

## Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 2 September 2014 starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

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

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Head of Engineering Services, Head of Cultural and Leisure Services, Head of Financial Services, Head of Environmental Health Services and Senior Accountant.

Also in attendance: Councillor A Yearing.

### 193 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting was received from Councillor G Mirfin.

### 194 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Robinson asked for an update on Minute 15 regarding the three month trial of Sunday/Bank Holiday opening at the Platform Gallery/Visitor Information Centre during the summer months. Councillor Yearing was also given permission to speak on this item and referred to the same issue.

### 195 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

### 196 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 197 EVENTS IN CLITHEROE CASTLE GROUNDS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report outlining a request to hold a large music event in the Castle grounds next year for up to three days. The report also sought Member approval for officers to seek a number of large scale events in the Castle grounds over the summer period each year to complement existing events in the borough. The Director informed Committee that the latest request to stage a music festival for up to three consecutive days in the summer of 2015 would be based around original artists from the 1980s and

1990s and could attract up to 7000 people per day. If Committee agreed in principle to allow this, the Council would need to work with the promoter to ensure access issues were addressed as well as the dispersal of such a large number of people. The lessons learned from the Food Festival and bonfire would be useful background. The promoter would also need to provide a comprehensive operational plan for the event taking into account the health and safety of those attending. The event itself would be ticket only and the promoter was planning to sell all available tickets in advance of the event. Clearly, an event of this size would have a significant economic impact for the town and wider area, as well as an impact on local residents. There would also need to be some traffic management arrangements. The promoter envisaged this becoming an annual event if the first year is a success.

Councillor A Yearling was given permission to speak on this item and although recognising that 7000 people could be a major health and safety issue, gave support to an event in the Castle grounds.

Members discussed various aspects of the event and felt that perhaps three days may be too long but that we should be supporting events on the Castle grounds, as this would provide an opportunity to bring many people into the borough.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approves in principle the staging of a music festival next year subject to the normal licence approvals and confirmation by the Ribble Valley Safety Advisory Group of the promoter's arrangements; and
2. delegates authority to the Director of Community Services to work with other event operators to provide a range of annual events in the borough, to achieve a positive economic impact and help to promote the area from a tourism perspective, as well as providing local residents the opportunity to see these events within their borough without having to travel significant distances.

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#### ROEFIELD ACTIVITY CENTRE ROOM FUNDING REQUEST

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing committee of an application for funding from Roefield Leisure Centre to the Council for £15,445 to enable a new activity space to be built within the existing footprint of the centre. The centre is a busy site providing activities for traditional sports and health and fitness facilities for both adults and children. The space utilisation within the centre could be improved within the existing footprint, thereby increasing the amount of usable space for a range of fitness activities. This was the purpose of the request for funding.

Given the loan that the Council has made in the past and other financial commitments the Trust has, they do not believe another loan would be viable at this stage to help fund the project, hence the reason they are seeking a grant towards the project. The capital cost of the scheme is £30,445 of which the Trust has secured cash contributions of £15,000 from other sources. The Trust itself would contribute £3,798 of in-kind support towards discounted rates and free sessions to encourage more people to become active in the area following

construction of the space. Roefield had considered a bid for Sport England funding to help make up the shortfall instead of the Council, however they believe at this time that they would like to consider making such an application for a larger scheme to try and extend the centre in the future and making an application at this stage for a relatively small sum from Sport England would not be a sensible strategic use of that funding option.

RESOLVED: That Committee were minded to support this request and as resources were not available within existing budgets, ask that the issue be referred to Policy and Finance Committee for them to consider various options.

