

Minutes of Community Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 12 January 2010, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	I Sayers
G Geldard	G Scott
J Hill	M Sutcliffe
S Hore	J White (arrived 6.50pm)
M Robinson	A Yearing

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Street Scene Manager, Community Development Manager, Director of Resources, Financial Services Manager and Waste Management Officer.

Also in attendance: Councillor E M H Ranson and S Sutcliffe.

672 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Alcock, S Farnsworth and L Rimmer.

673 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Director of Community Services took this opportunity to update Members on the refuse collection service following the extreme weather conditions that had been experienced over the Christmas holiday period.

674 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S Hore declared an interest in agenda item No 18 – Ombudsman Investigation, Thorneyholme.

675 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman welcomed Chris Gathercole and Kate Murray to the meeting from Transition Town Clitheroe. Mr Gathercole gave a brief presentation on the background to the community organisation and outlined their aims and objectives. He felt that Transition Town Clitheroe could work as a partnership with the Borough Council where there are common interests. He informed Committee that they were currently working with the strategic partnership on the sustainable strategy. The Chairman thanked them for their presentation.

676 REFERENCES FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no references from Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

777 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/2010 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME 2010/2015

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to approve the revised programme for the current year and to consider the future five-year capital programme for this Committee. A table of schemes was highlighted with the original costs compared to the revised estimates and the unfinished schemes were highlighted.

A booklet was included showing the schemes for this Committee in detail. This included ambition links, performance efficiency and consultation, key dates, environmental impact, financial implications, risk assessment, consequences if the scheme is delayed or deleted and the impact of proposed schemes on the five-year capital programme. The Director of Resources informed Committee that this was a draft programme at this stage and would require further consideration by the Budget Working Group and the Policy and Finance Committee in order to make it an affordable programme.

Committee asked various questions with regard to specific schemes and in particular to the Clitheroe and Whalley CCTV system.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the revised capital programme for 2009/2010 as set out in the report;
2. recommend the future five year programme for 2010/2011 to 2014/2015 as outlined to the Policy and Finance Committee; and
3. instruct the Director of Community Services to prepare a report for Committee on the Clitheroe and Whalley CCTV system.

678 REVENUE BUDGET 2009/2010 AND ORIGINAL ESTIMATE 2010/2011

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to agree the revised revenue budget for 2009/2010 and consider a draft revenue budget for 2010/2011 along with the proposed fees and charges. She informed Committee that the revised revenue budget for 2009/2010 was £67,780 higher than the original estimate. She highlighted the main reasons for these variations.

With regard to the 2010/2011 draft revenue budget, the Director of Resources reminded Committee that there were a number of potential problems that could have a significant impact on the budget which included the economic downturn on service income levels, the level of investment income received, public sector funding, pension fund contributions, increase in national insurance contributions, pay awards and the transfer of administration of concessionary travel scheme to

upper tier authority. The estimates had been prepared on the current levels of service and included provisions for pay and price increases of 1.5%. She reminded Committee that whilst considering savings they should be mindful that whilst the savings required for 2010/2011 may appear modest based on the assumptions of the budget forecast, substantial savings would be required from 2011/2012 onwards. She talked Committee through each service heading in some detail and highlighted any major changes in the budget. She also reminded Committee that the service plans are in the process of being reviewed and that as part of those reviews, growth and savings were in the process of being identified.

A review of the fees and charges operated by this Committee had also been undertaken and where possible the exercise had included a comparison of charges to those operated by neighbouring authorities and where applicable the private sector.

Committee discussed the various budget heads that fall under this Committee and highlighted some areas where it was felt savings could be made if necessary. It was felt that the budget should be considered again early in the new financial year by this Committee.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the revised revenue budget for 2009/2010;
2. approve the proposed fees and charges as set out in the report; and
3. agree the revenue budget for 2010/2011 for submission to the next Policy and Finance Committee with the proviso that should savings need to be made, then discretionary services should be considered first.

679 FUTURE WASTE DISPOSAL ARRANGEMENT AND PFI

The Director of Community Services submitted a report providing Committee with an analysis of the options available to the Council as regards delivery of the various waste streams that are collected to the County Council's PFI facilities and asking them to decide upon the best option for the Council taking into account both operational and financial issues affecting the Council and the Council's commitment to meeting the objectives as set out in the Waste Management Strategy for Lancashire 2008/2020.

The Director of Community Services reminded Committee that they had agreed in principle to the delivery of all our waste streams to the PFI facilities subject to a full financial costing report being submitted to this meeting. He informed Committee that we were now in a position where a decision was needed on the changes to be implemented in order that waste collected in Ribble Valley is, where possible, (both practically and financially) channelled into the County Council's new PFI facilities. However, there was still the outstanding matter with regard to the collection and disposal of waste paper. The Director of Community Services outlined three possible options for consideration which included the

criteria affecting each option along with financial details and background and assumptions.

He reminded Committee that the waste transfer station was built following the closure of the Henthorn Road landfill site and was built on this Council's site by the County Council at their expense. An agreement exists whereby the waste transfer station shall operate from the Council's depot for a period of 25 years and was designed and constructed to handle three waste streams only. He briefly outlined the three options available which were to reconfigure the buildings at the waste transfer station to handle four waste streams; continue the collection of waste paper and transport it to a PFI facility or to continue to operate the waste paper service as at present following negotiations with the County Council.

Committee discussed the options available to them along with the pros and cons of each option.

