

Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: 15 March 2011, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

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

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

709 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies submitted for this meeting.

710 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

711 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

712 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

713 PRESENTATION FROM JOHN SCHOFIELD – RIBBLE VALLEY TENNIS CENTRE

The Chairman welcomed John and Mark Schofield to the meeting.

John Schofield informed Committee that the tennis centre based at Edisford was the only independent performance facility in East Lancashire, which gave priority to juniors for tennis. They currently have over 300 junior memberships and do an enormous amount of sports development work. The tennis centre has been running since 1993 at no cost to the Council Tax payer.

He gave a brief summary of income and expenditure as well as informing Committee of some major expenditure impending with regard to a raining in problem resurfacing courts and provision of a new heater. He asked that the proposed increase on the cost of the Lease be reconsidered as he felt this would put the future of the Tennis Centre in jeopardy.

RESOLVED: The Chairman thanked John and Mark Schofield for attending the meeting.

714 REFERENCES FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no references from Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

715 RECREATION/CULTURE/SPORTS AND ARTS GRANTS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report presenting the recommendations of the Working Group in relation to the allocation of grants under recreation/culture and individual sporting excellence.

He informed Committee that the number of applications across these categories was down on last year, owing in part to a lack of publicity because of the initial uncertainty on the Council's financial position. This was particularly the case for Arts Excellence grants applications and some additional publicity with an extended closing date had been carried out. This meant that when the Working Group had met to determine the applications, the Arts Excellence application forms had not been considered.

The Head of Cultural and Leisure Services highlighted four late applications for recreation/culture and one for sports that had been received since the Working Group had met.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. endorse the recommendations of the Working Group as outlined in the Appendices for Recreation/Culture Grants and Sporting Excellence Grants with the late additions; and
2. agree to delegate the determination of the Arts Excellence applications to the Director of Community Services in consultation with the Working Group.

716 MUSEUM SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

The Director of Community Services submitted a report advising Committee on the current performance of the Museum and asking Committee to consider a review of the current management arrangements with Lancashire Museums Service.

He reminded Committee that when the Clitheroe Castle Museum reopened in April 2009 after its extensive refurbishment, the Council had reached an agreement with LMS for them to take responsibility for the overall management of the complex. The report outlined the main details of that agreement.

The Head of Culture and Leisure Services informed Committee that the new Museum was now coming to the end of a second year since reopening and had proved extremely popular with visitors and had received a number of awards.

He gave a breakdown of the net cost of the Museum for 2011/12, which was estimated at £239,980 of which a main component was salaries within the LMS management fee. He did however highlight that the Operating Agreement had yet to be signed, as there were still outstanding issues on income share and TUPE arrangements. This did not affect the day-to-day operation but the setting up of a Joint Management Group to look at more strategic matters had still not occurred. The Head of Cultural and Leisure Services had met with colleagues at the County Council to inform them of the Council's situation and to highlight that a more comprehensive review exploring alternative delivery models would probably be needed to achieve the required outcome of significant efficiencies.

He also reminded Committee of the conditions of the Heritage Lottery Funding which needed to be taken into account when doing a review.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the contents of the report and endorses the establishment of a Working Group with LMS to review future management and operational arrangements at Clitheroe Castle Museum;
2. the group would meet over the next 6 months with the intention of having answers by September 2011; and
3. the group would consist of 2 Conservatives and 1 Liberal Democrat.

717

FOOD FESTIVAL

The Director of Community Services submitted a report advising Committee on preparations for this year's event and to ask for endorsement of the Council's role in supporting it. He reminded Committee that the first Clitheroe Street Market which had focussed on Castle Street had attracted an estimated 10,000 people to Clitheroe over the course of the day and that as this was deemed a great success it should be built on for future years.

Funding for the event had been provided from various sources and the event had been co-ordinated through the Chamber of Trade. The Council has supported the event through provision of event planning, health and safety, road closures and financial management.

It was felt that this year's event should take place when other complimentary events were happening at the same time and it had agreed this should be Saturday, 13 August 2011.

