

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

OLDER PERSONS SUB-COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 19 AUGUST 2021 AT 1000 HOURS

Present: Councillors G Perham
 J M Freeman (Vice Chair)
 S Owen (Chair)
 R Goodchild
 K Cursons

Also in attendance: V Cannon (Head of Cultural and Economic
 Services)
 (Remotely) S Jewell, remotely, (C&E Support
 Officer)
 M Jahn (Committee Officer)

Members of the Public: 2

15/OP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

16/OP APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor S Owen be appointed Chair of the Sub-Committee for 2021-2022. There were no further nominations.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor S Owen Chair of the Older Persons Sub Committee for the municipal year 2021-2022.

17/OP APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor M Freeman be appointed Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee for 2021-2022. There were no further nominations.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor M Freeman Vice Chair of the Older Persons Sub Committee for the municipal year 2021-2022.

18/OP DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were asked to declare any interests, including the nature of those interests, which they had in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. No declarations were made.

19/OP QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Two members of the public from Bassett Road Patient Participation Group were in attendance who would speak later in the meeting regarding the Older People's Yellow Booklet.

20/OP MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) The sub-committee received the draft minutes of the Old Persons Sub Committee held on 6 May 2021.

RESOLVED that that minutes of the meeting of the Older Persons Sub Committee held on 6 May 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

(b) Item reference 13/OP Updates and Discussion number 6 Grant Funding Scheme – application and guidance notes were now downloadable from the website and contact had been made with all interested parties. An article had been included in the Leighton Buzzard Observer and would be circulated in the Bee Local Autumn edition throughout the town and About Town on 1 September 2021.

Item reference 13/OP Updates and Discussion number 2 Technology Helpline – tenders had been invited and interested parties notified. The end date for applications was 25 August 2021 but this may need to be extended for a further 3 or 4 weeks should we not receive any tenders as it is summer holiday period and group capacity may be an issue for applicants. If there were no replies the process may need to be revised and a different approach taken. After discussion, members agreed to extend the deadline to allow time for applications to be received before bringing back to the sub-committee for further deliberation.

RESOLVED that should no tenders be received, to extend the tender deadline for another 3 weeks before bringing back to the sub-committee to consider next steps.

21/OP OLDER PEOPLE'S YELLOW BOOKLET

Guests from the Bassett Road Patient Participation Group (PPG) attended the meeting to provide an update to members regarding the Yellow Booklet. This booklet had historically been produced by the PPG as a hard copy to enable older people to have access to a booklet with relevant local information. The target age for recipients of the booklet was 65yrs and above. It was understood that the paper version of the Yellow Booklet is particularly valued by that age group, for whom digital take up decreases with older age-groups. This group consisted of volunteers who gave their time freely to produce the booklet. The Town Council funded the first print and fifty percent of the cost of the second print. The Town Council was working towards producing digitally based information focusing on leisure activities for older people. The PPG had hoped that other support information which their booklet includes would also be part of the Council's information. The PPG asked if the continuation and production of the Yellow Booklet could be administered by the Town Council as part of their support for older people in Leighton Buzzard.

Concerns were raised by a Member regarding the amount of officer time required to maintain the booklet. All agreed the booklet provided older people with a vital lifeline for information, especially when they did not have access to or the

knowledge of how to use technology.

It was noted that Bassett Road PPG volunteers would continue to work towards the production of a new revision of the Yellow Booklet in spring 2022 and would continue to seek external funding for its publication.

Committee agreed to receive agenda item 10. prior to considering its response to the PPG guests.

22/OP DIRECTORY ACTIVITIES WEB PAGE AND LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES INFORMATION

Committee received a report which identified that other directories existed to provide business information, Leighton Linlade Arts information and a Well Being Directory which covered the whole of Central Bedfordshire. Officers had explored opportunities with the directory owners to add leisure activities and owners' responses were positive. It was suggested that similar leisure information did already exist, and duplication would be likely. Adding to existing information therefore could be better use of resources. The benefits of this approach were acknowledged.

It was agreed a meeting involving the Sub-Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Officers should be organised to discuss options regarding how to move forward with the Town Councils involvement/support of the yellow booklet. It was

RESOLVED

- (a) To maintain links to the existing 4 local directories via our 55up webpage with descriptions for the 'type' of groups/activities that can be found on them, thereby sign-posting people to the broad array of existing information.**
- (b) To agree that Officers would help the existing directories promote themselves and encourage groups (who attract 55 year olds and over) to advertise themselves on the existing directories.**
- (c) That Committee supported the principle of maintaining the Yellow Booklet and that meetings be arranged to discuss options on how to move forward with the Yellow Booklet, to include any other persons Committee thought necessary, with the aim to bring ideas back to the next meeting for Members to determine the way forward.**

23/OP UPDATE ON GRANT

The sub-committee received a verbal update on progress of the grant scheme under updates in item 6(b) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

24/OP TECHNOLOGY HELPLINE UPDATE

The sub-committee received a verbal update on progress of the grant scheme under updates in item 6(b) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

25/OP PROJECT DELIVERY TIMELINE

The sub-committee received and considered an updated project delivery Timeline. Members were informed the timeline of delivery was moveable and dates may be amended. The Tablet Loan Scheme had just begun to be researched and the sub-committee felt the International Day for Older Persons on 1st October 2021 should be added to the Newsletter and About Town.

RESOLVED to note the information.

The meeting closed at 1140 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 AUGUST 2021.

Chair

18 November 2021

DRAFT