

Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 12 January 2016, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor R J Thompson (Chairman)

Councillors:

R Bennett	R Newmark
A Brown	M Robinson
S Carefoot	G Scott
P Dobson	R Swarbrick
P Elms	N Walsh
M French	J White
S Hind	

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

484 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor J Alcock.

485 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

486 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

487 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

488 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16

The Director of Resources submitted a report seeking Committee's approval of the revised Capital Programme for the current financial year for this Committee. The original Capital Programme for 2015/16 had been approved by Policy and Finance Committee in February 2015 and since then regular reports had been presented to this Committee on progress with the Capital Programme. The Capital Programme comprised 12 schemes with a total approved budget of £483,600. Each scheme in the Capital Programme had now been discussed with budget holders and revised to reflect their progress and estimated full year expenditure. Following this review there was a revised estimate of £442,270, a reduction of £41,330.

The main reasons for this reduction are the all-weather pitch lighting scheme being resubmitted as a new capital bid for consideration in 2018/19 Capital Programme and for the purchase of 4 mowers being completed in the first part of the year with a combined underspend of £19,856.

The Director of Resources reported that expenditure to the end of November 2015 was 98.2% of the revised estimate. The report included updated capital evaluation forms, completed by the responsible officers for all the schemes.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the revised Capital Programme for 2015/16 as set out in the report.

489 REVISED REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16

The Director of Resources submitted a report outlining a revised Revenue Budget for 2015/16. She reminded Members that at this time of year the opportunity is taken to revise the estimates for the current financial year in order to better assess the level of movement anticipated within earmarked reserves and balances and to allow a better forecast for the coming financial year. She informed Committee that the revised budget for 2015/16 is £7,800 higher than the original estimate which changes to a lower original estimate after allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves of £86,510. A comparison between the original revised budgets for each cost centre were shown and the significant variances were highlighted.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the revised budget for 2015/16.

490 ORIGINAL REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to agree to the draft Revenue Budget for 2016/17 for this Committee for consideration at Special Policy and Finance Committee. The provisional settlement funding assessment that had been announced on 17 December 2015 was £1,862,605 for 2016/17. This represented a reduction of 17% in core Government funding.

The core funding offered for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 showed that our grant reductions in future years would be more severe than anticipated and based on this information the 3 year forecast had been reviewed and now indicated an even greater budget gap. The forecast shows reductions needed of £423k in 2016/17, £156k in 2017/18 and £1,161k in 2018/19 which are markedly worse than was predicted.

The Budget Working Group would continue to meet over the coming weeks and would ultimately make recommendations to Special Policy and Finance Committee on 9 February 2016 in order to achieve a balanced budget.

The report included individual budget areas for this Committee, along with comments on reasons for the main variances. The Director of Resources highlighted several of the cost centres. The draft budget was also summarised in

two ways, one over the cost of the service provided by the Committee and the other over the type of expenditure and income.

The fees and charges for this Committee had been agreed at their meeting in October 2015 and had been increased by an average of 1.5%.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree the revenue budget for 2016/17 and submit it to the Special Policy and Finance Committee subject to any further consideration by the Budget Working Group.

491 SUMMER DAYS FESTIVAL AT CLITHEROE CASTLE

The Director of Community Services submitted a report outlining requests for approval from the promoter of the festival for alterations to the minute previously agreed on 2 June 2015.

The Director of Community Services reminded Committee that they had approved the staging of a music event on the Castle field for 2016 subject to the normal licence approvals and confirmation by the Ribble Valley Safety Advisory Group, of the promoter's arrangements. He informed Committee that the promoter was still planning a 3 day festival and was requesting some amendments to his original proposal to ensure that the event offered the best experience for the audience attending. This included for 3 days over Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, the 6, 8 and 9 July 2016. The promoter at his own risk had already booked Simply Red as the headline artist for Wednesday, 6 July 2016.

The capacity for the event had been agreed with the Fire Officer at 10,999 including staff working on the event. Although the Castle field was the original area to be used, the promoter having revisited their plans was now seeking to utilise other parts of the Castle grounds including the bandstand and the grass area alongside of it for refreshments; the hardstanding area by the side of the skate park; the bowling green itself plus the café to enable people to have a wider area to enjoy real ales and locally sourced foods. The event would be all ticket and once in the secured area no re-entry would be possible for anyone leaving it.

