

Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 21 May 2013 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

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

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

8 APOLOGIES

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

9 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

12 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

Committee were asked to confirm arrangements/membership of any working groups that fall within the remit of this Committee.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the appointment of the following working groups:

Public Convenience Working Group – for Members
Open Space Working Group – for Members
Grants Working Group – for Members

13 PUBLICALLY ACCESSIBLE TOILETS IN LONGRIDGE AND GISBURN

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider options for the improvement of the current provision on publically

accessible toilet facilities in Gisburn and Longridge. He reminded Committee of the background to this issue with regard to the closure of several sets of public conveniences as part of a rationalisation in 2012. The closure of the facilities in Gisburn and Longridge had caused considerable concern amongst the communities and hence a resolution of the January meeting of this Committee was that options for the improvement of the current provision of publically accessible toilet facilities in both Gisburn and Longridge be investigated.

In the case of Longridge, a local working group had been established by the Longridge Town Council, which had met to consider the issue. The Head of Engineering Services had attended these meetings on behalf of the Council. Actions resulting from these meetings had improved the signage to the modern facilities in the Old Station located near to the closed Berry Lane facilities, and facilities had been made available in the local supermarket service station from 7am to 10pm every day of the week, as part of the Community Toilet Scheme. Various proposals to address the perceived need for additional facilities on Berry Lane had been discussed. A potential solution which could be managed locally in order to develop the flexibility to address local needs and variations would be for this Council to make the disused Berry Lane facilities available to the Town Council and that the Town Council or a body that it establishes, makes arrangements for the facilities to be made available on specified days and times each week, and engages a local contractor or organises a local group who will ensure that the toilets are made available and cleaned appropriately. This Council would meet the costs of providing the standing costs of the facilities which could be accommodated within current budget provision and would not exceed £2,500 per annum. Longridge Town Council would, however, need to meet the costs of cleaning and opening/closing arrangements and would be subject to a periodic review.

With regard to Gisburn it was recognised that whilst there are premises in Gisburn that make their toilet facilities available to their customers and visitors, no local premises had currently listed as being a member of the Community Toilet Scheme. A proposal to address this position was to offer the former Council toilets for sale to a local business that is known to be interested in purchasing the facility, in order to make them available to their customers but with the condition that as long as the facility remains in use as a toilet, it is included in the Community Toilet Scheme. This disposal was now at an advanced stage and it was intended that a covenant be attached to the sale of the premises that ensure the facilities are included in the Community Toilet Scheme.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree that the facilities on Berry Lane be made available to Longridge Town Council so that they may in turn make arrangements to provide the facilities for public use on the days per week that the Town Council deem appropriate. The cost to be incurred by the Borough Council should not exceed £2,500 per annum; and

2. agree that the disposal of the disposal of the facilities in Gisburn to the local business includes a covenant that stipulates that facilities be included in the Community Toilet Scheme. The details of the terms should be agreed with the Corporate Management Team and reported to the Policy and Finance Committee.

14

DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider the introduction of four dog control orders under the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005. He reminded Committee that in July 2011 Members had received a report outlining concerns of dog fouling on Council playing pitches and it was agreed that officers should pursue the introduction of a dog control order to include a dog ban on Council playing fields and that parishes should be consulted to determine any changes that they would like to see.

The current Ribble Valley Borough Council Dogs (Fouling of Land) Designation Order 1978 only covers dog fouling in identified areas. In 2005 the Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1991 was replaced by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and extended the scope of aspects, which would include:

- fouling of land by dogs and removal of dog faeces
- the keeping of dogs on leads
- the exclusion of dogs from land
- the number of dogs which a person may take on to any land

In terms of land that the Order may apply to, this is specified as 'any land that is open to the air to which the public is entitled or permitted to have access'.

With this in mind, it was proposed that the new Order should cover the following:

- all open space as defined in the Appendix to the report, rather than the current arrangement of specifically designated areas;
- the exclusion of dogs on all Council owned playing pitches; and
- all children's play areas which are enclosed and any additional areas identified as part of the consultation;
- a requirement to keep dogs on leads at the request of a designated officer in the Castle grounds and Clitheroe Cemetery and any additional areas identified as part of the consultation.

