

HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ONLINE ON 16 FEBRUARY 2023 (6.00pm-6.55pm)

880.	PRESENT: Councillors S Ball, M Domingue, P Grennan and D Kennedy. Also present was Jez Light from Hexham Community Partnership.
881.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Pearson, Williscroft-Ferris, Fairless-Aitken and Smith.
882.	MINUTES of the meeting held on 19 January 2023, having been circulated, were AGREED.
883.	<p>MATTERS ARISING:</p> <p>a. ARTS PROJECT (minute 872 and action log refers). It was noted that Councillor Williscroft-Ferris was unable to attend the meeting so this would remain on the action log. It was further noted that photos of Town Council owned bus shelters had been circulated but that possible funding was still unknown.</p> <p>b. TALKING BENCH (minute 872 and action log refers). It was noted that the Clerk is on holiday so this would remain on the action log.</p> <p>c. HEXHAM TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION SECOND REPRESENTATIVE (minute 872 and action log refers). It was noted that no-one to date has volunteered for this.</p>
884.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: No declarations of interest were made.
885.	<p>HEXHAM COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE: It was noted that an Events Forum had been held in the Library on 23 January with a focus on the Coronation, Pride month, Fireworks and Christmas. The next meeting will be on 21 March on the Coronation: there will be a picnic in the park event on 7 May and a focus on volunteering on 8 May. There will also be a special service at the Abbey. It was noted that HCP is applying to NCC for £500 funding.</p> <p>It was also noted that HCP has taken on the Hexham Heritage Guides, part of the HSHAZ community engagement programme. Free tours may be booked from May/June through the Queen's Hall office.</p> <p>The Hidden Gardens event will be on 25 June.</p> <p>Sadly, Antonia and Ellen are leaving No.28 and Rachel is leaving HCP. A new Development Officer, Grace Dunne, has been appointed.</p> <p>HCP is on the verge of a submission for charitable status and is also looking at the tourism strategy, to pursue relevant actions.</p>
886.	BONFIRE NIGHT/FIREWORKS 2023: It was noted that an update had been provided at the last Full Council meeting and that the Round Table were to be applauded for decades of voluntary organisation. It was noted that the Town Council's insurance covers such an event and it was unanimously AGREED by all present that the Town Council will be accountable but HCP will deliver the event (subject to agreement at a Board meeting next week). It was further noted that there is some leftover funding from last year's event and that the

	2023/24 Events budget may be used. It was AGREED that stewarding and collecting donations are issues to be addressed and that “to receive an update on Bonfire Night/Fireworks” will become a standard item on the agenda until the event.
887.	HEXHAM IN BLOOM AND TOWN TWINNING UPDATES: It was noted that there were no updates relating to Hexham in Bloom. It was noted that a visit from a party from Noyon will be on 26-29 May. A visit to Beamish is planned for the Saturday, with a ceilidh at the Bandstand on Sunday followed by a Council-hosted drinks reception followed by a meal. As it’s the 30 th anniversary of HTTA, a request has been made for the Council to pay more than usual for the reception. It was AGREED this would be acceptable but to contact HTTA for an estimate.
888.	NEXT MEETING: It was AGREED that the next Committee meeting will be held online on Thursday 30 March 2023 at 6.00pm.
889.	ROAD CLOSURE COSTS: A discrepancy between the charges made by NCC and Durham County Council was noted. It was AGREED to pursue a resolution to this if possible.

Action Log

Continue liaison with the Town Twinning Committee re arts project and research funding (minute 883b)	Councillor Williscroft-Ferris and Clerk
Pursue the talking bench colours, etc. (minute 883b)	Clerk
Further request new HTC representative at HTTA meetings (minute 883c)	Clerk
Add standard agenda item on Bonfire Night/Fireworks (minute 886)	Clerk
Contact HTTA regarding cost of Council-reception (minute 887)	Clerk
Pursue Road Closure costs issue (minute 889)	Councillor Kennedy

Chairman