

Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 14 October 2014, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor S Carefoot (Chairman)

Councillors:

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

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

320 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Hill and RJ Thompson.

321 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

322 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

323 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

324 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES

The Director of Resources submitted a report seeking Member approval on proposals to increase the Committee's fees and charges with effect from 1 April 2015. These proposals were the first stage in the review of this Committee's budget for the forthcoming 2015/16 financial year. The review takes place on an annual basis as part of the budget setting process. The Council's latest budget forecast allows for a 2% increase in the level of income raised from fees and charges. The forecast currently shows a potential budget deficit for 2015/16 of £513k after taking £220k from general fund balances. This forecast has already factored in an overall increase in income from fees and charges of 2%.

At the time of writing the report the income from trade refuse fees and charges had not been received from LCC; this was now circulated for Members

information. The review of the fees and charges is co-ordinated by financial services working together with heads of service and budget holders.

Specific reference was made to car parking charges where the proposal was to remain with the same charges for the first hour of parking but suggesting a modest increase in most other charges as these had been fixed since 2008 with the Council absorbing the increase in VAT from 17.5% to 20% from January 2011.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the charges as set out in Annex 1 to the report along with the additional waste charges circulated for implementation with effect from 1 April 2015.

325 CLITHEROE CASTLE GARDEN PINNACLE

The Director of Community Services submitted a report of a request from the Clitheroe Civic Society for a letter of support from the Council for them to take the lead on a heritage lottery grant to investigate and potentially arrange for repairs to be carried out to the Palace of Westminster Pinnacle in the gardens of Clitheroe Castle. The pinnacle had been donated to the town by the then MP Sir William Bass in 1937 to commemorate the coronation of King George VI and had come originally from the Palace of Westminster.

The pinnacle is located within the Castle park and the Council is the landowner and as such the society requires the Council's permission to submit a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to carry out investigative work to determine the scope of works that should be undertaken.

The structure was made from limestone and over time had deteriorated; a process which is accelerated by the corrosion of the ferrous metal cramps within the structure, and without any intervention the structure would eventually become unsafe and would have to be dismantled.

The Council has no identified budget to carry any significant work at this time on the structure.

RESOLVED: That Committee provide a letter of support to the Clitheroe Civic Society from the Council to help their application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

326 CAPITAL MONITORING 2014/15

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 August 2014 with regard to schemes which fall under the responsibility of this Committee. There was a total of three new schemes for this Committee totalling £110,000 in addition to the slippage from the last financial year totalling £11,710 which had been transferred into this financial year. This equated to a total capital spend for the current year of £121,710. To date only 31% of the Capital Programme had been spent however this was largely due to delays experienced on the securing of funding for the 3G artificial surface scheme at Edisford and

confirming the scope of play area improvement works carried forward from 2013/14.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

327 REVENUE MONITORING 2014/15

The Director of Resources submitted a report informing Committee of the current position for the period April to end of August 2014 for the Revenue Budget as far as this Committee was concerned. There was an overall net underspend of £121,814 on the net cost of services. The main areas of variance were summarised for Committee's information; the main one of which was the waste paper and card collection and refuse collection, where the value remains unpaid by Lancashire County Council but continues to be perused.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

328 GENERAL REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee on the recent developments in the Leisure and Sports Section and to inform on current activities at the Platform Gallery. He also informed Committee that it was almost certain that at a special general meeting, The Northwest Sound Archives would be officially dissolved.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

329 REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies.

330 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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.

331 PROPOSAL FOR CLITHEROE FOOD FESTIVAL 2015

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider the Council's involvement and support for the 2015 Clitheroe Food Festival and the proposal received from Clitheroe Festival of Food Ltd. He informed committee that the Council had again been heavily involved in the provision of the 2014 Food Festival just as it had been previously with a wide range of staff being involved in a variety of tasks and reminded Committee that our involvement was an invaluable contribution to the promotion of the area as a tourist destination and also in our role in economic development.

An approach had been made by the Clitheroe Food Festival of Food Ltd with proposals for a summer festival 2015 to be staged on 8 August. It was still

unclear with the suggested new arrangement how much work would remain with Lancashire Bites or any other provider and how much would fall upon the Council. Detailed discussions were still to be held to ensure that the new arrangement would provide the best value for money.

A request was made for a comparative set of accounts for the past 3 years; these would be circulated to Members.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree to the Council again being main lead for the 2015 Food Festival;
2. agreed to re-engage Lancashire Bites for the 2015 Food Festival on the basis requested by the Food Festival company; and
3. subject to successful negotiation on contract terms agreed to waive Standing Orders and appoint Lancashire Bites for the 2015 Festival at a fee of no greater than £6,000.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.

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