This would support the Council and its designated officers by removing any doubt as to which land was included in the Order; would support the safe use of football pitches and reduce the number of complaints from football clubs using the Council's football pitches and would support the Dog Wardens and other designated staff in asking members of the public to control their dogs in areas where they have had previous concerns. The Director of Community Services did however remind Committee that although the new legislation would help with enforcement, there was no additional staff resources to increase this. Before making a new dog control order, there would also have to be consultation on the

proposal as well as a need to review and enhance signage, particularly on those designated areas where there would be additional requirements.

The Members were very supportive of introducing the new Dog Control Order and felt that this would enhance the open space facilities throughout the borough.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree to the making of the Dog Control Order as laid out in the report and detailed in the Appendix and Schedules attached.

15 EVENTS IN THE CASTLE GROUNDS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report bringing Committee up to date with determining the occupancy levels for events taking place in the Castle grounds and specific issues relating to this year's proposed bonfire. He reminded Committee that following the presentation of a report to a previous Committee with regard to determining maximum occupancy levels for events taking place in the Castle grounds, an independent assessment had been commissioned for a suitably qualified and impartial organisation to undertake the work.

Capita Symonds had been commissioned to carry out the independent assessment as they had significant experience in event management and no connection to any of the parties concerned with the bonfire. They had produced a comprehensive report which had concluded that the maximum capacity for the Castle field should be 6582 people based on the production of a robust event safety plan. This report had been presented to a meeting of the Ribble Valley Safety Advisory Group where representatives of Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service had accepted it and agreed that events on the Castle ground could achieve the stated maximum capacities, provided that the safety measures and conditions stipulated in the report were complied with. Representatives of the Clitheroe Bonfire Committee had also attended this meeting and although they had expressed their disappointment with the maximum capacity, after further consideration of the matter, had subsequently proposed an outline for 2013 event to be held on the Castle grounds. A key feature of that proposal was that access into the Castle grounds would be by ticket only which would be purchased in advance of the event and limited to 5000. The Bonfire Committee were currently preparing their event safety management plan, which would be proportionate to the risk presented by the event. Officers of the Council were assisting the event organisers with this process, which once completed, would be presented for consideration to the Ribble Valley Safety Advisory Group.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the contents of the report; and
2. agrees the following maximum occupancy levels

Bandstand 2000
Castle field 6582

CLITHEROE FOOD FESTIVAL

The Director of Community Services submitted a report bringing Committee up to date with preparations for this year's festival. He reminded Committee that they had agreed to support this year's event on the basis that stronger budget controls were in place and that the Council were more closely involved in the decision making process for the festival. Preparations were now well underway for this year's event, which would take place on Saturday, 10 August 2013 and although it would follow a similar format to last year, it had expanded to include road closures on King Street and Market Place, thus extending the number of exhibitors to around 100.

This meant that an external traffic management company would be brought into deal with the road closures. However, the park and ride scheme would be co-ordinated by Council staff rather than a private company to both reduce costs and provide better co-ordination. The overall costs had gone up from the previous draft budget, but were balanced through additional sponsorship income, which had been secured by the Food Festival Company. The relative roles of the Council and Food Festival Company had complimented each other well with the Council focusing on event management issues, while the Food Festival Company had prioritised sponsorship and event promotion.

Committee discussed various aspects of the Food Festival and although they acknowledged that the Council being involved had helped with the preparations thus far, asked for reassurances with regard to the costs and subsequent guarantee against loss. Questions with regard to indirect staff costs were also asked.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agrees the latest forecast for the 2013 Food Festival; and
2. ask the Corporate Management Team to examine the articles of memorandum of the Food Festival Committee with regard to guarantees.

