

Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 11 September 2012 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

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

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Community Services (7.15pm), Head of Engineering Services, Head of Culture and Leisure Services and Leisure and Sports Development Manager.

284 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor S Hore.

285 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Robinson asked a question with regard to minute 184 – Public Open Space Assessment with regards to the Clitheroe Town Council forming a Friends of Clitheroe bandstand.

286 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

287 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

288 SWIMMING POOL/SWIMMING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Director of Community Services submitted a report requesting Members to consider the priorities and business objectives relating to the operation of Ribblesdale Pool. He informed Committee that the results of the national Active People Survey had revealed some key messages with regard to participation in swimming; the main message being that participation was falling nationally. Despite the overall decline in swimming levels identified in the Active People Survey, this had not had a detrimental impact upon the operation at Ribblesdale Pool. However, it was felt that measures should still be taken to encourage future participation. He reminded Committee that the reduction in the level of net revenue expenditure at the pool had been achieved through a range of cost reduction measures including changes to staffing hours and also due to

maximising income/usage through an increase in provision of swimming lessons for juniors and the availability of swimming contracts offering incentivised rates for swimmers to attend more frequently.

He highlighted various issues which included a request from the Clitheroe Dolphins Swimming Club for more time to be allocated for their training purposes. The delivery of the SwimFit campaign, swimming offers initiative which is an online voucher campaign to get people swimming more often and the upgrading of the facilities with specific regard to changing room modernisation schemes.

Committee discussed the various aspects highlighted in the report with particular reference to guaranteed income and marketing of the various initiatives and classes available.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve in principle the objectives contained within the Swimming Action Plan and agree to a fully detailed plan being produced with the support of the ASA;
2. endorse the general principles as outlined in the report accepting the Clitheroe Dolphins request for more pool time and supporting the SwimFit and swimming offers campaigns; and
3. ask officers to further explore the external funding opportunity with regard to changing room modernisation schemes in order to identify any financial implications to the Council.

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LEISURE CARD REVIEW

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of the current availability of price concessions extended to certain Ribble Valley residents under the Leisure card scheme. He reminded Committee that the Freedom Leisure Card had been available to Ribble Valley residents since 2004 to specific target groups, although the Council had operated some sort of concession card scheme for the past 20 years. The Freedom Leisure card had offered admissions at a reduction of approximately one third off the normal price and had initially been operated through the Gladstone MRM supported system. A comparison of leisure card schemes across the east Lancashire districts was included in the report for Committee's information. Over the duration of the Council's Freedom card, there had been a total of 1233 memberships. He reminded Committee that the Longridge Sports Centre/Gym and Roefield Leisure Centre were no longer included in the operation of the scheme which left only Ribblesdale Pool taking part. He also reminded Committee that as part of the approved service review savings in November 2011, the maintenance contract for the computerised system provided by Gladstone MRM had been cancelled. The specific post of Leisure Card Officer had also been part of the savings measures and this post had been terminated in December 2011. The report outlined the options available for future administration of operating a membership scheme, along with category changes for the targeted user groups.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. accept the proposal to continue with the operation of a leisure card scheme that incorporates the amendments to the targeted user group as outlined; and
2. approve the alternative arrangements for the implementation and management of the leisure card and other pool management functions be implemented which satisfies the pool operational and business requirements.

290 MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Director of Community Services submitted a report enclosing a draft museum development policy. The document was broadly similar to the previous one and accurately reflected the current status of the collection and how it is managed. It had been amended due to the restructure within the Department for Culture Media and Sport with the responsibility for museum registration being passed on to the Arts Council for England. He reminded Members that the museum and its collection is managed on behalf of the Borough Council by the Lancashire Museum Service but the Clitheroe collection remains in the ownership of the Council who are the governing body for the purpose of the policy. He pointed out that the policy's primary aim is to set out the guiding principles for the Clitheroe collection and that any changes to the policy would be discussed by the soon-to-be-established Local Advisory Forum with recommendations to the Council as governing body.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. adopts the enclosed development policy (with some minor clarification); and
2. ensure that nominated Members of the Advisory Committee have an active role in its future development.

291 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of progress with Brungerley Park, Ribble Valley Olympic weekend, the Ribble Valley Summer Activities booklet, Ribble Valley Sports Awards, Ribble Valley Soccer Cage and Clitheroe Torchlight mass cycle.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

292 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

A report submitted by Councillor Thomas on Langho football Club was circulated for Committee's information.

293 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the fact that the following item of business be exempt information under Category 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

CLITHEROE FOOD FESTIVAL UPDATE

The Directors of Resources and Community Services submitted a report updating Committee with regard to the success of the Clitheroe Food Festival 2012 and asking them to consider the latest estimated outturn and how this should be financed and to consider the level of provision of future financial officer and infrastructure support.

There was no doubt that the event was a huge success with a major increase in the number of attendances and exhibitors from the previous year. However, the income had been disappointing. The report outlined the financial performance.

The report outlined that for future food festival events, management arrangements clearly needed to be discussed with the Food Festival Company and Committee needed to consider the level of Council support with regard to officer time and free provision of infrastructure and facilities.

Committee discussed in some detail the event which although had been very successful, had presented some serious concerns for the Council with regard to its management arrangements.

RESOLVED: That

1. Committee acknowledge the success of the Food Festival event and the support that it attracted for the local economy and also the borough as a tourist destination;
2. Committee approve the use of the performance reward grant previously set aside for tourism to fund the final shortfall on the 2012 Food Festival subject to approval by Policy and Finance Committee;
3. Policy and Finance Committee be asked to consider the level of officer and infrastructure support that should be given in the provision of future food festival events including the preferred nature of the Borough Council's involvement in future food festivals, with more detailed information being provided of the issues arising from this year's event, taking into account the serious concerns of this Committee; and
4. Committee support future food festivals in principle.

The meeting closed at 8.12pm.

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