



Hednesford Town Council
Pye Green Community Centre Committee Meeting

Wednesday 18th January 2023 @ 7PM

To be held at Pye Green Community Centre, Bradbury Lane, Hednesford
The public are invited to attend the meeting in person.
The meeting will live stream on the Council Facebook page

Present:

ClIr Laura Harrison (Chair)
ClIr Darrell Mawle
ClIr Chris Harborow

In attendance:

Lindsey Smith – Chief Officer

1. Public Participation

1 member of the public in attendance

Member of Public (ClIr Arthur Roden) raised concerns about the PGCC Caretaker unblocking the sewerage pipe that crosses the PGCC carpark. ClIr Roden explained that on occasions the sewerage pipe becomes blocked. This is largely in part to centre users flushing disposable hand towels down the toilet. ClIr Roden informs that he witnessed the PGCC caretaker unblocking the pipe wearing no protective clothing and that this is against H&S regulations.

ClIr Harrison informs that the PGCC caretaker has been instructed to not to attempt to unblock the pipe in future and that should the blockage occur again then the professionals will be called in.

ClIr Harrison reiterated that she will take a motion to next full council for the approval of hand driers in the bathrooms at PGCC

2. Apologies

Apologies received from ClIr Dunnett who was in attendance at District Council Meeting

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest

4. Minutes

The minutes of the previous PGCC Committee Meeting on 14th November 2022 were reviewed and approved

Proposed: Cllr Harborow

Seconded: Cllr Mawle

For: 3

Against: 0

5. Chair's Update

- I. Historic Hednesford Event – Cllr Harrison reminded all of the Historic Hednesford Event at PGCC on 22nd January 2023 from 11am to 3pm and everyone was welcome to attend. There had been a few last-minute changes due to personal reasons but the vacant slots had quickly been filled
- II. Cllr Harrison was pleased to be informed that an ongoing permanent booking has been secured at PGCC for a Wednesday and Friday evening from 6pm to 9pm. Further details will be made available shortly. Chief Officer also informed that there was a viewing of the function room for a further potential ongoing permanent booking on Monday 23rd January and that Steps for Work has booked to deliver the Multiply programme from the Centre each Wednesday.

6. Motion from Chair Cllr Laura Harrison

Cllr Harrison proposed to accept the revised PGCC Hire Agreement (in agenda pack) which considers revisions previously discussed or approved. Document to be formally approved to be put into operation.

Following a discussion, point 4.6 of the hire agreement was queried for private bar hire. Proposed hire agreement states £20.00 for daytime bar hire. Chief Officer informed that this is currently being charged at £50.00 and explained that hirers of the daytime bar cannot bring in any of their own refreshments i.e.: soft drinks and once the daytime bar is hired all drinks need to be purchased through the bar. After further discussion it was proposed that an amendment was made to the revised PGCC hire agreement to a charge of £30.00 with immediate effect

Proposed: Cllr Chris Harborow

Seconded: Cllr Darrell Mawle

Agreed: All

Chief Officer enquired about the function room bookings made within the last 24 hours, several of which had booked a daytime bar. It was agreed that of those that had already paid that the difference would be reimbursed at the same time as the hire deposit.

7. Pye Green Community Centre Committee budget setting (precept)

Cllr Harrison informed that the main business for the meeting was to discuss and agree Pye Green Community Centre Committee budget for 2023/2024 which would inform the precept (council tax) in conjunction with the other committees of HTC.

Cllr Harrison opened discussions by informing that she felt that the forecast for 2023/2024 PGCC room hire was conservative at £29k. Following discussions with the Chief Officer Cllr Harrison did not feel it was unreasonable to forecast up to an additional £19k income from PGCC room hire. This was not taking meeting room 2 into account.

Cllr Harborow stated that it was also important to leave gaps for community projects and activities.

A discussion followed about how the additional £19k had been arrived at and whether was too ambitious. It was felt that there was more stability with additional officers but that overall income was still slightly down on target figures. This was accounted for as the early part of 2022 was still impacted by covid lockdown restrictions.

A further discussion took place about the marketing of PGCC and how this would be achieved and it was agreed that a confirmed marketing budget is needed.

Cllr Harrison stated that if the Regeneration and Market Officer post was not filled then this would lead to a saving of £29k. Chief Officer advised that this post is pro rata to 22.5 hours so saving would be less.

Cllr Harrison informed that the maintenance budget for PGCC is set at 10k per year for 10 years with known works due in 2023/2024 currently equaling £8,200 which doesn't leave much room and needs to increase. It was discussed that CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) can be used for work on the centre and that it was feasible to request support out of this pot.

Cllr Harrison advised that she is awaiting quotes to gain an accurate picture of ongoing costs.

Cllr Mawle informed that it was agreed at last full council meeting that payment to the repaired central heating system at PGCC was to come from CIL monies.

A discussion followed about officers salaries and that it was felt that they are too high with the need to reduce the proposed staffing structure from 5 to 4 officers. Cllr Harborow stated that a lot of regeneration work has already been done without a regeneration officer while Cllr Harrison informed that regeneration is the responsibility of the district and not parish council.

Cllr Mawle was asked to outline the proposals for discussion from the Regeneration and Communities Committee. Regeneration and Communities committee discussed 5% precept increase, looking at the provision of CCTV and the Regeneration and Market Officer post.

Cllr Harrison was adamant that the opening hours of PGCC will not be altered or affected and that she is hopeful of decreasing deficit by increasing income. This can only be estimations at this stage. Cllr Harborow stated that there are grants that can be applied for and that it is important to look after what we have got rather than to take on more.

Cllr Mawle enquired that if savings are out for PGCC then where should the savings come from. Cllr Harrison stated that the PGCC offer is to increase revenue as current figure is conservative and feels that this is a feasible option, and that savings need to come from salaries. Cllr Harrison informed that 5 officers are not needed to run a parish council. Cllr Harborow seconded Cllr Harrison's comment stating that staff at other councils account for 25-30% of the precept.

Cllr Harrison informed that the next HTC administration may wish to look to moving a trustee board like has been done at other community centres. Cllr Harrison further informed that she would not support the removal of the CCTV payment without further consultation and discussion before stating that 83% of the precept going on personal was not acceptable

8:11pm – the meeting was moved to private and confidential business and the meeting closed to members of the public

8. Date of next meeting

TBA