recreation.	DC/MB
7.	<u>Community Issues</u>	
7(1)	<u>Anti-Social behaviour</u> Westerham was seeing an increase in ASB: - • young people were riding electric scooters and scramble bikes through the Town and on KGF causing damage.	

7(2)	• Shoplifting. • There had been an increase in cars being stolen. • Young people were ringing doorbells and running away in the evening around Granville Road – this had been reported to the Police. • In Crockham Hill there had been an oil theft, and a 100-year-old post box had been stolen out of a wall. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would raise these issues with PC Wilson and the SDC Community Safety Unit. <u>Police</u> The following information had been received: -	AH
7(3)	• Regular updates from My Community Voice <u>IAG (Independent Advisory Group)</u>	
7(4)	Cllr Coen reported that an update had been received, and a meeting was likely to take place in June. <u>Chamber of Commerce – Westerham</u> Cllr Bortolozzo had attended the Chamber of Commerce at Shampian last Wednesday. There had been a good turnout, and he had spoken to an attendee regarding the Hygiene Bank.	
7(5)	<u>Businesses</u> Cllr Bortolozzo reported that the new fish and chip had opened and favorable reports had been received regarding the quality of the food. Other empty retail units were under offer or new businesses had moved in eg the Antiques shop.	
7(6)	Cllr Coen reported that the Royal Oak in Crockham Hill had re-opened on 10th April. Cllr Coen had spoken to the Editor of the Chronicle who would like to run a feature on the pub. <u>Pub Watch</u>	MB
7(7)	The Clerk reported despite emailing again no response had been received. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Bortolozzo would speak to the other pubs to try to move the matter along. <u>Westerham Litter pick</u> The Clerk reported that there had been an excellent turnout for the litter pick - 25 people. In addition a group from Squerries had litter picked in Beggars Lane. The Clerk had asked how people had heard about the event and was informed – St Mary's pew sheet, Westerham Society email, Facebook, notice boards and TN16.	
8.	<u>Financial Statement to 31st March 2025</u> The Financial Statement for the end of the financial year had been circulated and was noted. 8.1 Crockham Hill Notice Board – At the last Council meeting the Committee were asked to provide funding for a new notice board for Crockham Hill garden as the current notice board was not fit for purpose. Following discussion it was agreed to spend £710 from last years budget.	
9.	<u>Review of Committee Scope</u> The current Terms of Reference had been circulated. Following discussion, it was agreed to recommend to Council that the committee be re-named Community Engagement Committee. The Terms of Reference needed to be re-ordered and minor amendments made, this would be	

	recommended to Council.	
10.	<u>Strategic Business Plan – Action Plan</u> A draft plan had been circulated with draft comments from Cllr Coen. Following discussion, it was agreed to include the comments and to move items that had an outcome or could not be changed at this level of local government to a plan titled Resident Feedback comments. All other items were ongoing.	AH
11.	<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
12.	<u>Communication and Community Engagement Policy</u> Cllr Dicker reported that initial discussions had taken place between herself and Cllr Hussain but a draft had not been agreed. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Dicker would draft the Policy and send to Cllr Hussain for his comments. The draft would then be circulated to the Committee and then be discussed at Council on 19 th May.	CD/AJH
13.	<u>Easter Half Term Family Fun sessions</u> Cllr Coen and the Clerk had attended the session and it was fairly busy. The drinks for the young people were being very well received. The Clerk reported that four Summer sessions had been booked and she was in the process of booking additional activities.	AH
14.	<u>Consultations</u> 14.1 Help shape the Future of NHS Services in Your Community – Cllr Hussain to review and submit a report if appropriate. 14.2 SDC Better Together Survey – Cllr Coen to submit a response on behalf of the Committee.	AJH DC
15.	<u>Correspondence</u> 15.1 A Brasted resident had emailed WTC asking whether a tourism PR campaign could target Canadians? To forward to WTP.	
16.	<u>Reports from Councillors</u> Cllrs Coen, Bortolozzo and Thompson had attended the skatepark 1 st anniversary event. Cllr Thompson had attended all the skateboarding sessions so far. Cllr Thompson attended the Warm Welcome each week. Cllrs Dicker and Boyle had met with a local businessman to discuss his future plans in Westerham.	
17.	<u>TN16, Crockham Hill Newsletter and website</u> None.	
18.	<u>Matters for District and County Councillors</u> None.	
19.	<u>Further Matters for Consideration at the next meeting</u>	

	None.	
20.	<u>Date of next meeting</u> Monday 23 rd June 2025	

The meeting was concluded at 9.30 pm

Minutes confirmed as a correct record:

Chairman