The footpaths around the area would be kept open wherever possible although there would be times during load-in and load-out when relevant access gates and paths would be unavailable for safety reasons, also during the actual event itself.

The load-in of the equipment for the event would commence on or about 29 June 2016 and the load-out would be completed by Thursday, 14 July 2016. A full resident and community impact plan as part of the planning process would be put together and an independent and mobile noise monitoring person would be provided for the duration of the festival. The promoter had discussed his proposals with the president of the Clitheroe Chamber of Trade and Commerce who was supportive of the event.

A premises licence had been applied for and would be determined separately at a licence hearing later in January 2016. A land licence was also being drawn up between the Council and the promoter which details the days of use, times, footprint, public access and fee.

Members discussed various details of the festival and asked questions with regard to the event.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the changes proposed by the promoter to arrangements for the event this year and agree to the proposals as set out;
2. agree a fee of £10,000 for the hire of the space and that a sum determined by officers be set as a deposit related to potential costs of reinstatement of the Castle grounds;
3. delegate to the Director of Community Services negotiations with regard to public access to the Castle grounds bearing in mind the sensitive areas and the reasonableness of access;
4. delegate to the Director of Community Services to sign the Land Agreement for the event with the promoter on behalf of the Council; and
5. delegate the Director of Community Services to continue negotiations in relation to the event and to provide regular updates on progress to this Committee.

492 DOWNHAM CAR PARK

The Director of Community Services submitted regarding a report for the negotiations with the Downham Estate and the operation of the car park. He reported that following further discussions with The Hon Ralph Assheton and his representative that they had concluded the risk of cars parking and causing access problems through the village was unacceptable and they were not prepared to trial pay and display. It also emerged as part of the discussion that foregoing the car park Lease did not also need to include the Lease on the public toilets being terminated. The approved work to the entrance of the car park had now been completed.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the renewal of the toilet block lease for the next 5 years but allow the car park lease to expire.

493 SUNDAY OPENING AT THE PLATFORM GALLERY AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of the effect of the Sunday opening on the operation that was trialled this year at the Platform Gallery and Visitor Information Centre and requesting that a decision be made as to whether Sunday opening should continue in 2016/17.

The report outlined the background to the decision to trial Sunday opening and an outline of the customer visitors/enquiries that had followed. He reported that the effect of Sunday opening in terms of assisting visitors with their visit to the area was difficult to quantify as the benefit relates to the visitors experience and what they may contribute towards the visitor economy. However he did feel it was important to support the businesses in the town, which were open, especially given the proposals being developed for the market.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree to continue Sunday opening for 2016/17 over the same period and evaluate its effectiveness on completion of a second year.

494 TOWNELEY GARDENS PROJECT PROPOSAL

The Director of Community Services submitted a report seeking permission for a redevelopment project based on Borough Council owned land at Towneley Gardens in Longridge. The request had been received from Longridge Community Partnership for the Council's agreement to the submission of a funding bid for a redevelopment scheme for Towneley Gardens. This was through the Tesco's Local Community Grants Scheme.

The project proposal was included with the report and included a brief resume of the development and the work of the Longridge Community Partnership.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve in principle the Towneley Gardens and Bowling Green development.

495 GENERAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report updating Committee on developments relating to the 3G artificial pitch at Edisford, Healthy Lifestyle service contracts, the Platform Gallery and Visitor Information Centre, arts development, tourism and play areas.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

496 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies.

497 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

498 UPDATE ON CLITHEROE FOOD FESTIVAL 2016

The Director of Community Services submitted a report providing Committee with an update on negotiations between the Council and Lancashire Bites and how

the Clitheroe Food Festival in 2016 would be delivered. He informed Committee that Lancashire Bites had notified the Chairman of the Clitheroe Food Festival Company that they would not be available to provide an input to the Food Festival in 2016 or future years. Discussions had taken place with the Chairman of the Clitheroe Food Festival Company and it had been decided that the Council would cover the work of Lancashire Bites for 2016. This would involve some additional work for certain officers in the Council for which the Clitheroe Food Festival Board had approved that the Council would be reimbursed for the additional costs incurred.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the outcome of the negotiations on the involvement of Lancashire Bites; and
2. agree the Council provide additional staff input for the 2016 event and delegate to the Director of Community Services authority to make the necessary arrangements for this to occur.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

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