#### 199 PETITION FOR DOG EXERCISE AREA IN EDISFORD

The Director of Community Services submitted a report including a petition that had been submitted to the Council on behalf of dog owners in the Edisford area of Clitheroe, asking for a space to exercise their dogs on the green space the Council owns around the sports pitches at Edisford or Roefield. He reminded Committee that the principle behind the exclusion order recently implemented was to keep dogs off the sports pitches and play areas the Council operates, because although many owners pick up after their dogs, some owners are not so responsible and do not. Where owners pick up their own dogs mess, it is not practical to remove all vestiges of the mess from the ground and a residual amount remains. This then poses potential health concerns for the children and adults who use the pitches including our own workforce. Where owners do not pick up, this makes the issue even worse for pitch users. The petitioners were seeking an area to one or both sides of Edisford Road where dogs may be let to run without a lead and this would not currently be possible under the exclusion order.

If an area were created, it would need to be fenced in order that it was clearly separated from the sports pitches and the requirement to pick up (the Fouling of Land by Dogs (Ribble Valley Order) 2014) would still apply. However, it would give owners the opportunity to exercise their dogs without impacting on the sports pitches.

It was also worth noting that although a petition had not been received, similar arrangement for the Mardale playing pitches in Longridge had been requested.

Councillor A Yearling was given permission to speak on this item and although was in support of the exclusion order, was sympathetic with the residents. Committee discussed this request.

RESOLVED: That officers report back to a future Committee on the suitability and associated implications of dog exercise areas at Roefield and Mardale.

#### 200 STAN THE VAN

The Director of Community Services submitted a report updating Committee on the status of the mobile resource unit (STAN) and to consider future participation in the scheme after the current funding concludes at the end of this month. He reminded committee that the project was originally funded for a period of three years and the Council decided to continue funding STAN for a further year to

September 2014. The funding for this extension was made possible due to a shortfall in expenditure from the original amount earmarked for its delivery and it was sourced from the performance reward grant. As the funding concludes at the end of the month, a review of the shortfall figures, nature of referrals and customer satisfaction levels over the past year had been provided to help evaluate the impact that the service had had across the borough. Efforts to increase the number of people visiting STAN had included more focused use of locations and increased awareness through various avenues of advertising.

A variety of partners had supported the service that had served to enhance the provision of information available to visitors. However, the possibility of the Citizens Advice Bureau becoming involved in helping to sustain the project across the borough in some way, had been explored but with no success and the availability of any funding source remained the main obstacle to any further continuation of the scheme. It was understood that Help Direct would continue to provide staff support to the STAN Co-ordinator in taking the van out into the communities and it was believed that Rossendale would continue as the sole provider if Ribble Valley withdrew as a partner. There was also the possibility of continuing to utilise the van if there was a specific need on providing an outreach session at a daily rate.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. concludes the Council's involvement in the service and informs Rossendale Borough Council that STAN will not be provided in Ribble Valley as from the end of September 2014; and
2. requests that officers contact all parishes and partners involved in delivering the service over the last four years to notify them and express appreciation for their contribution toward delivery of the service.

201 CONFIRMATION OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS AND EARLY PAYMENT FIXED PENALTY PROVISIONS, CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Committee to reconfirm authorised officers of the Council to enforce requirements of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and confirm early payment provisions. A number of officers were identified and authorised in July 2005 to enforce relevant provisions of the Act. However, since that time, the Council had undergone several restructures with associated changes to job titles. There was also the recent adoption and introduction of the new dog control orders for which the authorisations had been extended to include members of staff who oversee the Council's parks and playing fields.

In order to enforce the provisions of this Act, associated regulations and orders, the Council needs to identify appropriate officers, duly authorise them and provide them with the appropriate advice and training to carry out their associated duties. It was therefore recommended that the following officers be given delegated powers and be authorised for the purposes of this Act, associated regulations and orders:

