

**Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Leisure and
Community held on 24 March 2015 from
7:00 p.m. to 7:28 p.m.**

Present: Jacqui Landriani (Chairman)
Dick Sweatman (Vice Chairman)

Richard Bates	Cherry Catharine*	David Dorking*
Margaret Belsey	Rod Clarke	Sue Hatton*
Liz Bennett*	Phillip Coote	Anne Jones, MBE
Pete Bradbury	Mims Davies*	Natalie March*
		Mandy Thomas-Atkin*

* Absent

Also Present: Councillor Moore, Councillor Snowling and Councillor Edward Belsey

**33. SUBSTITUTES AT MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE – COUNCIL PROCEDURE
RULE 4**

None.

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bennett, Catharine, Davies, Hatton and Thomas-Atkin.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bradbury and Jones both declared a prejudicial interest in item 6 as West Sussex County Councillors.

Councillor Coote declared a prejudicial interest in item 8 as he is the Mid Sussex District Council representative of Age UK.

36. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 January were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

37. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

**38. PROPOSAL TO BECOME A CORPORATE MEMBER OF WEST SUSSEX CREDIT
UNION**

Lynne Standing, Head of Housing, Environmental Health and Building Control explained the purpose of the report, which sought Members' support for Mid Sussex District Council to become a Corporate Member of the West Sussex Credit Union with an investment of £25,000.

The Head of Housing, Environmental Health and Building Control continued to explain that this investment would support the work of the Credit Union in providing

low-cost loans as an alternative to pay-day or other high interest loans. She stated that whilst the investment would have a minimal financial return, it would have a significant social benefit.

The Chairman advised Members that it would be the Cabinet Member for Resources and Delivery that would make the final decision.

A Member welcomed the report with its reference to an ethical investment. He added that the Credit Union is highly regarded within West Sussex County Council.

One Member highlighted that Crawley Borough Council employed the Credit Union to operate their Rent Deposit Scheme, and asked whether this was something that Mid Sussex District Council should consider. The Head of Housing, Environmental Health and Building Control advised that the Mid Sussex District Council Rent Deposit Scheme was run internally rather than through the Credit Union.

Another Member queried whether there would be a return on the investment. The Head of Housing, Environmental Health and Building Control clarified that the members of the Credit Union vote on how much the return should be.

A Member commented that the West Sussex Credit Union has the same status and security as a bank, and asked for confirmation that the Credit Union would require members of the public to make an investment before being able to withdraw any loans. The Head of Housing, Environmental Health and Building Control explained that the purpose of the Credit Union was for those seeking financial assistance to save money at the same time as paying off their loan.

One Member asked if the Credit Union refused loans. The Head of Housing, Environmental Health and Building Control advised that this was a matter of the Credit Union lending responsibly to those who would be able to repay their loan. The Assistant Chief Executive confirmed that the Credit Union would provide people with another option for financial assistance.

As there were no other questions, the Chairman took Members to the report's recommendation, which was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Committee recommend the Cabinet Member for Resources and Service Delivery to approve the Council becoming a corporate member of the West Sussex Credit Union through an investment of £25,000.

39. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY PROGRESS REPORT 2014

Lynne Standing, Head of Housing, Environmental Health and Building Control summarised the Mid Sussex District Council annual report on the progress of the Council meeting Equality and Diversity responsibilities throughout the last 12 months.

As there were no further questions, the Chairman took Members to the report's recommendation, which was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Scrutiny Committee endorses the Council's approach to meeting its duties under the Equality Act, as evidenced by the Equalities and Diversity Progress Report 2014.

40. MID SUSSEX WELLBEING SERVICE

Tim Cusack, Business Unit Leader for Performance and Partnerships highlighted the main points of the report, which explained the work of the Wellbeing Service over the last year, and looking to the year ahead. He drew Members' attention to a typing error on page 45, bullet point two, where '71 clients engaged with the service' should read '51 clients engaged with the service'.

One Member expressed her gratitude for the work of the Mid Sussex District Council Wellbeing team.

Another Member queried whether additional support could be given to volunteers who encourage young people to participate in physical activity within the District. The Wellbeing Manager responded to this question by stating that the Health and Wellbeing Service has been commissioned to support people aged 18 years and over. It was noted that the District Council Mid Sussex Marathon Board has recently supported the local running and athletics clubs to increase participation in the junior and adult sections.

As there were no further questions, the Chairman took Members to the report's recommendations, which were agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Members:-

- (1) consider and endorse the proposed approach for the continued delivery of the Wellbeing Service for 2015/16; and
- (2) recommend to the Cabinet Member for Health and Community that he approves the service's Business Plan for 2015/16 as required by West Sussex Public Health.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking the Committee for its hard work over the preceding year. Particular thanks were given to Councillor Snowling, who will be standing down at May's election.

Chairman