



**Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting
held on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at the Rufus Centre**

Present:

Cllr Thompson (Chairman)

Cllr Crawford

Cllr Bandy

Cllr Toinko

Cllr Platt

Cllr Harald

Cllr Wilsmore

Cllr Earles

1353. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

1354. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

- a. Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – none.
- b. Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – none.

1355. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements.

1356. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public.

1357. INVITED SPEAKER

There was no invited speaker.

1358. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

There were no members questions.

1359. MINUTES

- a. For Members to receive and adopt the minutes of the Community Services meeting held on **Tuesday 3rd February 2026**.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the Community Services meeting held on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 as an accurate record of the meeting.

1360. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting on **Tuesday 3rd February 2026**.

There were no matters arising.

1361. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Youth Provision

The Chairman gave a brief overview of the background of the youth provision.

The Community Engagement Manager advised Members that the proposed approach to delivery would mean there would be improved measurement of the current service and time for officers to prepare options for a long term plan which would be implemented in April 2027.

A member asked if there was enough time for Officers to implement this. The Community Engagement Manager advised this would be achievable.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve continuation of current youth provision during the 2026 optimisation and alignment phase from August 2026 – March 2027 (budget for this duration already agreed)
2. Approve formal alignment of the service specification and reporting arrangements with Central Bedfordshire's framework to demonstrate partnership outcomes and support funding opportunities.
3. Officers to create a Youth strategy for consideration by the council in September.

b. Community Events & Activities

Members had previously asked for clarification of all events and activities that were proposed for 2026/27 and officers had prepared a report containing this information along with a recommendation for the proposed Festival of Lights.

The Community Engagement Manager advised Members that the proposed Festival of Lights had been scaled back due to several factors such as planning constraints, funding etc. The lantern workshop and procession had been suggested in place of this to gauge what appetite there was from the Community for this type of event.

Members commented that although the proposal was scaled back, the cost to deliver the events was the same.

A Member questioned whether the schools were willing to get involved or not, and was against the workshops taking place during school time, as this could impact core subject learning. They asked how enthusiastic the schools were to take part. The Community Engagement Manager advised that it would work similarly to the involvement the schools have had in the Flitwick Town Trail project.

Some Members liked the idea of the event but were unsure how much community engagement there would be. They were in favour of building the events programme in the town but had reservations about this proposal. Members were not sure it would attract more people to the Christmas Lights events, as it was already a very successful event.

It was **RESOLVED** not to proceed with the lantern procession and workshops, and leave the budget in the community cost centre for the time being.

Members were happy with the list of events circulated.

1362. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Community Financial Report

Members noted the financial report.

b. Officer Update

(i) Amenities Update

Members asked if the ornamental bridge was a priority project within Manor Park. The Town Clerk advised that this project was still outstanding and the Council had previously made a resolution to complete this work, subject to identifying suitable funding. She also advised that the preliminary work had already been completed to progress this.

(ii) Community Update

Members noted the report and commented that it was good to see the team back up to full strength.

1363. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no members of public.

1364. EXEMPT ITEMS

The following resolution will be **moved** that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

No items.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

Meeting closed at: 20.12

Signed:(Chairman)