

Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 3 September 2019, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor S Carefoot (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Atkinson	R Newmark
T Austin	S O'Rourke
D Birtwhistle	S Rainford
A Humphreys	M Robinson
S Knox	J Schumann
G Mirfin	

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Head of Cultural and Leisure Services, Head of Engineering Services and Principal Accountant.

Also in attendance: Councillor A Knox.

166 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J E Alcock, L Edge and G Scott.

167 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

168 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest.

169 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Barbara Alty on behalf of the Clitheroe Civic Society. Mrs Alty spoken in relation to Agenda item 5, Clitheroe Town Wells. She requested that all 3 wells be considered and not just the one in Ribble Valley Borough Council ownership and also requested that the Council apply for application for title to the Land Registry for Heald Well and St Mary's Well.

170 CLITHEROE TOWN WELLS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report providing Committee with an update on the issue of the Town Wells.

Ownership of the Wellgate and Well Terrace sites was still unknown, whereas ownership of Stocks Well had now been registered by the Borough Council with the Land Registry, thus removing any confusion over ownership of this well.

Following the last Committee officers had been in contact again with the Heritage Lottery Fund to discuss making a small grants application, however the problem

of ownership with the Heald and St Mary's wells remained the same ie ownership could not be proven.

The two routes to registration where no Title Deeds exist are registration based on loss of Title Deeds or adverse possession. Any attempt to obtain title to the land by means of an application to the Land Registry based on missing Deeds when the evidence points towards Clitheroe Corporation never having owned these two wells, would be a deception.

In order to apply for registration based on adverse possession, the Council would need to show evidence that the Council had taken factual possession of the land, had an intention to possess the land, had done so without the owner's consent that these conditions had existed for at least 12 years.

Following discussions with HLF it was clear that they would not be receptive to a small grant application if there was no option provided in the event that no owner was determined, therefore the Council would have to agree to underwrite the grant for work to the Heald and St Mary's Well in addition to Stocks Well and confirm this as part of the HLF application. This would involve entering into a Legal Agreement with HLF acknowledging this arrangement in the event it was not complied with; the HLF would have the right to claw back the money.

Committee again discussed the evidence surrounding the ownership of the wells and asked questions with regard to the associated risks and insurance requirements.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the report; and
2. supports and agrees to underwrite a bid by the Clitheroe Civic Society for the wells in the same way it did when they submitted a bid for the refurbishment of the pinnacle.

171 RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL FLEET OPERATOR'S LICENCE

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider the implications of the Operator's Licence for Ribble Valley Borough Council's fleet of vehicles.

He informed Committee that the holder of the Operator's Licence at the Depot had resigned from his post and left the authority on 21 June 2019. As a result the Office of the Traffic Commissioner had been advised that the Council's Transport Manager had left and that the position was to be advertised and a grace period was requested by the Council.

Following agreement with the Corporate Management Team, the vacancy had been advertised; however no applicant had met in full the Person Specification for the post that held the appropriate qualifications for both areas of expertise.

The Office of the Traffic Commissioner had now written to advise the Council that it had to meet their requirements by 12 November 2019 or the licence would be revoked. This would mean that the Council would not be able to operate any

vehicles on the road legally. Investigations were ongoing to try to find a suitable solution including the use of a third party qualified Transport Manager.

RESOLVED: That Committee support officers in securing a temporary arrangement until a permanent solution is found.

172 TOWARDS AN ACTIVE FUTURE (TaAF)

The Director of Community Services submitted a report providing an update on the progress towards the Council's bid for funding for the TaAF Scheme.

The Council had been involved in a partnership with other Pennine Lancashire authorities since 2017 to initially bid for, and following success at that point, subsequently work to deliver a Sport England Local Delivery Pilot.

The proposed funding allocation for Ribble Valley was based on current levels of activity from the recent Active Lives Survey which means the borough can bid for around £220,000 of funding for projects. The first round of bids could be submitted from September for consideration and approval by the Sport England Board in the autumn. However Sport England had determined that the bidding process would follow a specific governance route that means the Health and Wellbeing Partnerships had to effectively sign off bids that are put forward. This process was still ongoing and it was apparent that additional work to assess the needs of the residents and how best they can be addressed with the funding that can be bid for needs to be done. It was therefore anticipated that a bid would be submitted before the end of October when the focus groups had been run and the analysis of information had been undertaken.

RESOLVED: That Committee endorse the decision to delay submission of the funding bid until the most effective and relevant projects are identified.

