

PENISTONE AREA COUNCIL

12th June, 2014

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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1. **Present:** Councillors Barnard (Chair), Rusby, Unsworth and Wilson.

2. **A minute silence to mark the passing of Cllr Peter Starling.**

All members were upstanding to observe a minute silence to mark the passing of Cllr Starling.

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

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

4. **Minutes from the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 17th April, 2014.**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 17th April, 2014.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting, held on the 17th April, 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

5. **Notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance, held on 15th May, 2014.**

The meeting received the notes from Penistone East and West Ward Alliance, held on 15th May, 2014.

Members discussed the fire at Hepworth, and the response from the Fire Service and Environment Agency, including proposed enforcement action.

Given the severity of the incident, the meeting felt that the multi-agency communications response could have been better, and Cllr Wilson agreed to discuss this with the head of Corporate Communications.

The issue of an appropriate Neighbourhood Network Host was discussed, and it noted that the organisation should be based in the locality, with local links and the ability to engage residents.

RESOLVED:-

(i) that the notes from Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 15th May, 2014 be received;

(ii) that Cllr Wilson discusses the communications response to significant events with the Head of Corporate Communications.

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The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager. The papers highlighted expenditure from April 2013- March 2014, and April 2014 - May 2015.

It was noted that combined finance for the area at the beginning of the financial year was £173,868, and the need to accelerate expenditure was acknowledged.

Members discussed a number of potential projects including investment in traffic orders, and the relocation of a speed camera in the area.

Town centre improvements were also discussed, including potentially improving signage and pavements. With regards to improving safety around the 'square-about', it was noted that other areas have utilised different coloured and textured surfaces as part of traffic calming measures. It was agreed to consider how this approach could be utilised.

Members noted the potential to invest in the development of meadows on areas of council owned land, in order to reduce maintenance costs in the longer term.

A suggestion was made that Members may also be interested in investing in a work experience programme for young people. It was noted that North Area Council have commissioned a Summer Holiday Internship, which is now being delivered.

The meeting heard how other Area Councils had invested in additional enforcement provision, focusing on dog fouling, litter, and parking. It was suggested that a few days additional enforcement around the town centre could be beneficial.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the report detailing the use of Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Fund be noted;
- (ii) that suggestions for the use of available finance be further researched.

7. Penistone Area Council Annual Review 2013-14.

The Area Council Manager introduced the item, which detailed progress made in the area during 2013/14.

In 2013/14 the Area Council, Ward Alliance and Neighbourhood Network had established, and it was noted that a mapping exercise had recorded 77 community groups in the Penistone East Area and 61 in Penistone West.

Members heard how the Ward Alliance had supported 23 projects, and allocated £22,692 of finance, resulting in £32,826 in Social Action Value. The meeting discussed the success of the Ward Alliance, and noted it had achieved all its milestones for 2013/14. Members agreed that it had been particularly useful as a vehicle to engage Parish Councils.

The meeting also noted that 8 projects had been supported through the Devolved Ward Budget and 7 through Public Health finance allocated to the area, which included Cycle Penistone.

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Members discussed the recently opened Tourism Hub, which had successfully attracted a significant number of volunteers in a short space of time.

8. Penistone Area Council update on priorities and commissioning.

The report was introduced by the Area Council Manager. Feedback was provided with regards to the procurement for the Countryside Skills project. It was noted that 4 tenders had been received, all of which had gone through moderation and evaluation. A preferred provider had been agreed.

It was noted that the Rural Bus Project had gone out to tender and the closing date for submissions had passed. Unfortunately no submissions had been received. NPS had contacted those organisations that had expressed an interest in the project, and the meeting heard how one potential provider was interested did not have the requisite SSIP (Safety Systems In Procurement) approval in place, though it was noted that they were willing to progress this.

The meeting discussed various options, and it was agreed that the project be put out to tender again, and prospective providers be made aware.

The use of the Area Council budget for 2014/15 and 2015/16 was considered. It was noted that the meeting had discussed various options, as indicated in minute 6. It was agreed that an additional workshop be held to discuss each in more detail.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the progress made in procuring activities to deliver against the Area Council priorities be noted;
- (ii) that approval be given for the Rural Bus Project to go out to tender for a second time, with communication going to prospective organisations to alert them to this;
- (iii) that a workshop be organised for Members and relevant officers to discuss potential Area Council projects in more detail.

9. Community representatives on the Ward Alliance.

Members received a report, which presented a number of individuals for approval to act as community representatives on the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance.

RESOLVED:- that the individuals proposed be approved to act as community representatives on the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance for the municipal year 2014/15.

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Chair