

## Minutes of Community Services Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 8 January 2019 starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor S Hore (Chairman)

Councillors:

J E Alcock	S Knox
A Brown	R Newmark
R Hargreaves	M Robinson
K Hind	I Sayers
S Hind	G Scott
J Holgate	N Walsh

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

Also in attendance: Councillor M Fenton.

### 528 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Hirst and J White.

### 529 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 530 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

### 531 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman welcomed Mr S Burke from Clitheroe Civic Society to speak upon agenda item 8 – Clitheroe Town Wells.

Mr Burke gave an outline of the study the Clitheroe Civic Society had undertaken on the 3 town wells and urged the Council to claim possession of these wells so that remedial work could be undertaken. The Chairman thanked Mr Burke for attending.

### 532 CLITHEROE TOWN WELLS – REQUEST BY CLITHEROE CIVIC SOCIETY

The Director of Community Services submitted a report providing Committee with a request from the Clitheroe Civic Society to consider working them to improve the 3 town wells.

He informed Committee that the ownership of the Wellgate and Well Terrace sites is unknown but that Stocks well is in the Borough Council's ownership, as part of the transfer of assets of Clitheroe Borough Council following the 1972

Local Government Act. The request of the Civic Society was for the Council to seek legal ownership via the Land Registry's procedure. However this would include swearing an oath that certain information is correct and given that the Council does not know this information, it would be both unethical and illegal to proceed in that way in order to claim ownership of the 2 wells. Prior to seeking external funding it would be necessary to provide proof of ownership.

Committee discussed the situation with regard to the 2 wells where the ownership is unknown and the evidence that had so far been found. It was felt that further consideration should be given to the evidence found by the Clitheroe Civic Society and that similar situations elsewhere should be investigated in order to find a way forward on this matter.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. confirm the Council's ownership of Stock's Well;
2. ask the Chief Executive to cooperate with Clitheroe Civic Society and the legal department to look at all available evidence to consider whether ownership can be claimed of all 3 wells; and
3. consider other methods of obtaining resources to renovate the wells outside of the ownership issue.

533

#### REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/2019

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 2018/2019 had been approved by Policy and Finance Committee in February 2018 and since then regular reports have been presented to this Committee on progress with the capital programme. In February 2018 14 new capital schemes with a total approved budget of £712,200. Since then, the following changes had been made:

- There were 5 2017/2018 capital schemes that were not completed by 31 March 2018 and had unspent budget available at that date. The total unspent balance on these schemes of £93,320 known as slippage was transferred into the 2018/2019 capital programme after approval by this Committee in May 2018.
- One new scheme for a replacement hook lift vehicle totalling £50,000 was approved by Policy and Finance Committee in 2018.

As a result of the above, the total approved budget for this Committee's capital programme of 20 schemes was £855,520. Following discussions on each of the schemes in the capital programme with budget holders, the revised estimate is £812,930, a reduction of £42,590 from the total approved budget. Reasons for this reduction were outlined to Committee.

The Director of Resources reported that the expenditure and commitments to the end of November 2018 represented 83.7% of the revised estimate. The report outlined the full capital programme by scheme including the budget and expenditure to date for Committee's information.

Councillor Fenton was given permission to speak on this item.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the revised capital programme of £812,930 for this Committee as set out in the report.

534 REVISED REVENUE BUDGET 2018/2019

The Director of Resources submitted a report outlining the revised revenue budget for 2018/2019 for this Committee. She reminded Members that at this time of year the estimates are revised for the current financial year in order to predict the likely outturn. This also assists in preparing the original estimates for the coming financial year.

The original budget for 2018/2019 initially allowed 2% for both pay and price increases, however after the detailed estimates had been prepared the national pay award was settled, which increased the pay bill nationally by 2.707% in 2018/2019 and 2.802% in 2019/2020, with substantial increases in lower pay scales. As well as using data on past performance there had been detailed discussions with budget holders and Heads of Service on past service provision on future plans which played an integral part in the budget setting process.

She informed Committee that the revised budget for 2018/2019 showed an increase in net expenditure of £129,660 more than the original estimate after allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves. A comparison between the original and revised budgets for each cost centre was included for Committee's information and the significant variances were highlighted.

Members asked questions with regard to various cost centre budgets. They also extended their best wishes to Amy Johnson who would be leaving for a new job at the end of the month.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree the revenue revised estimate for 2018/2019.

535 ORIGINAL REVENUE BUDGET 2019/2020

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to agree the draft revenue budget for 2019/2020 for this Committee for consideration at Special Policy and Finance Committee.

With regard to the Council's overall financial position, she reminded Members that in September the four year budget forecast had predicted budget gaps of £101k in 2019/2020; £225k in 2020/2021; and £426k in 2021/2022.

She also reminded Members that 2019/2020 was the final year of the multi-year grant settlement which we had signed up to and as such we had not expected our allocations to change from those previously announced. A negative Revenue Support Grant (RSG) for 2019/2020 of £108,866 was anticipated.

On 13 December 2018 the government announced the provisional financial settlement; for Ribble Valley this would mean:

- a negative RSG had been eliminated gaining us £109k.

