

Minutes of Community Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 18 May 2010, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

J E Alcock	M Robinson
P Ainsworth	I Sayers
S Brunskill	G Scott
G Geldard	M Sutcliffe
J Hill	J White
B Jones	

In attendance: Councillor S Sutcliffe.

Also in attendance: Director of Community Services, Street Scene Manager, Community Development Manager and Financial Services Manager.

16 APOLOGIES

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

17 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the addition of Councillor J Alcock's apologies and an alteration in the title to Minute 830.

18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sayers declared an interest in agenda item 10 as a member of Ribchester Parish Council.

19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

20 REFERENCES FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chairman informed Committee that there was one reference from Overview and Scrutiny Committee concerning a review of traffic calming measures. Councillor Sayers gave a brief resume of the report that had been presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This included the methodology used for the report and an examination of other previous traffic calming studies, Parish Council surveys and interviews and consultations, an analysis of the villages and towns including the current traffic calming measures used, accident figures and definitions, financial issues timescales for implementation of road safety measures and the opinions of the emergency services and the Lancashire

County Council. He highlighted the conclusions and recommendations made to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members asked several questions with regard to the report and thanked Councillor Sayers and Councillor Thomas for a very thorough report. The Chairman suggested that Councillors should lobby the Lancashire County Councillors to spend a fair amount of money in the rural areas of Ribble Valley.

RESOLVED: That a copy of the report be sent on to the Safety Engineers at Lancashire County Council.

21 EDISFORD ROAD CHANGING ROOMS REFURBISHMENT SCHEME

The Director of Community Services submitted a report updating Committee on the development of the scheme to refurbish the football changing room building. He reported that the property has fallen into disrepair and a comprehensive refurbishment was required. Funding had been secured to enable disabled access and facilities through the "Aiming High for Disabled Children – Lancashire" which would contribute £30,000 funding towards the scheme. He informed Committee that it was important that the scheme got underway in order for the works to be completed in time for the football season in 2010. A request was also made for approval of the select list of contractors that had been invited to tender for the works.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the proposal, revised timetable and the proposed list of contractors as outlined in the report.

22 DUNSOP BRIDGE CAR PARK – RENEWAL OF LEASE

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider the option to renew the Lease of Dunsop Bridge car park. He informed Committee that the car park was on land leased from the Duchy of Lancaster and that this Lease was for 21 years expiring on 24 March 2010. Having been in considerable correspondence with the agents acting for the Duchy of Lancaster, the agent had been invited to write to the Council setting out their views on the matter and any terms and conditions they might consider appropriate if a new Lease was to be agreed. The Director of Community Services had also informed the agents that it was the Council's intention to introduce pay and display parking at this car park in accordance with its policy of extending the management of car parks by way of charging for parking where it would be beneficial to do so. He outlined the broad terms that the agents for the Duchy had proposed with regard to a new Lease, which included a rent assessment at 10% of the gross income of the site.

Other issues included the Council investing in improvements to the car park and the County Council restricting roadside parking on the outskirts of the village. The agents had been informed that the Borough Council had no direct influence on the introduction of parking restrictions but that they would give support to this issue. The agents had also been informed that the funding was no longer

available in the capital budget for 2010/11 for this site but there could be in the following financial year.

Committee discussed the various issues that the agents for the Duchy had proposed with regard to a new Lease which was generally acceptable except for the rent. Committee felt that 10% of the gross income of the site was unreasonably high and that this should be subject to further negotiation with the agents for the Duchy.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree to:

1. enter into a new 20 year Lease for the car park at Dunsop Bridge based on the terms as set out in this report, except for the rent increase; and
2. introduce charging for parking by way of pay and display at a date to be approved following the completion of the Lease Agreement.

23 BRUNGEREY PARK, CLITHEROE – IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The Director of Community Services submitted a report bringing Committee up to date on the progress being made on the improvements at Brungerley Park. He reminded Committee of a previous report that had detailed a range of proposed improvement works for Brungerley Park using funds originally provided for anticipated repairs to the collapsed lower path through the park. There was also detailed works to be carried out, subject to funding being made available in the capital programme or being obtained from external sources. The Director of Community Services informed Committee that funding had not been made available in the capital programme but that the Friends of Brungerley had managed to secure funding from the Lancashire Aggregates Levy Sustainable Fund to the amount of £25,000. This would ensure that the remaining part of the project could be carried out this financial year. He also informed Committee that the Friends Group had secured an amount of funding from a local organisation to help improve the seating in the park.

Members were encouraged by the ongoing work of the friends group and were delighted that the remaining part of the project could be completed in the new financial year.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the work done to date to improve Brungerley Park; and
2. agree to carry out the second phase of the improvement works using the funding obtained by the Friends of Brungerley Park from Lancashire Aggregates Levy Sustainable Fund.

24 FLOODS AND WATER MANAGEMENT ACT

The Director of Community Services submitted a report bringing Committee up to date with the introduction of the Floods and Water Management Act and asking

them to decide how to respond to the new duties placed on the Council as a result of this new piece of statutory legislation. He reminded Committee of the background to this Act. He informed Committee that the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 provides the lead local authority, Lancashire County Council in this case, with powers to do works to manage flood risk from surface water run-off and ground water; powers to do works on ordinary watercourses remained with district councils. Lancashire County Council being the lead authority however does not prevent partnership arrangements to make full use of all capabilities and experience locally and the bill enables lead authorities to delegate flood erosion functions to another risk management authority by agreement. He reported that DEFRA was providing additional funding to the lead local authorities to carry out the extra responsibilities and burdens placed on them by the new Act.