- Head of Environmental Health Services
- Head of Cultural and Leisure Services
- Head of Engineering Services
- Head of Legal and Democratic Services
- Head of Planning Services
- Principal and Senior Planning Officers
- Countryside Officer
- Leisure and Sports Development Manager
- Sports Development Officer
- Engineering Services Manager
- Senior and District Environmental Health Officers
- Environmental Health Technicians/Pollution Control Officer
- Dog Wardens
- Pest Control Officers
- Senior Civil Enforcement Officer and Civil Enforcement Officers
- Market Officer
- Enforcement Officer (Licensing and Planning)
- Taxi Enforcement Officer
- Waste Management Officer
- Cleansing Manager
- Amenity Cleansing Manager
- Amenity Cleansing Operatives
- Head Gardener and Grounds Maintenance staff
- Any other officer duly authorised by the Chief Executive or Director of Community Services

It was also appropriate to reconfirm the authorisation of Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers to act on our behalf in relation to these provisions.

At the last meeting of this Committee, it had also been agreed to set the fixed penalty charge at £80 in relation to dog control orders. Committee set a lesser sum of £50 if the fixed penalty was paid within 14 days. As stated, all fixed penalties under the Act must be paid within 14 days so a shorter period requires to be set within which the reduced penalty will be payable. Historically, a reduced early payment of 10 days had been allowed in relation to a fixed penalty issued in relation to the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. It was now proposed as preferable for this to be reduced to 7 days to encourage and better reflect early repayment.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. authorise the officers as listed in the report for the purposes of this Act and any regulations made thereunder or amending or replacing the same; and
2. approve a 7 day timescale as being the early repayment period in relation to a fixed penalty issued in relation to dog control order offences and similarly in relation to other fixed penalty offences under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

202 CAPITAL MONITORING 2014/2015

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Committee's information relating to the progress of the approved capital programme for the period April to July 2014 with regard to schemes which fall under the responsibility of this Committee. To date, 30% of the annual capital programme for this Committee had been spent; however this was largely due to delays experienced on the securing of funding for the 3G artificial pitch surface scheme at Edisford.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

203 REVENUE OUTTURN 2013/2014

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Committee's information on the outturn for the financial year 2013/2014 in respect of the revenue budget for this Committee. There had been a considerable number of variations in both income and expenditure during the year which had given rise to an overall underspending of £330,771 on the net cost of services. After transfers to and from earmarked reserves, the overall underspend was £114,800. This had been added to general fund balances.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

204 REVENUE MONITORING 2014/2015

The Director of Resources submitted a report informing committee of the position for the period April to July 2014 of this year's revenue budget as far as this Committee was concerned. The variations between budget and actuals had been split into groups of red, amber and green variance with the budget holders comments and agreed action plans highlighted for Committee's information. The comparison between actual and budgeted expenditure shows an underspend of £80,110 for the first four months of the financial year 2014/2015.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

205 2013/2014 YEAR END PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The Director of Resources submitted a report that detailed performance against our local performance indicators for the year end 2013/2014. Regular performance monitoring was essential to ensure that the Council was delivering effectively against its agreed priorities, both in terms of the national agenda and local needs.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

206 UPDATE ON DISPOSAL OF FORMER TOILET FACILITIES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report updating Committee on the progress with the disposal of the former toilet facilities at Waddington, Newton and Mellor. The sites at Waddington and Newton had been disposed of generating £47,033 (gross income less 1.5% fee) and the sale of the site at Mellor was progressing.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

207 GENERAL REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee on recent developments in the waste management section. He gave a specific update with regard to the waste paper and cardboard collection service and a recent meeting that had taken place with Lancashire County Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

208 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIE BODIES

There were no reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies.

209 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the fact that the following item of business be exempt information under Category 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

210 INDUSTRIAL ACTION – 10 JULY 2014

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's information, apprising them of the effects of the refuse and recycling services following industrial action by Council staff on 10 July 2014 and of measures that could help to reduce the disruption of future actions. It was concluded that in future advance warning would be given to householders of possible disruption to the refuse collection service as a result of intended strike action, together with the alternative arrangements for the collection of their waste if their collection was not completed on the day. Members and the appropriate Parish Councils would also be separately advised by timely emails on the level of refuse and recycling services being operated on any future strike day.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

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