

Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 2 November 2010, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	M Robinson
J E Alcock	I Sayers
S Brunskill	G Scott
J Hill	M Sutcliffe
S Hore	J White
B Jones	

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

Also in attendance: Councillor N Walsh.

402 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor G Geldard.

403 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Hore informed the Committee that the Parish Council at Dunsop Bridge (Bowland Forest Higher) were keen to proceed with the renewal of the Lease at the car park in Dunsop Bridge as referred to in Minute 256.

404 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

405 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

406 REFERENCES FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no references from Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

CHARGING FOR SUPPLY OF WHEELED BINS TO DOMESTIC PROPERTIES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider the findings and recommendations of the Working Group which had been set up to explore the possibility of introducing a policy of making a charge for the supply of new or replacement wheeled bins to domestic properties. He reminded Committee of the background to this matter and also outlined the issues that the Working Group had considered at their meeting. These included whether the charge should be an administration and delivery charge rather than the cost of a bin, to whom a charge should be made in relation to new build properties, under what circumstances a charge should be made whether to vary replacement charge to different waste streams and how to influence prospective developers, estate agents and solicitors.

The Working Group considered information provided by officers on how charges were introduced within other districts in Lancashire and the statistics provided on replacement number of wheeled bins.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the report;
2. approve the policies and actions of the Working Group as set out:
 - a) that a standard charge of £90 be imposed to cover only the administration and delivery costs in providing the standard three 140ltr wheeled bins (or the larger size) to each property; this however should be reduced to £60 where the property has no garden and therefore no green bin is required;
 - b) that the standard charge is imposed on householders of new build properties and householders moving into pre-built properties;
 - c) that wheeled bins are provided free of charge where the householder has never had a bin or where they are switching to wheeled bins from the lilac sack collection system;
 - d) that the existing policy and procedure in place to cover the free of charge replacement of wheeled bins reported as stolen to the Police should remain unchanged. The protocol agreed with the Police as to how such reports are handled, also remains unchanged;
 - e) that where wheeled bins are damaged as a result of the collection operation itself, they are replaced free of charge;
 - f) that where wheeled bins are accidentally or deliberately damaged by the householder or third party, a charge for replacement will be made;

- g) that householders are required to ensure that they use the appropriate containers for the disposal of their waste, otherwise contaminated wheeled bins will not be emptied;
 - h) that developers be made aware of the system operated in Ribble Valley for the collection of waste for recycling and disposal;
 - i) that estate agents, solicitors and social landlords be advised on the conditions for charging for wheeled bins; and
 - j) that the policy for charging for wheeled bins be publicised through the Council's website and other promotional material.
3. approve the development of a guidance note for waste storage and collection for adoption by the Planning and Development Committee; and
 4. request that a letter is sent to the estate agents, solicitors and social landlords in the Ribble Valley advising on the policies for charging for wheeled bins and advising that wheeled bins are the property of Ribble Valley Borough Council and not the householder and should be included as a fixture and fitting.

408

INDOOR TENNIS CENTRE – EDISFORD

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to renew the lease arrangements for the operation of Ribble Valley indoor tennis centre and to decide upon the terms upon which the Lease should be renewed. He informed Committee that the term of the Lease was for 15 years and whilst this had lapsed in 2007, the operation had in effect remained unchanged up to the present day. One of the terms identified within the Lease stipulates that the premises must only be used for indoor tennis and as the centre had experienced a decline in casual tennis bookings in recent years, they had requested a greater flexibility be built into the new Lease to accommodate other activities.

The Director of Community Services outlined the current financial arrangements which did not include a rental charge levied to Ribble Valley Tennis Centre Ltd but was based on an income share on casual bookings in return for managing such bookings.

It was felt that a further 15-year Lease would be necessary but should be based on a more commercial footing. The Committee understood that because there had been a decline in casual tennis bookings the staging of other indoor sports might be an advantage in this facility but felt that this should not be at the expense of any income generated at our own facilities but were happy for the Director of Community Services to enter a re-negotiation with regard to a further Lease for the tennis centre.

RESOLVED: That Committee instruct the Director of Community Services to re-negotiate a further 15-year Lease for the tennis centre and that this should include a rent at the District Valuer's valuation, plus a sum for the loss of income should the tennis

centre introduce indoor netball which would take revenue away from our external courts.

409 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES

The Director of Resources submitted a report seeking Committee's approval on the proposals to increase the Council's fees and charges with effect from the 4 January 2011 due to the increase in the rate of VAT from that date. The proposed increases would also look to implement inflationary rates from 4 January 2011 instead of waiting until the 1 April 2011. The Financial Services Manager reminded Committee that these recommendations had been made by the Budget Working Group and the proposed charges had been set following discussions between financial services, service managers and budget holders. Committee considered the charges outlined in the report, in particular those proposed for the pay and display car parks. There was a strong feeling that in order to continue encouraging tourism and shoppers that the 1 hour and 2 hour fees on short stay car parks should not be increased.

It was also felt that in order to bring Mardale Road car park in Longridge in line with other long stay car parks, that its fee should be frozen for this year to bring it in line. Committee discussed the impact that this would have on income and asked that the Financial Services Manager do an analysis for their information.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the recommendations as set out in the report, with the exception:

- a) that the fees at Mardale Road car park, Longridge be frozen for one year; and
- b) that the 1 hour and 2 hour fees on the short stay car parks are not increased.

410 DELIVERY OF WASTE STREAMS TO PFI WASTE TECHNOLOGY PARKS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's information updating them on the delivery of our waste streams to the PFI waste technology parks and the future arrangements for the collection of mixed paper and cardboard. He reported that discussion and negotiations are still ongoing with the County Council although this was now reaching a point where a decision on the way forward was imminent. A meeting had been arranged between the Chairman of Committee, the Leader of the Council and the Director of Community Services (for the 12 November) to further consider the Council's position

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

411 CALDERSTONES PARK PLAY AREA AND WOODLAND

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's information with regard to the Calderstones Park play area and woodland

following receipt of a letter from a resident expressing concern about the location of the play area and seeking assurance that the area was fit and safe for children to play on. This had been taken very seriously by officers and a site inspection had taken place, following which there had been a clean-up of surface debris in the area and the engineering staff were now developing a further limited scheme of mitigation measures for the area.

The Director of Community Services informed Committee that there was no question at all that the play area itself was safe for children to play. He would write back to the resident concerned informing him of what measures had been taken by the Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

412 CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report bringing Committee up to date with the future arrangements on Children's Trust. Councillor Brunskill, the Borough Council's representative on the Children's Trust expressed concern about poor communications so far and asked that she be more involved with this.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

413 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11

The Director of Resources submitted a report informing Committee of the progress to the end of September with the Capital Programme for this Committee for the current financial year. The report included updated capital evaluation sheets to give Committee an indication of progress with the various schemes.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

414 REVENUE MONITORING 2010/11

The Director of Resources submitted a report informing Committee of the position for the first six months of this year's revenue budget as far as this Committee was concerned. The main variations had been extracted for Committee's information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

415 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of progress on various aspects of leisure and sports development, tourism, arts development and the Platform Gallery.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

416

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Hore reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the Parishes of the Hodder Valley area, who had met the Director of the Environment from Lancashire County Council, who had informed them that there was a new Liaison Officer for Ribble Valley whose role included public realm. He felt it might be useful to invite this person to meet us in the future.

The meeting closed at 7.44pm.

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