The Organising Committee had started making arrangements and formed a Company Limited by Guarantee to act as the co-ordinating body for future festivals. However the new structure would not be in place in order to make the necessary arrangements for this year's festival and so it was felt that the Council was best placed to act in an enabling role to deliver the transition. This would include providing:

- the market and car park as the main festival site;
- event management/health and safety support;
- financial management; and
- responsibility for contracting and managing dedicated event management support.

There had been no commitment from the Council in terms of cash although the in-kind contribution would be significant

RESOLVED: That Committee endorse the Council's role in facilitating the provision of the Clitheroe Food Festival for 2011.

718 ROEFIELD SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of their responsibility in negotiating concessionary fees and charges at Roefield under the new Operating Agreement.

The Head of Cultural and Leisure Services informed Committee that as part of the re-development at Roefield, the Council have secured a range of grants and loans in order to fund the capital works. One of these from Sport England was a combination of capital and revenue and had a range of specific outcomes attached to it, mainly relating to participation amongst key target groups. One key aspect was the funding to employ a Sports Development Officer to help with programming the work with target groups. Because of the new Lease arrangements, the standard security requirements for the Sport England funding could not be met and so in order for Roefield to keep the funding, the Council agreed to act as Accountable Body and as a result were equally responsible for meeting the terms of the Agreement.

The main issues included the ability of Roefield to meet participation targets set out by Sport England, including concessionary users and young people at risk. Roefield had also been asked to present figures to Community Committee on an annual basis.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree a charge of £2.50 per session for exercise referral classes for the next 12 months in order to be consistent with other class delivery agents;
2. ask Roefield to propose other areas of concessionary pricing;
3. ask that Roefield meet with representatives from the Community Safety Partnership and other relevant agencies to explore ways of encouraging at risk young people to use the centre without creating difficulties for existing users; and
4. ask Roefield to provide the details as outlined in the preceding resolutions to the next meeting of this Committee in May.

719 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12

The Director of Resources submitted a report informing Committee of the new schemes which had been approved for inclusion in the Capital programme for this Committee for the forthcoming financial year 2011/12.

Four schemes had been approved for this Committee which total £270,000.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

720 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The new Head of Engineering Services, Terry Longden, introduced himself to Committee.

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of progress on various aspects of leisure and sports development, tourism, arts development and the Platform Gallery.

He also informed Committee of an additional item regarding the Longridge Gym and the Council's Service Level Agreement with Willows Park Children's Centre. The Children's Centre Manager had informed the Council of their intention to terminate the arrangement with the Council to provide clerical assistance for the duration of the Children's Centre opening hours as of the end of April 2011. This development means that the staff operating the Gym at Longridge will no longer be involved in any aspect of service support to the Children's Centre and the loss of associated funding would necessitate a fresh look at how the staff can be utilized more efficiently in helping to improve the operational subsidy situation for the next year.

These options would be explored and reported to the next meeting of Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

721 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the fact that the following item of business be exempt information under Category 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

722 ATRIUM CAFÉ

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider a request from Educational Catering Ltd (Food for Thought) to assign catering rights to a new company "Food with a View Ltd". He reminded Committee of the background to the concession agreements for the Atrium and the Bowling Green Café which had been entered into for a period of 3 years in April 2010 after a competitive tendering process. He outlined the current

situation with regard to the Atrium Café and the Bowling Green Café and their contractual terms.

By way of summary, he outlined the options available to Committee which gave advantages and disadvantages of either declining or agreeing to the request made.

Committee discussed the various options available to the Council and although there was disappointment with the current operator, it was felt that it was important that this facility was not to be closed for any period of time.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree to the assignment of the Lease for the remaining period with a review of the tenancy arrangements after the first 12 months, provided that Food for Thought act as Guarantors for the fees associated with the Atrium and Bowling Green Cafés for the remainder of the contract;
2. the financial arrangements between the Council and Food with a View for both the Atrium and Bowling Green Café remain the same as the current contract; and
3. that rigorous monitoring is put in place to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the existing Licence.

The meeting closed at 8.08pm.

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