

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 22 October 2015
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Meeting Room, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

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

17 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

No Members declared an interest in any item on the agenda.

18 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 3rd September, 2015. (PAC.22.10.2015/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd September, 2015.

Feedback was given on the mapping exercise. It was noted that this had been completed, and had included all the Ward Alliance Fund finance and that allocated by the Area Council. This had been considered by the Ward Alliance and circulated to all Members.

Members noted that discussions had taken place with DIAL and an application for a pilot project had been developed to be funded from Devolved Ward Budget.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 3rd September, 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

19 Minutes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 24th September, 2015. (PAC.22.10.2015/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 24th September, 2015.

An update was given regarding the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Penistone. It was noted that this would be for the area covered by Penistone Town Council, which included parts of both Penistone West and East Wards.

Members referred to the Community Led Plan for Penistone and the hope that this could be utilised in order to assist the timely development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The meeting discussed the presence of police in the Penistone area. It was noted that numbers of PCs had diminished and this had impact on the service being delivered in the area. Discussion suggested that a reduction in service and corresponding impact also applied to other emergency services. Members agreed to ensure the issue continued to be raised with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 24th September, 2015 be received.

20 Review of the Ward Alliance. (PAC.22.10.2015/4)

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, referring to the recent review of the Ward Alliance. A number of self assessment questionnaires had been completed, the results of which were then considered by a workshop. The review had considered areas such as the current membership; attendance; what is working well; and what is working less well.

Members considered the recommendations put forward following the review. An in depth discussion took place around the need to receive more feedback from grant recipients. It was noted that this was echoed in a recent internal audit of Area Governance arrangements, which suggested that monitoring of grants should be pursued more actively.

Members suggested assigning a lead from the Ward Alliance membership to work with groups, visiting them and ensuring monitoring information was returned.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that the report be noted;
- ii) that the recommendations of the review be supported and the suggestion of assigning lead members of the Ward Alliance to each grant application be put forward for discussion at the next Alliance meeting.

21 Report on the use of Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund. (PAC.22.10.2015/5)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who provided up to date figures detailing expenditure from the Devolved Ward Budget, Ward Alliance Fund and from funds allocated from Public Health.

It was noted that a significant application was being developed to be submitted for approval utilising Ward Alliance Fund finance. If successful this would leave just over £28,000 of Ward Alliance Fund to allocation.

Similarly there were a number of applications seeking approval from Devolved Ward Budgets. If approved this would leave approximately £2,160 to allocation in Penistone East and £800 in Penistone West.

RESOLVED that the report detailing the use of Devolved Ward Budgets and Ward Alliance Fund be noted.

22 Penistone Area Council commissioning, procurement and funding update. (PAC.22.10.2015/6)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, referring to the report circulated.

It was noted that there had not been a contract monitoring meeting with Growforest since the previous meeting, but there was still some more informal feedback from the project.

The feedback continued to be positive, with Tom Handley attending the recent Ward Alliance meeting to provide an update on recent activity. It was noted that the current commission finished in at the end of March, 2016 but Growforest had been looking for continuation funding.

Members noted the recent work to repair prominent walls on public land in the Area and heard of the links made with the Integrated Youth Support Service and work on the Forest Schools programme locally.

The meeting discussed linkages with the Trans-Pennine Trail (TPT) and it was noted that the project did work with the TPT, as would the Clean and Tidy Commission.

Members noted the official start date of 1st November, 2015 for the 'Clean and Tidy' commission. The meeting heard how the contract would run for 18 months, but with appropriate break clauses. Requests from Parish Councils for the service had already been received and it was acknowledged that the service would be distributed equitably across the area. Members heard how a scheme to engage volunteers in keeping the area clean and tidy would be launched imminently.

With regards to the Working Together Fund, three expressions of interest had been received and were due to be considered by the panel imminently.

The meeting considered the current financial position for the Area Council, with £106,610 left unallocated for 2015/16 and £124,783 for 2016/17.

Members discussed the potential of funding a project or projects to assist older, isolated or vulnerable people. It was suggested that the Area Team provides support to further develop the projects suggested.

The meeting noted that the Area Manager was working with officers from Barnsley Business Innovation Centre (BBIC) in order to develop a proposal to address the economic priority.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that the update on the work of the Countryside Skills Training Commission be received;
- ii) that the proposed start date of the Clean and Tidy Commission be noted;
- iii) that the current financial situation of the Area Council be noted.

23 Community magazine. (PAC.22.10.2015/7)

The item was introduced by the Area Manager who made the meeting aware of the progress being made to develop the Community Magazine. It was noted that the articles were all currently with Communications for editing, and a proposed layout had been circulated for comments. Councillors noted that the cost for distribution was slightly below that expected at £2,490.40.

Members noted that a draft of the magazine would be circulated for comment in addition to a list of potential advertisers, prior to publishing.

The meeting discussed the possibility of having some articles featured in the local press. Also mentioned was the production of another Area Review, which offered another opportunity to promote the positive work of the Area Council and Ward Alliance in more detail than in the magazine. It was suggested that an article on the use of Section 106 monies could be featured.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

Chair