

Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 13 September 2011 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

J E Alcock	R Newmark
S Brunskill	L Rimmer
S Carefoot	G Scott
A Knox	J White
G Mirfin	

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Head of Engineering Services, Head of Financial Services and Principal Surveyor.

322 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Bennett, J Hill, M Robinson and R Swarbrick.

323 MINUTES

The Director of Community Services referred to minute 194 and informed Councillors that the public participant had questioned the accuracy of them. They discussed the minute and found it to be an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Several Councillors also made comments upon minute 199 regarding dog fouling on Council owned playing pitches and the making of a dog control order and asked when consultation with Councillors would take place. The Director of Community Services informed them that this had been temporarily delayed because of holidays but would be happening in the near future.

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

324 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A Knox declared an interest in agenda item No 7 regarding the Badger Wells culvert capital programme as a County Councillor with a non-prejudicial interest.

325 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

326 REFERENCES FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Director of Community Services informed Committee that at their latest meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the performance indicators relating to refuse collection and the number of missed bins over the

relevant quarter. Their resolution had been to urge Community Committee to ensure that the figures for missed collections be reduced from red to a green indicator as soon as possible. The Director of Community Services informed Committee that this related to a target figure that was exceptionally low and that perhaps it would be more useful to adjust it to a more realistic figure that would still flag up any problems but not be quite so sensitive.

Committee debated the issue surrounding missed bins and the reasons why this happens and were particularly complimentary about the refuse collection service. Issues were again highlighted about acceptable recyclable materials and how to educate residents on putting the right thing in the recycling bins. Concerns were also highlighted about elderly people being able to use the wheeled bins. The Chairman informed Committee that there were mechanisms in place to deal with this issue if necessary.

RESOLVED: That Committee agreed to the target figure being adjusted to a more realistic number.

327 INITIATION OF THE REVIEW OF THE PROVISION AND OPERATION OF PUBLIC TOILETS ACROSS THE BOROUGH

The Director of Community Services submitted a report proposing arrangements for the review of the provision and operation of the Council's public toilets across the borough, the aim of which is to propose a financially sustainable and acceptable level of service in respect of the provision of public conveniences. He informed Committee that the Council currently operate 24 sets of long established public conveniences across the borough which reflects the combination of the predominately rural nature of the borough and its attraction to visitors as a tourism and leisure orientated area. The direct cost of this service in the 2010/11 year was approximately £166,000.

The proposal to set up a small working group of Members to consider several options outlined in the report was suggested, in order to develop an acceptable and sustainable outcome. However, it was pointed out that 'a one size fits all' solution to maintain a service and yet reduce costs was not possible and that sustainable tailored options for each locality would be needed in order to continue the provision of the service and still deliver savings.

The range of issues to be considered would include current service levels, building maintenance and replacement, urban community toilet schemes, rural community toilet schemes, local management and support of Council facilities, increased role of local key holders, opening and closing arrangements, new facilities to cater for new demands and residual and disposal costs. Examples of the various schemes were explained briefly to Committee for their information. Informal approaches had already been made to a number of retailers and business operators who, in principle, had given their support to the introduction of such initiatives.

Committee discussed the various proposals and were supportive of looking at new ideas but were also conscious of the need to keep public conveniences in many of the villages.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. noted the report and the range of potential options available when considering the provision of Council operated public conveniences across the borough; and
2. agreed that a small working group comprising of three Conservatives and one Liberal Democrat be formed to consider officer proposals in the development of an acceptable and sustainable solution for the provision of the conveniences across the borough that are accessible to the public.

Councillor A Knox declared a non-prejudicial interest in the next item of business as a Lancashire County Councillor.

328 UPDATE ON BADGER WELLS WATER CULVERT, SABDEN

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's information advising them on the joint arrangements made with Lancashire County Council for the replacement of a section of the Badger Wells water culvert at Sabden. Ribble Valley Borough Council was now completing the necessary design works for the replacement of the collapsed and defective length of culvert and the Lancashire County Council are to subsequently undertake and complete the extensive works at their cost, hopefully to be completed in the current financial year. The County Council would undertake further works in the forthcoming work subject to budgets.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

329 CLITHEROE FOOD FESTIVAL

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of the outcome of the Food Festival which was held on Saturday, 13 August 2011. The event had proved a resounding success with over 15,000 people attending the various venues around the town.

Committee were very complimentary about the event and felt that it should become an annual fixture.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

330 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of the progress on leisure and sports development service.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

331 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor White reminded Committee that they had all received a questionnaire regarding their representation on outside bodies and requested that they complete it.

The meeting closed at 7.33pm.

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