RESOLVED: That Committee instruct the Director of Community Services to start further discussions and negotiations with the Lancashire County Council based on option 3, taking into account the following three principles:

- The waste transfer station cannot be altered.
- A paper/cardboard collection must be maintained.
- Should the County Council wish the Council to transport waste paper somewhere else, then they should meet any costs incurred.

680 CLITHEROE CASTLE CAFÉ

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of progress with the future operation of the museum café. He reminded Members that following the demise of Gold & Brown, the Borough Council had taken on the operation of the café for the period up until the end of March 2010. After discussions at the Budget Working Group, it had been concluded that the Council should now go back to the market to seek an outside partner to operate the café from 1 April 2010. An advert had been placed in the local press, along with direct contact with previously interested parties, asking for expressions of interest. These would be followed up by interviews with a view to identifying a shortlist who would then be formally invited to tender. It was proposed that a panel of Members and officers should be set up to conduct the initial interviews and review the final tender returns.

RESOLVED: That

1. Committee note the contents of the report and endorse the decision to seek an external partner for the future operation of the Atrium Café/venue; and
2. the Working Group membership that will oversee the selection process should include the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Committee and the Shadow Chairman and Vice Chairman of Committee.

681 LICENCE TO NORTH WEST SOUND ARCHIVE

The Director of Community Services submitted a report which included a draft licence to the North West Sound Archives for their occupation at Clitheroe Castle Museum. He reminded Committee that as part of the redevelopment of the museum, it had become necessary to relocate the sound archive from the old steward's house to the top floor of the museum building and that as part of the recognition of the Borough Council's contribution in accommodating the North West Sound Archives, a new licence had been produced.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the draft licence as outlined to form the basis of negotiations with the North West Sound Archives.

682 LANGHO FOOTBALL CLUB LEASE

The Director of Community Services submitted a report updating Committee on negotiations surrounding the new lease for Northcote Road to Langho Football Club. A request for financial information had been made and although some had been provided, this did not include details with regard to junior memberships and the work and finances of the football aspect of the club.

Committee discussed the request from the football club to grant aid the rent as they had previously enjoyed. It was felt that the continuation of the football club should not be jeopardised but that the District Valuer's valuation of the site should be adhered to.

RESOLVED: That Committee inform the Policy and Finance Committee that an appropriate rent for Northcote Road site is £2,000 as per the District Valuer's recommendations, per annum and that a reducing grant over four years resulting in the full amount being payable, should be made to aid the football club in absorbing the increase. The initial grant proposed was £1,000, reducing by £250 per annum.

683 FLOODS AND WATER MANAGEMENT AND FLOOD RISK REGULATIONS 2009

The Director of Community Services submitted a report bringing Committee up to date on both new and emerging legislation regarding the Council's role in flood risk management and to report upon the recent meeting of the Working Group set up by Committee to consider how the Council should respond to its new responsibilities. He informed Committee that the emerging guidance which suggests the new duty being placed on local authorities was a challenging and complex process that would require a great deal of resource and capacity and further consideration.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the minutes of the Working Group; and

2. request the Director of Community Services/Street Scene Manager to assess the budget requirements to enable data collection as highlighted under Section 3 of the report and that this budget be advised through the Budget Working Group to Policy and Finance Committee.

684 SALTHILL PLAY AREA, CLITHEROE – TOWER HILL YOUTH ACTION GROUP

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of the progress that had been made with this project and to consider how the site could be maintained in the future. He reminded Committee that they had agreed in principle to the future provision at Salthill Park and that a sum of £47,390 had been approved from the Lancashire County Council administered play builders fund towards a scheme on this site.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree to proceed with the first phase of the scheme; and
2. agree to meet the costs of the maintenance of this site from within current budgets and resources.

685 WHALLEY MOOR WOODLAND – CALDERSTONES PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of the progress being made with this project and again to consider how the subsequent maintenance be financed. He highlighted the works that had already taken place and the work that still had to be carried out, and again highlighted that the newly developed site would need maintenance in the future.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree that the balance of the commuted sum should fund the future maintenance of this site.

686 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of progress on various aspects of arts and sports development provision. It also included healthy lifestyles and tourism.

687 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the fact that the following items of business be exempt information under Category 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

688 LICENCE TO OCCUPY

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider the 'licence to occupy' document proposed between Longridge Social Enterprise Company and the Ribble Valley Borough Council. With regards to the extension at the Civic Hall site, to allow the gym and children's centre services.

Councillors made comments about and challenged some sections of the licence that officers agreed to follow up.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the licence with the minor amendments suggested for presentation to the LSEC for consideration and acceptance by their directors as licensors of the site; and
2. request officers determine an additional schedule that identifies certain cost sharing between Ribble Valley Borough Council and Lancashire County Council which may be subsequently inserted into the licence.

Councillor Hore declared an interest in the next item of business and left the meeting.

689 THORNEYHOLME BRIDGE – STRUCTURAL CAPACITY AND THE OMBUDSMAN'S INVESTIGATION

The Legal Services Manager submitted a report informing Committee of a complaint that had been made arising from the changes to the Council's refuse collection and recycling service and to seek committee's view as to whether or not the Council should be responsible for the cost of surveying a privately owned bridge to ascertain whether or not it is suitable to bear the weight of the loaded refuse vehicle. The report set out a full history of the matter and Committee discussed it in some detail.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. do not authorise the Council's Street Scene Manager to obtain a full structural survey of the privately owned bridge; and
2. instruct the Legal Services Manager to write to the Ombudsman and explain the Committee decision.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact John Heap (414461).