- the rural services delivery grant had been increased back to the same level as 2018/19 gaining us £21k;
- the new homes bonus threshold remains at 0.4%.
- the Lancashire Business Rates Pilot Bid had been successful. A gain from this would be dependent on actual business rate growth but estimates suggest it could be in the region of £400k;
- the government are returning to local authorities the levy account surplus which would be £20k.

The government had also announced consultations on the future of Business Rate Retention and the Fair Funding Review which may have a significant impact on our financial position beyond 2019/2020.

The Budget Working Group would continue to meet over the coming weeks and would ultimately make recommendations to Special Policy and Finance Committee on 5 February 2019 in order to achieve a balanced budget.

The proposed fees and charges for 2019/2020 has been considered by Committee in October and had been incorporated into the service budgets. Following in-depth service analysis and meetings between accountants, budget holders, Heads of Service and management team, the proposed draft budget was now presented to Members.

Estimates had been prepared on current levels of service allowing for the nationally agreed award (average increase 2.8%) and price increases at 2%. The budget for each cost centre within the report was presented individually showing the original estimate, savings, inflation, variations to the standard budgeted inflation, unavoidable changes to service costs, support services, and capital charges, which then culminated in the draft original estimate for 2019/20.

The report detailed individual budget areas under this Committee and comments were provided on the main variances.

The draft budget was also summarised in two ways; one over the cost of the service provided by the Committee (objective) and the other over the type of expenditure and income (subjective).

The net expenditure for this Committee is estimated to increase by £194,730 after allowing for associated movements on earmarked reserves. The main reasons for the net increase were summarised for Committee's information.

**RESOLVED:** That Committee agree the revenue original estimate for 2019/20 and submit this to Special Policy and Finance Committee.

**536 ROEFIELD ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCH PROPOSAL**

The Director of Community Services submitted a report providing information on the project to build a new artificial surface at Roefield and to refurbish the existing surfaces.

Members had agreed in principle at the October meeting to build a new full size artificial grass pitch and refurbish the existing surfaces at Roefield. In addition Members had asked officers to prepare costs for the construction of a toilet block

and class/community room to sit alongside the new facilities. The report outlined both the revenue and capital budgets for the scheme as well as giving an outline of the type of activities and how it was envisaged the facility would be managed and operated.

In determining indicative use of the new facility, officers had been in touch with local sports clubs and schools to try and establish what their needs would be and how these translate into demand.

The Council had been given access by the Lancaster Foundation to the documentation which the Foundation had commissioned as part of its submission for planning permission to build their facility. As this was work the Council would have to carry out for this project, it was justifiable to give the Lancaster Foundation a sum of money for the information they had provided.

The construction of the new project would be a sign investment by the Borough Council, however it would also enable if the opportunity arises in the future, to seek football foundation funding for another site elsewhere.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. ask the Policy and Finance Committee to approve a capital budget for £1,430,440 for option 1 scheme to include a full size 3G artificial grass size pitch and refurbish the existing surfaces already on site to include store, toilet block and classroom;
2. ask Policy and Finance Committee to include the outline budget into the Council's 2019/2020 budget calculations; and
3. agree to the sum of £10,000 being included for payment to the Lancaster Foundation for using their pre-tender information.

537 AMENDMENTS TO THE CAR PARKING ORDER

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to approve a car parking order to incorporate a payment by telephone or Debit/Credit card, payment for disabled parking in excess of 3 hours and amend the schedule of car parks. He reminded Committee that they had previously approved the changes outlined and had therefore to produce an appropriate off-street parking places order to reflect these changes to its current practices. The draft order was enclosed for Committee's information and the procedure for making the order was outlined.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the car parking order as outlined which provides for the inclusion of previously approved changes in the revised parking order; and
2. agree that officers advertise and consult on the order in accordance with the appropriate legislation and procedures as set out in the report.

538 INCOME IMPLICATIONS OF WASTE PAPER AND CARD FOLLOWING 1 APRIL 2018

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee of the current situation with regard to waste paper and card collection and Lancashire County Council's financial arrangements following the end of cost sharing arrangements from 1 April 2018.

Since 1 April the Council had retained the income received for the paper and card following the end of the cost sharing agreement. Lancashire County Council had recently contacted the Council asking for payment, as they believe they have exclusive rights as the disposal authority for all materials collected on their behalf by the district collection authorities. The County Council has suggested a split of 50/50 on the income from the paper and card and would also guarantee a minimum income and indemnify the Council of any costs in the event that income becomes a cost.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree to the making of an agreement with Lancashire County Council for the shared (50/50) income from the sale of waste paper and card; and
2. delegate the responsibility of agreeing the minimum income due to this Council to the Director of Community Services; and
3. ask the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to complete a legally binding agreement to this effect.

539 GENERAL REPORT

The Director of Community Services submitted a report informing Committee on the Christmas lights grants that had been made and on the recent trends relating to Ribblesdale Pool.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

540 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the following item of business being exempt information under Part 1 of Category 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

541 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

A report was received from Councillor Ian Sayers on the Lancashire Waste Partnership meeting that had taken place on 15 November 2018.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

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