

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 3 September 2015
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Barnard (Chair), Griffin, Hand-Davis, Unsworth and Wilson

11 **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.**

Councillor Hand-Davis declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 16 in so far as his family were users of DIAL's services.

12 **Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 18th June, 2015. (Pac.03.09.2015/2)**

Members received the minutes from the previous meeting, of Penistone Area Council held on 18th June, 2015.

With reference to the minutes from the Ward Alliance, held on 21st May, 2015, Members questioned whether a response to the Millhouse traffic survey had been received from officers. It was noted that only a brief response was requested, nothing had yet been provided and it was agreed that this would be requested again.

Members went on to discuss the 'squareabout' and any issues raised by residents about its operation. It was agreed that a separate discussion be held on this at a later date.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th June, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record;
- ii) that a response to the Millhouse traffic survey is again requested;
- iii) that Members meet to discuss the 'squareabout' and any associated issues.

13 **Notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 2nd July, 2015. (Pac.03.09.2015/3)**

The meeting received the notes from Penistone East and West Ward Alliance, held on 2nd July, 2015.

An update was provided on the refurbishment of the public toilets in Penistone, and it was noted that this was yet to be completed.

RESOLVED that the notes from Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 2nd July, 2015 be received.

14 **Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds. (Pac.03.09.2015/4)**

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, highlighting the amounts of expenditure of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds to date. Members noted that a combined total of £12,925.11 of Devolved Ward Budgets remained for the two wards. An updated figure of £40,361 was noted as remaining for the Ward Alliance Funds.

RESOLVED that the report on the Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Funds be noted.

**15 Penistone Area Council commissioning, procurement and funding update.
(Pac.03.09.2015/5)**

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager. The meeting noted the apologies from Tom Handley of Growforest, and it was acknowledged that he was due to attend the Ward Alliance meeting.

Members heard how the necessary documentation to implement a waiver to contract procedure rules had been completed, in order to extend the Countryside Skills commission without the need for retendering. The necessary contract outputs for this had also been agreed.

A meeting had been arranged on 24th September, 2015 for the Area Manager and Tom Handley to discuss the 'lessons learned' following the completion of the first year of the contract. Outputs to date for the contract were considered, with the majority in line with that agreed, and with no areas of concern.

Members noted that 13 new learners had joined the current cohort with 8 remaining on the programme to date, all of which were preparing for the level 1 qualification in dry stone walling. 8 learners from the previous cohort had attained a Lantra level 1 qualification in dry stone walling, with a further learner preparing for level 2.

Members heard how learners from the programme had recently come 1st and 2nd in the Yorkshire Drystone Walling Guild competition.

The meeting noted that the exercise to procure a Clean and Tidy service had recently concluded. Four organisations had submitted tenders, with Barnsley MBC (Environment and Transportation) being identified as a preferred provider. Necessary service level agreement documentation was therefore being prepared, and it was expected that the service would commence on 1st October, 2015.

With regards to the Working Together Fund, it was noted that only one expression of interest had been received, and therefore a panel would be convened to consider whether the application met required criteria to be invited to work up a full application. Members suggested that further expressions of interest were expected following meetings of the Parish Councils in September.

Attention was drawn to the financial position of the Area Council, noting that £80,956 remained unallocated for 2015/16 and £125,401 for 2016/17.

RESOLVED:-

i) that the progress of the Countryside Skills Training commission be noted;

- ii) that the progress of the Clean and Tidy commission be noted;
- iii) that the current financial situation of the Area Council be noted.

16 Penistone Area Council Priorities. (Pac.03.09.2015/6)

The meeting noted the agreed priorities of the Area Council, which had been reconsidered at the previous meeting, alongside recently produced statistics about the area. It was noted that subsequently there had been further statistical information provided, and the Ward Alliance had also discussed the priorities for the area.

Following this, a suggestion had been made that the current priority of 'Access to Healthcare Services', be widened to become 'to Improve and Maintain Health and Wellbeing'. This was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Hand-Davis put forward the proposal to consider funding an advice and guidance service, following his discussions and experience of DIAL Barnsley. The meeting discussed how this may be taken forward, perhaps using the Devolved Ward Budget to fund a pilot. It was agreed that the Area Manager pursue this with colleagues from DIAL.

Members noted a piece of work currently being undertaken to consider the work commissioned by Area Councils and Ward Alliances, to map its contribution to priorities in the area. It was noted that this would also help identify and target gaps in provision

RESOLVED that the priority of 'to Improve and Maintain Health and Wellbeing' be adopted in place of 'Access to Healthcare Services'.

Chair