

## **HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Meeting of the STRATEGY & REVIEW COMMITTEE held 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

#### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT: Councillors: Needham (Chair), Fenton, Harvey, Hoyle, Stevens & Wood.**

**Clerk: J Boom**

**171. Apologies for Absence and any substitutions**

Apologies were received from Councillors Boggis, Young and Fraser who has joined as the newly appointed chair of the Events Committee.

**172. Members' Interests relating to agenda items for this meeting.**

Cllr Fenton – item 176 as a trustee of Calder Food Support.

**173. Matters arising from Minutes of Meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 not itemised on this Agenda**

While the Citizens Advice Service had not been able to attend the meeting HRTC remain eager to understand the services users and want to demonstrate the added value that the service had brought to Hebden Royd, cases where it was highly unlikely they would have connected to the service. HRTC wants to gather evidence for the budget setting process as well as identify the services capacity for the future.

Discussion took place to identify if a focus solely on Debt Management could be presented, the question was asked if there are other service providers. A debt management service based at the Noah's Arc Project in Halifax was suggested which offers a benefit check and then encouragement to manage finances including conversations challenging individuals behaviour.

The clerk reported that the Youth Employment Services had provided a report and that it will be brought to the next meeting.

**174. CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Clerk advised the meeting that training on standards in public life was available through a YLCA training course. While the course is not currently running when available it will be communicated and also made available to any new members who may join the council.

It was also confirmed that sanctions remain at the CMBC Standards Committee discretion.

**175. CHANGING SPACES**

The meeting considered the submitted report and recommended the following:

- HRTC continue to provide Mobiloo at it solely organised major events, that being Happy Hounds, the Pumpkin Festival and Happy Hounds.

- Community organised events can request financial support for providing a Mobiloo at an event but this must be made through the Community Funding Committee and judged on its own merits.
- Officers to explore opportunities for a formal arrangement at the Trades Club which has a part completed facility and at Hebden Bridge Town Hall.

Note: Cllr Fenton left the room.

## **176. FUEL POVERTY AND THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS**

The meeting discussed at length the best way HRTC might support any planned response of partners to the crisis. Considering how best to mitigate the impact on the health and wellbeing of people in Hebden Royd.

A report tabled by the Town Clerk started discussions with the following recommendations being drawn together by the committee:

- HRTC must support all active groups equally while ensuring that provision by HRTC and partners does not overlap. Coordination is a prerequisite and HRTC can only support groups that Coordinate with fellow groups and ensure that duplication does not occur. The Town Clerk and fellow HRTC Officers must be able to request information from partners to ensure co-ordination takes place and that overlaps in service provision are minimised.  
It was suggested that the Town Council financially support clearly evidenced requests for residents of Hebden Royd to the tune of £2 per individual and £2.80 family on each occasion to help is needed (this can be a voucher for food or an actual foodstuffs).
- Community groups may choose to provide 'Warm Spaces' and the Town Council should support those initiative with a payment. Each clearly additional session supported to the tune of a suggested £20 per session with a hope that activities are attached to each session. Additionally those organisers can call on the Town Council should they be encountering difficulties with meeting costs. Each case should be judged on its own merits.
- The Town Council should look to support its own staff with a one off payment to each member of staff.
- The Town Council share and communicate all information relating to reducing the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis as widely as is possible.
- The Town Council set- a-side a sum of £30,000 to meet the expected expenses initially with a review in early January 2023.
- That the Town Council establish a 'Task & Finish' Group to liaise with partners and react to the changing request that may come the way of the Town Council. This group would be given delegated powers to set the contribution levels and to consider request specifically relating to the cost of living crisis. Existing applications may be considered by this group if it is established. This group would be in place until the end of the life of the council in May 2023.

The meeting also considered a recent request from CMBC to establish a Local Action Group, based on the CMBC Ward Structure to provide a network of support for groups active in the field. This would involve arranging meetings, hosting and facilitating but not delivering actions which must lie with the group proposing and leading on the action.

The Local Action Group has no funding to facilitate action to support the cost of living crisis.

Concern was raised regarding the time pressures it would place on HRTC Officers, the lack of financial support for the Town Council to deliver this initiative and the challenges on working with CMBC Ward Councillors who we understand would be the most likely Chair of the group. It was felt that if HRTC is leading there would be a need for a HRTC Councillor to be the group's chair, just as it is appropriate for Ward Forums that CMBC support are chaired by CMBC Councillors. The geographical nature of the areas would also see significant work outside of the Town Councils area and this was also a concern.

Clarification is needed on the remit of the Local Action Group and how it sits within the framework of the Household Support Fund, managed by CMBC who also delegate responsibilities to the Community Foundation For Calderdale (CFFC) and also receive financial support for their delivery of the project.

It was agreed to recommend that HRTC could not support just one part of its area with a Local Action Group, it must be both Luddendenfoot & Calder or none at all.

It was agreed to write to CMBC Ward Councillors and CMBC Communities Director Sarah Richardson to clarify the position and how HRTC can contribute.

Note: Cllr Fenton returned to the room.

**177. BUDGET SETTING**

The Town Clerk initially outlined the budget for 2023/24 and will continue to consider factors and request information which will be brought to the next meeting.

**178. COMMITTEE, MEETING & STAFF STRUCTURE**

A proposal for the structure of the council from May 2023 was discussed with the Town Clerk presenting suggestions. Further work is to be undertaken regarding the bringing together of the Climate Emergency and the Environmental Committees and the frequency at which they meet. When prepared it will be brought to the next meeting and the structure considered as a whole before recommendations are made.

**179. PROCESS OF REVIEWING STANDING ORDERS**

It was agreed that a process was needed and this would be considered at the next meeting.

**180. HRTC FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

It was felt that the salient points of this agenda item had been discussed as part of agenda item 176 when looking to develop principles for prioritising initiatives/projects and possibly funding projects same projects relating initially to the Cost of Living Crisis and then beyond to project that meet the strategic aims of the Town Council. This could include projects with partners i.e. CMBC and/or projects proposed by community organisations either working independently or with HRTC.

Meeting finished 9.30pm.