

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP (SOCIAL ISOLATION) AT WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020 AT 1PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.**

**PRESENT:- Councillors** Mrs S Ager, Miss C Jay, Mrs C Lager,

**Staff:** Miss N Smith - Assistant Responsible Financial Officer

**Members** Mrs JoAnn Williams, Mrs Kim Barker, Mrs Diana Brown

**12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss M Weeks and Councillor R Ramage due to previous engagements.

**13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests.

**14. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that she had met with Nicola Doubleday the newly appointed Action Fraud Coordinator for the North Essex LPA. It was **AGREED** that a Pop Up Stall in the Newlands Centre would be arranged where the work of the Action Fraud Coordinator could be publicised in conjunction with the Town Council.

**15. AGENCY MEETING**

Members discussed the meeting held at the Town Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 with local agencies in Witham already dealing with Social Isolation. It was **AGREED** that volunteers would be referred to agencies as they could provide more suitable training and on-going support than the Town Council.

**16. PENPALS**

Members discussed how a 'Pen pal' project between local primary schools and care/nursing homes in Witham could be implemented. It was **AGREED** to proceed with the project and that work would be carried out in conjunction with the Youth TAFG.

**17. WASHING LINE OF KINDNESS/WISHING WASHING LINE**

Members reviewed an article concerning 'Washing Lines of Kindness' and **AGREED** that there should be a similar scheme in Witham. It was **AGREED** that members would contact the organisation 'Care Home Fans' for guidance.

**18. FRIENDSHIP BENCH**

Members reviewed an article concerning the installation of a 'Friendship Bench' within the town. Members discussed possible locations and it was **AGREED** to enquire as to the viability of reinstating a bench outside the Town Hall and this being designated a 'Friendship Bench'.

**19. CLUBS**

- a) Members discussed the importance of collating a list of clubs and societies within the town. It was **AGREED** that members would collate a list that could be published in hard copy as well as on the Witham Town Council website. The importance of keeping the list up to date was stressed.
- b) Members discussed whether to invite the club leaders to a meeting at the Town Hall, but it was **AGREED** to be unnecessary at present.

**20. 2020 GROUP FOCUS AND ACTION PLAN**

Members discussed the benefits of including events for men within the TAFG action plan, including a men's Angling Day and a men's Walk and Talk event at Whetmead Nature Reserve.

**21. SOCIAL ISOLATION OUTREACH PROGRAMME**

Members were asked to consider how to reach those members of the community that were socially isolated. Members discussed the possibility of utilising doctors and dentist surgeries and it was **AGREED** to encourage local groups to attend Witham Town Council's Community Day.

**22. FUTURE COMMITTEE WORK**

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would concentrate on matters arising from the current meeting at this time.

**23. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was **AGREED** that the date of the next meeting would be circulated by email once progress on items from this meeting had been made.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 2.15 p.m.

NS 10.03.2020

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Councillor Mrs S Ager  
Chairman