

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday 6 April 2023
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Barnard (Chair), Greenhough, Kitching, Lowe-Flello and Wilson

36 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

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

37 Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 9th February, 2023 (Pac.06.04.2023/2)

The Area Council received the minutes from the previous meeting held on 9 February 2023.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area council meeting held on 9 February 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

38 Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 9th February and 9th March 2023 (Pac.06.04.2023/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance meetings held on 9 February and 9 March 2023.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance meetings held on 9 February and 9 March 2023 be received.

39 Introduction of the Penistone Area Council Link Officer - Rachel Wilkinson

Rachel Wilkinson, Head of Regulatory Services and the new Link Officer for the Penistone Area Council, was welcomed to the meeting and provided members with a brief overview of the areas of work covered by Regulatory Services.

RESOLVED that Rachel Wilkinson be welcomed as the Link Officer for Penistone Area Council.

40 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.06.04.2023/5)

Members received the report, noting its contents. The Area Council Manager drew particular attention to the final carry over figure of £5,529 from the 2022/23 financial year, resulting in a starting total of £25,529 for the 2023/24 financial year. This figure includes £3875 remaining from the ring-fenced School's Out Fund being carried forward.

Members noted that there had not been the need to allocate additional funds from the main Area Council Budget, showing that there had been a decline in groups coming forward for funding. Members were minded to review the criteria for Ward Alliance Funding allocations in order to encourage new groups to come forward.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

41 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.06.04.2023/6)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager who drew members attention to the Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older Peoples Service and the Age UK contract. It was noted that they would be invited to attend the Area Council Meeting to be held on 8 June 2023 to provide members with a 12 month review of their service with a view to members then making a decision to progress into the second year of their contract.

At the previous Area Council meeting, members had agreed to allocate an additional £80,000 into the Working Together Fund. Following this meeting, the Grants Funding Panel had approved an application from the Citizens Advice Bureau for £21,179 to fund a 2 year service. A total of £13,394 would be used from the grant fund pot as a contribution of £7,245 had been used from the remaining Practical Support Grant. A total of £77,052 remained in the Working Together Grant Fund pot, enabling the Penistone Area Council to look into supporting the potential for support with food offers and other initiatives addressing local need emerging from the cost of living crisis.

The Working Together Grant Fund - Support for Young People had funded 4 projects and members were made aware that there was 1 year of funding left and that it would need reviewing as to whether there was a need in the area to continue funding in the future.

The Clean, Green and Tidy Contract waiver was going through its final procurement process and the contract would continue until the end of September 2023. A meeting had taken place with members and Twiggs Grounds Maintenance to look at the outcomes required for the remaining 6 month period and all targets and outcomes proposed had been agreed. A member workshop was proposed within 3 months to look at what service was required going forward. Consultations with the local Parish Councils and environmental groups would be held in order to gain a general insight into the requirements that people would want from a future service.

Member were informed that the Penistone Ward Alliance had a starting budget of £25,529 for the 2023/24 financial year and the option to allocate additional funds from the main Area Council budget, if the need arises.

Members were provided with a brief breakdown of the 2022/23 financial year budget with all allocated spend for the year. The 2023/24 financial year would commence with a budget of £208,059 which was an accumulation of the budget allocation of £200,000 and an underspend of £8,059 from the previous financial year. Allocations for the current financial year so far had accumulated to £100,000 leaving a total of £108,059 remaining for allocation.

Members queried whether there would be scope for new initiatives with schools and younger people. They were informed that it may be useful to have some input from the 0-19 Team Manager as to any issues or changes emerging with regards to the children's offer. It was recognised that the Penistone Area did not have the same centres or communal spaces as other areas in the Borough had to offer, to be used to hold new groups or events.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the update of the contract funded by the new Supporting Isolated and Older People Grant fund be noted and that an end of year review at the Penistone Area Council to be held 8 June 2023 be agreed;
- (ii) that the update and current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Fund be received;
- (iii) that the update on the Supporting Young People ringfenced funds within the existing Working Together Grant Fund be received;
- (iv) that the update on the current Clean, Green and Tidy contract started in April 2020 be noted and that further discussions regarding the future procurement process be agreed;
- (v) that the update and year end financial position of the Ward Alliance budget be noted; and
- (vi) that the record of allocated spend and end of year financial statement from the Penistone Area Council financial budget for 2022/23 and current budget position for the 2023/24 be noted.

42 Verbal Update on the Future Penistone Food Options

The Area Council Manager provided members with an update as to what food option offers are around with a view to the Area Council potentially supporting the setting up of a future model through grant funding.

Members acknowledged that Food Buddies was already up and running and only provided food to those living in the Penistone Area. Good Food Barnsley had indicated that their offer would be as an umbrella organisation and would provide the support for existing projects and help to develop new ones such as Storehouse and Field which is an initiative of Good Food Barnsley.

A Community Shop pilot had been discussed which it is anticipated would operate from a mobile van and Penistone Town Council have agreed it could be placed on their car park at St Johns community centre during the pilot period. Members were informed that the Healthier Communities Service had commissioned the pilot to trial it out and that the food supplied would be from Ocado. There is potential for this to develop into a mobile unit which could potentially travel to villages in the Penistone area in the future.

Another option put forward was that of a community fridge for people to give and take away from based on trust. Members heard that there were already two up and running the Borough in Mapplewell and Worsbrough that were working well.

Concerns were raised around where the liability would lay with respect to food safety especially for a community fridge, members were informed that Regulatory Services could provide advice on all aspects of distribution and different models of food banks.

Members were informed that the Storehouse and Field model as a food hub was one of the most preferable options to meet the needs of the area but would require an existing community asset for delivery, examples to consider might be the Penistone Leisure Centre or Library. Good Food Barnsley had made visits to various places and would feedback their findings. Any funding provided from the Area Council would be for start up costs only and not running costs.

It was suggested that a Steering Group would be required to run it, formed from organisations and community groups, who would act as an accountable body. It was acknowledged that this was still in development and further updates would be provided to members at future meetings.

RESOLVED that members note the update.

43 Interim Performance Report (Pac.06.04.2023/8)

The Area Council Manager provided members with an overview of performance of all contracted services and made members aware that they were between quarters and would receive the Quarter 4 performance report at the Area Council meeting to be held in June.

Twiggs Grounds Maintenance had been involved in bulb planting, planting fruit trees and the Great British Spring Clean, alongside work with schools. Members had queried what the costs would be for litter picking packs and individual litter pickers for future reference.

Age UK continued to provide good services, members were informed that new groups had been set up including a luncheon club and a chat group. The Sloppy Slippers event had been well attended and Age UK had supported the Cost of Living Crisis Event.

CAB had reapplied for funding and was in the process of having its contract set up. Discussions were taking place to return to face to face consultation alongside the online offer.

DIAL continued to hold face to face appointments on a Tuesday morning which were well attended. They had also supported the Cost of Living Crisis event.

The Working Together Grant Fund - Support for Young People had funded 4 projects. Ad Astra continued their work within Penistone Grammar School which will be with Year 8 pupils for the forthcoming term. Discussions were taking place with the school for more pupils to access peer mentoring qualifications.

Girlguiding continued to be a success and preparation for the 'Going Away Badge' event was underway for later in the year.

Angel Voices was going from strength to strength with some members of the group becoming involved in national events. They had taken part in the Area Council's 10 year celebration event and opened Penistone Arts Week at the Paramount cinema. A new adult workshop would be taking place in Cawthorne, but there were hopes to move this to follow the Children's Workshop on a Saturday afternoon.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chair