ACCESS TO DISCOUNT SERVICES BY SERVING OR EXTENSION-SERVICE MEMBERS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider a suggestion that free/subsidised swimming should be included as part of its commitment towards the Armed Forces Community Covenant. He reminded the Committee that the Armed Forces Community Covenant was a voluntary statement of mutual support between the civilian community and the Armed Forces and that within Section 4 of the Covenant, there were a number of activities that are already in place, a list of potential activities/interventions for the future, which included the possibility of providing reductions at Council owned facilities, in this case admission to Ribblesdale Pool. He informed Committee that it would be possible for holders of an MOD defence privilege card to be included within the freedom card concession scheme with the amendment of current leaflets/application forms. Although it would be difficult to assess how big

the take up would be, it was felt that the impact would not be great on current admissions income.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree to include the MOD privilege card holders within the Council's freedom card concessionary criteria for a period of 12 months, after which there would be a review.

18 CAPITAL OUTTURN 2012/2013

The Director of Resources submitted a report seeking Member approval for the slippage of capital schemes from the 2012/2013 financial year to the 2013/2014 financial year and to review the final outturn of the capital programme for 2012/2013 for this Committee. The past capital programme for the Community Committee consisted of 13 schemes, which totalled £523,850. Actual expenditure to date was £457,342 which equated to 87% of the overall revised estimate. The largest proportion of the estimate that was unspent at the end of the year related to the Calderstones Village Green scheme, which had been a late addition to the capital programme. For this Committee there were four schemes with identified slippage into 2013/2014 which totalled £56,390. These were schemes relating to Calderstones Village Green, car parks rolling programme, castle field play area and Whalley Moor – woodland paths and nature trails.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree the requests for slippage as outlined in the report and approve the slippage of £56,390 into the 2013/2014 financial year.

19 LCC HIGHWAYS CAPITAL WORKS 2013/2014 PROGRAMME

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for Committee's information on the Lancashire County Council capital funded programme of highways works for the 2013/2014 financial year. It informed Committee that although the Lancashire County Council's first priority for funding in the classified road programme was a scheme for the carriageway reconstruction of the A59 between Pendle Road and Sawley, as a result of discussions at a Three Tier Forum, it had now been decided that the allocated funding would show greater benefits to the Ribble Valley communities if it was not used for the single A59 scheme, but instead used on the other listed classified road schemes. The revised list of highway schemes now included in the 2013/2014 programme were listed for Committee's information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

20 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2012/2013

A report was submitted for Committee's information on the Outside Bodies that come under the remit of the Community Services Committee and their membership.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

21 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of progress with regard to waste management – larger green bin scheme, recycling performance and Farrington Waste Technology Park.

The Chairman also invited all Members of the Committee to attend the Sports and Arts Grants Awards Evening on Monday, 3 June 2013 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber.

22 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies.

23 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the fact that the following item of business was exempt information under Category 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

24 COLLECTION OF WASTE PAPER AND CARDBOARD FOR RECYCLING

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider options for the continuation of the fortnightly recycling collection of waste paper for domestic properties across the borough.

At the last meeting of this Committee, Members were reminded that the contract for the collection of this material had expired but the service had continued through a series of short term extensions that had been agreed with the contractor (Viridor). It had also been reported that it had not been possible to invite new tenders for the long term collection of the material because of uncertainty of the conditions relating to the recycling of waste materials that Lancashire County Council as the waste disposal authority may seek to impose on this Council.

Issues relating to the contract for the collection were highlighted for Committee's information and it was suggested that a much more cost effective solution than the current arrangement would be to collect the material through the Council's own refuse and recycling collection operation as an in-house service.

Financial implications relating to both the current situation and this proposal was explained to the Committee in some detail, along with the net budget impact that this would have.

RESOLVED: that Committee

1. approve the development and operation of an in-house collection service for the paper and card service as outlined with a target commencement date of 1 July 2013;

2. recommend to the Policy and Finance Committee the approval of a supplementary revenue estimate for the funding of the Viridor operation for the three months of the year (April, May and June) of £30,000 and if existing budgets prove inadequate, to approve a further supplementary provision of £10,000 for the in-house operation for the remaining nine months of the year;
3. recommend to Policy and Finance Committee the approval of a capital scheme into the current year's capital programme for the purchase of two second hand refuse vehicles totalling £24,000;
4. recommend to Personnel Committee the changes to the staff establishment of the Council as outlined in the report; and
5. propose that the performance of the new in-house service be reviewed after six months of operation.

The meeting closed at 8.06pm.

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