173 POTS, TUBS AND TRAYS WASTE CAMPAIGN

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider the implications of the change to plastic recycling.

In addition to ongoing work to reduce bin bag waste and single use plastics, Lancashire County Council were working on a new initiative to accept plastic pots, tubs and trays as well as the normal plastic bottles to come in to effect in autumn 2019.

This would mean the need for new notices on the sides of the refuse collection vehicles, refuse calendars, refuse stickers and a change to the Council's website, along with extra publicity to ensure this campaign was successful. Negotiations were currently underway with Lancashire County Council with regard to funding assistance for the necessary changes.

Committee again expressed the need for members of the public to understand properly exactly what could be recycled.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree to starting a collection of the pots, tubs and trays immediately and at the same time make the public aware of the changes through local press; and
2. support officers in securing financial assistance for the changes made by the disposal authority, Lancashire County Council.

174

RIBBLE VALLEY 3G PROJECT

The Director of Community Services submitted a report providing an update on the project to build a new artificial turf facility at Edisford. He reminded Members that when complete this would provide a full size 3G pitch, 2 5-a-side 3G pitches and 3 tennis courts plus a toilet block and classroom.

Work on the project was progressing well though the weather had hampered some aspects and made it difficult for the contractor. There had been a number of variations issued to the contract to address issues which had arisen during the build as well as some design to improve the facility to the benefit of users and reduce ongoing maintenance costs.

As with any issue involving competing demands for the same space there had to be some compromises from users, simply to accommodate as far as possible everyone's first choice. It had been decided that the early evening timeslots would be made available for younger children and that preference had been given to clubs and users who were able to commit to 4 or 8 month bookings, to ensure that the Council was able to block book out as much of the space as possible without having to rely on short term bookings.

The indication at this time was that the full scheme would be within budget after allowing for contingencies. As the facility approached a position where it would be functional the revenue costs that were originally budgeted would be reviewed in order to best reflect the scheme that was now nearing completion and the anticipated levels of income.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the progress with the scheme; and
2. approve the Booking Policy adopted for the allocation of space.

175

REVENUE OUTTURN 2018-2019

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Committee's information on the outturn for the 2018/19 financial year in respect of the Revenue Budget for this Committee.

The report showed the overall spend of this Committee by cost centre compared to the revenue estimated and details of variances.

The most concerning area of overspend in 2018/19 continued to be in relation to the refuse collection vehicle repairs and maintenance. Work was ongoing in monitoring the level of spend in this area in the 2019/20 financial year being reported to Corporate Management Team and the Budget Working Group.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

176 REVENUE MONITORING 2019-2020

The Director of Resources submitted a report updating Members on the position for the period April to July 2019 of this year's revenue budget as far as this Committee was concerned. The report outlined by cost centre a comparison between actual expenditure and the original estimate for the period to the end of July and highlighted the variations, along with the budget holder's comments and agreed action plans.

The overspend in respect of refuse collection vehicle repairs and maintenance continued to be an area of concern and was being closely monitored and reported to Corporate Management Team and the Budget Working Group.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

177 CAPITAL MONITORING 2019-2020

The Director of Resources submitted a report providing Members with information on the progress of this Committee's 2019/20 Capital Programme for the period to the end of July 2019.

The report gave a summary of the Community Committee Capital Programme Budget expenditure to date and the variances and included the full Capital Programme by scheme with detailed financial information and budget holder's comments.

The total approved budget for this Committee's Capital Programme of 14 schemes was £1,979,520. Of the 14 schemes in the Capital Programme, 5 schemes had been completed by the end of July 2019 and the other 9 schemes were currently on track to be completed in year at this stage. At the end of July 2019 £615,455 had been spent or committed which equated to 31.1% of the annual Capital Programme budget for this Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

178 CLITHEROE FOOD FESTIVAL

The Director of Community Services submitted a report updating Members on the 2019 event.

The financial position with regard to this year's festival was not yet complete and a further report would be brought to a future meeting of Committee. In operational terms this year's event had gone well, despite the weather, which limited attendances to manageable levels.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

179 2018-2019 YEAR END PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Members information that detailed performance against our local Performance Indicators.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

180 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report updating Committee on developments within the varying scope of Cultural and Leisure Services. This included local football facilities plan, towards an active future, programmed activities at Ribblesdale Pool and information on the latest exhibition at the Platform Gallery.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

181 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

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