He reminded Committee that at the present time the Council's General Works Section provides a drain clearing service on a recharge to the customer basis and the Environmental Health Section spend a significant amount of time investigating complaints about problems on the many private sewers and drains that exist in the borough. He reported that the effect on existing staff resources would therefore need to be reviewed when the transfer of private sewers takes place to the utility services. He also highlighted that in order to carry out the mapping work to prepare a comprehensive record of watercourses etc in the Ribble Valley, staff resources would need to be addressed.

Members discussed the issues around this situation in some detail.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. acknowledge the introduction of the new requirements placed on the authority as a consequence of both the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010;
2. approve that discretion be given to the Director of Community Services to determine the priority given to this area in the short term with regard to staff resources and in relation to Council priorities; and
3. request that a further report be submitted to Committee in due course, when the scale of work involved is better known.

25 POPE CROFT CAR PARK, RIBCHESTER – REQUEST TO SUSPEND PAY AND DISPLAY

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider a request received from Ribchester Parish Council on behalf of the Ribchester Market Day Committee for the suspension of charging for parking on the Pope Croft car park in Ribchester on Monday, 31 May (Spring Bank Holiday) this year and each year thereafter to allow residents in the village to park for free all day whilst the market takes place on certain streets in the village. As the street market is held on Church Street and Water Street, the residents are asked to move their cars from the street in order to allow the market to take place and

although there has been general support for this in the past, a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order to allow the event to take place, had never been obtained.

Committee discussed the issues regarding this request, including the likely reduction in income from the car park and the approximate number of residents affected.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree to provide up to 30 free parking permits for use by residents directly affected by the event which shall be distributed by Ribchester Parish Council on behalf of the Borough Council. The remainder of the car park not occupied by residents displaying a permit would therefore remain available for use by visitors who would be required to pay for parking as normal; and
2. recommend to Ribchester Parish Council that a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order be sought for future events.

26 SERVICE PLAN – WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted the Waste Management Services Service Plan for 2010/11. He reminded Committee that the Waste Management Service was a substantial element of the Council's overall business and was largely made up of statutory functions that must be provided to the residents of the borough. He particularly highlighted the fact that this Council was rated the top Local Authority in Lancashire for satisfaction with regard to keeping public land clear of litter and refuse, refuse collection, local recycling centres, people who agree that the Council provides value for money and an overall general satisfaction with the area.

He went on to highlight issues with regard to the health and wellbeing of staff in this particular service area.

RESOLVED: That the Waste Management Service Plan for 2010/11 be approved.

27 SERVICE PLAN – STREET SCENE SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted the Street Scene Services Plan for 2010/11. He informed Committee that again this service was a significant element of the Council's overall business, made up of a variety of service areas, some of which were statutory and some of which were discretionary but still front line, high profile services important to the residents of the borough.

RESOLVED: That the Street Scene Services Plan for 2010/11 be approved.

28 RIBBLE VALLEY SPORT AND RECREATION PLAN 2010

The Director of Community Services submitted an updated plan for sport and recreation in the Ribble Valley for consideration and approval. He informed

Committee that the current plan had been considered and endorsed by the Ribble Valley Sport and Physical Activity Alliance and that its purpose was to identify current issues facing provision, provide clear priorities for service delivery, determine an action plan specific to each priority, communicate and raise the profile of sport and recreation provision and guide the section's involvement in the future commitment to resources.

RESOLVED: That Committee endorse the adoption of the sport and recreation plan for 2010.

29 CULTURE AND SPORT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of the involvement in a countywide programme for improvement to culture and leisure services in Lancashire and of the progress with regards to the use of the cultural and sports improvement tool kit in improvement planning.

He reported that having undertaken a self assessment of our leisure and cultural services in line with the CSIT evidence based approach across 8 themes or service functions, a pier challenge was then undertaken to test our scorings with Fylde and West Lancashire Districts back in August 2009. The Ribble Valley Improvement Plan was produced out of recognition that there were certain areas which could be improved upon across the service.

He informed Committee that the extent of the action now taken towards the goals identified in the plan was dependent upon our overall commitment and the involvement in joint initiatives with other districts in Lancashire. A bid had been submitted to Team Lancashire to employ consultants to identify specific improvement joint working initiatives and further work would be carried out through the Culture and Sports Sub Group of PLACE. He did however acknowledge that the Council's experience in other areas of joint working had not generated any significant benefits but it was recognised that there are areas around sport and arts development, health and fitness and heritage attractions that are worthy of further exploration.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the contents of the report; and
2. endorses the delivery of the Ribble Valley CSIT improvement plan and supports the work of the PLACE Sport and Leisure Culture Group in progressing options for improvement in sport and culture across Pennine Lancashire.

30 PUBLIC REALM INTEGRATION PROJECT

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's information on the progress that had been made as regards taking on additional services under the heading of Lancashire County Council's Public Realm Integration Project.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

31 GENERAL REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of progress on various aspects of leisure, tourism and arts provision, as well as waste management and the Salthill play area and Calderstones public open space.

The Director of Community Services gave a more detailed update on the delivery to the PFI Waste Technology Parks and our current position in respect of this with the County Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

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