

Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 27 May 2014 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

J E Alcock	R Newmark
R Bennett	L Rimmer
S Brunskill	M Robinson
S Carefoot	I Sayers
A M Knox	R Swarbrick
G Mirfin	

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Engineering Services, Head of Cultural and Leisure Services, Head of Financial Services, Head of Environmental Health Services, Solicitor, Waste Management Officer, Principal auditor.

8 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Hill, G Scott and J White.

9 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the addition of Councillor R Bennett to the attendance list.

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

12 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

Committee were asked to confirm arrangements/membership of any working groups that fall within the remit of this Committee.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the appointment of the following working groups:

Public Conveniences Working Group – 4 Members
Open Space Working Group (in conjunction with P&D Committee) – 4 Members
Grants Working Group – 4 Members
Car Park Working Group – 4 Members

13 CAPITAL OUTTURN 2013/2014

The Director of Resources submitted a report seeking Member approval for the slippage of capital schemes from the 2013/2014 financial year to the 2014/2015 financial year and to review the final outturn of the capital programme for 2013/2014 for this Committee.

The past capital programme for the Community Committee consisted of 9 schemes which totalled £902,830. Actual expenditure to the end of the financial year was £878,184 which equated to 97% of the overall revised estimate. Slippage to be carried forward into 2014/2015 related to one scheme – play area improvements, which totalled £11,710.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree the request for slippage as outlined in the report and approve the slippage of £11,710 into the 2014/2015 financial year.

14 DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider the responses received to the consultation upon the Dog Control Orders proposed under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, whether these Orders should be made and the value of fixed penalties to be applied to these offences.

The Solicitor reminded Committee that a detailed report had been brought on this matter in January 2014 when Committee had authorised the Head of Environmental Health Services to consult upon the proposed Dog Control Orders. The requisite notice had been placed in the Clitheroe Advertiser and Times and consultations had taken place with all Parish Councils, the Access Authority and Local Access Forum, Natural England as well as the proposed orders being placed on the Council website and a press release. Several responses had been received to the consultation, the majority of which had been supportive; however an issue had been raised about public rights of way across areas included in the proposed Dog Exclusion Order. The position in relation to public rights of way is dealt with through the provisions of Section 57 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act and the Control on Dog (Non-application to Designated Land) Order 2009/2829 (Non-application Order). On this basis it was understood that the proposed Dog Exclusion Order would not apply to any public right of way which crosses the areas covered by it and this would be made clear to the public through the use of clear signage and fencing where possible.

The regulations regarding fixed penalties provides that an authority may set its fixed penalty as not less than £50 and not more than £80 and also provides that where an authority makes provision for a lesser amount to be paid if it is paid within a specified time, then such lesser amount should not be less than £50. Committee were asked to consider the issue of fixed penalties.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. authorise the Council to make the five Dog Control Orders as consulted upon and as set out in the report to come into force on 1 August 2014; and
2. to set the amount of a fixed penalty notice as £80 with a lesser amount of £50 if such fixed penalty notice be paid within 14 days.

15 UPDATE ON MERGED PLATFORM GALLERY AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's information on the performance at the Platform Gallery. This related to the combined service of the Gallery with the Visitor Information Centre which now provided a much wider visitor offer.

Discussions had recently been ongoing with the Chamber of Trade about Sunday opening in the town and the cost of this for the Gallery had been calculated, as it was felt that a Sunday opening trial should be supported.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve a trial of 3 months opening for the Platform Gallery/Visitor Information Centre during the summer months.

16 UPDATE ON TOURISM AND EVENTS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report giving an update on tourism and events within the Ribble Valley. This included issues relating to marketing and promotion, visitor guide, social media and the website, press and PR, the Ribble Valley Tourism Association, group travel and events.

Committee felt it would be useful if they could have a briefing session on tourism activities and events both generally and in the Platform Gallery/Visitor Information Centre.

17 MARKET ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SALE OF WASTE PAPER AND CARDBOARD

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's information on the departure from contract procedure rules for the contract arrangements relating to the sale of waste paper and cardboard recovered through the Council's kerbside paper and cardboard collection service. He informed Committee that notification had been received from Lancashire County Council that they would no longer support Lancashire's waste collection authorities through cost sharing arrangements, which would have an impact on this service. The withdrawal of recycling credits would be evaluated as part of the wider implications to this authority on the refuse and recycling services provided.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

18 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2014/2015

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of the Outside Bodies that come under the remit of the Community Services Committee and their membership.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

19 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of recent developments in engineering services and an update of activities in the arts development section. Councillors asked questions with regard to the recent developments that affect the management of events staged on the public highway.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

20 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies.

21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the fact that the following items 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.

22 REFERENCE FROM COMMITTEE – AUDIT OF PLATFORM GALLERY AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to consider the recommendations made following a recent audit of the Platform Gallery and Visitor Information Centre that had been presented to the Accounts and Audit Committee on 2 April 2014. The Principal Auditor informed Committee of the background to the audit that had taken place at the Visitor Information Centre. A detailed action plan had been agreed and implementation dates for all 11 recommendations had also been agreed. To date many of these recommendations had been acted upon and a follow up audit would soon be carried out and a further update on progress be given.

Committee expressed concern about this issue and felt that they should be kept informed on progress along with the Accounts and Audit Committee.

RESOLVED: That Committee request that a further report be submitted to this Committee in six months' time showing the progress of any follow up audits.

UPDATE ON WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's information on a number of waste management issues that may have an impact on the Council and its services. This included the notification from Lancashire County Council that they would no longer support Lancashire's waste collection authorities through cost sharing arrangements and in the case of Ribble Valley, through tonnage based recycling credit payments. The cessation of payment of recycling credits does not solely affect the kerbside waste paper collection service but also the three streamed wheeled bin collection services, as recycling credits are claimed for the recovered co-mingled recyclate and mixed food and garden waste. Discussions with the County Council are still ongoing at Leader and Senior Officer level in an effort to resolve these issues.

Additionally Members were advised that from 1 January 2015 we will have a statutory obligation to collect four recyclable materials separately unless we can prove it is neither Technically Environmentally or Economically Practical (TEEP). Officers are currently evaluating guidance document to determine whether or not changes may be required to our collection systems.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and Members be kept informed of progress.

The meeting closed at 7.43pm.

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