

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday 20 July 2023
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

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

8 **Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests**

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

9 **Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 8 June 2023 (Pac.20.07.2023/2)**

The Area Council received the minutes from the previous meeting held on 8 June 2023.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 8 June 2023 be approved as a correct record.

10 **Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 8 June 2023 (Pac.20.07.2023/3)**

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance meeting held on 8 June 2023.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance meeting held on 8 June 2023 be received.

11 **Ad Astra Presentation**

Michelle Cooper from Ad Astra was welcome to the meeting and provided members with an update as to the work that they had carried out on the commissioned Listening Support Project within Penistone Grammar School.

Members were informed that the Listening Support was not counselling or therapy but that it was engaging with young people by active listening. This involved a conscious effort to take in, digest and understand what the young people were communicating to enhance the ability to understand them better.

Members received a detailed account of the variety of issues supported in the Group work and One to One Sessions that had been carried out. Members were provided with case studies and feedback of some of the young people that had accessed the service.

Members heard that a number of issues had resulted in lower numbers accessing the service in the past year as a result of school strikes, and some communication issues within the school that had led to a reduced number of referrals.

Concerns were raised around the lack of communications resulting in lowered numbers and Members agreed that it would be beneficial for an Area Council representative to meet with Penistone Grammar School to discuss potential longer term needs for this type of service in the future.

Members also felt it would be beneficial for Ad Astra to meet with the Governors of the school and provide them with the presentation showing the work undertaken since the service had been commissioned.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation and the hard work undertaken by Ad Astra.

12 Interim Performance Report (Pac.20.07.2023/5)

The Area Council Manager provided members with an overview of performance of all contracted services and made members aware they were between quarters and would receive the Quarter 1 performance report at the Area Council meeting to be held in September.

Members were provided with a highlight of all contracted services, with the mention that the Clean, Green and Tidy Contract would finish at the end of September. A reminder was provided that the Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People Service had moved into its second year.

Members were informed that the figures remained the same as reported in the previous Quarter 4 report.

Twiggs Grounds Maintenance, who provided the Clean Green and Tidy contract, had moved into a phase of 4 members of staff 2 days a week. Issues had been raised that this was not flexible enough to meet some groups needs that required Twiggs assistance on days they were not available. Conversations had been carried out with Groups in order to provide an understanding of the new schedule of working.

Twiggs had carried out a variety of project work across the Penistone Area which included a wildlife bed in Hoylandswaine, bulb planting in Watermeadows Park and support at Royd Community Gardens in collaboration with GXO Logistics volunteers.

Age UK were into their second year of their grant, it had been indicated that they were picking up a number of more complex issues in older people. Volunteer numbers remained positive at 31. An intergenerational event had been planned which brought together young people from Greenwork Plus with service users from the Happy Vibes Group and Board Games Group.

Penistone Men in Sheds was making good progress in moving to their new premises. A planned open day to invite potential new members had been cancelled due to some health and safety concerns from Age UK. Once addressed this event would be going ahead in the near future.

Group activities were working well with added value through BOPPA working on fall prevention. There had been a reduction in numbers attending the Happy Vibes Café for older people with dementia and this was due to a number of people having to go into care.

The Citizens Advice Bureau Debt Advice Service were in conversation to return to face to face appointments from August in Penistone Library.

Members commented that they would possibly see an increase in demand for this service for people with a significant personal debt and the rise in mortgage interest rates. Members were interested to see what the uptake would be of face to face appointments alongside the online offer.

DIAL were offering face to face appointments in Penistone Town Hall on Tuesday mornings, this had generated a number of complex issues and resulted in a drop in numbers for people being seen due to the time taken with each client.

The Adult Singing Workshops being offered by Angel Voices had seen an initial mixed uptake but was now settling down with regular workshops held in Cawthorne. A number of adults joining the groups had reported not just singing for pleasure but also health benefits following damage from long covid.

The Supporting Young People Grant Fund had supported 4 projects including Ad Astra, Penistone Grammar School, Girlguiding and Angel Voices. Members were provided with a brief update of each project.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

13 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.20.07.2023/6)

Members received the report, noting its contents. The Area Council Manager drew members attention to the slow income of applications. An application had been received for the Schools Out Fund from Springvale Community Garden for activities over the summer holidays. There was a full programme of events planned for a Sports Van that would be visiting all areas of Penistone during the holidays as a youth provision.

Members noted the remaining £21,305.18 in the Ward Alliance budget for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

14 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.20.07.2023/7)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the item providing members with a highlight of each commissioned contract.

The Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older Peoples Service had entered its second year of its 2 year grant funded service at a cost of £70,000.

The Penistone Area Council Working Together Fund had accepted applications from CAB and DIAL and approved a £40,000 ringfenced fund for Supporting Young

People. Leaving a total of £37,052 in the grant pot. Members were informed that the Area Council were not actively promoting this find at the moment due to ongoing work around food options. A consultation event inviting all people who have an interest or are involved in preparation or delivery of food would be taking place on 14 August 4pm to 6pm at Penistone St Johns around the potential food options for Penistone. Members were provided with an update informing them that Penistone Town Council were actively moving forward with a Community Fridge.

Members were reminded that the Clean, Green and Tidy contract extension was due to come to an end in September 2023. A workshop had been held to inform members of the outcomes of a consultation exercise involving local Parishes and environmental groups which had demonstrated a future need for the service. Members were provided with three options as to how to progress the procurement exercise for a further service to start in April 2023.

Following discussions members were minded to choose recommended option C. This option would give devolved responsibility for the formal approval of the contracts to the Executive Director for Public Health and Communities. This would enable a swifter process for procurement based on a direct purchasing of services in order to have the flexibility to progress services without the need to take back into a future area council.

A concern was raised as to whether this option would take away decision making responsibility from the Area Council by centralising it. Members were assured that they would all be involved in the development of the service, but this option would enable the contracts to be signed off in a timelier manner.

Members were informed that £50,000 remained in 2023/24 budget for the Clean, Green and Tidy Contract and were asked to approve an additional £50,000 from the 2024/25 budget to support the procurement of a new service.

Members were informed that area teams had been tasked with organising local events to showcase the Penistone Area Council, Ward Alliances and Community achievements, as part of the 10 year celebration of area working arrangements. The event for Penistone is planned to take place in September and would need a Penistone Area Council contribution of £2,000 towards promotional activities. The funding would be allocated from the £1,157 remaining in the promotional activity budget with an additional £843 from the current area council budget. Members were happy to agree this contribution.

Members were provided with an overview of the 2023/24 budget. It was noted, if the proposed budget allocations set out as above were approved, the remaining allocation in the current financial year would be £37,216.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the update of the contracts funded by the new Supporting Isolated and Older People Grant Fund be noted;
- (ii) that the update and current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Fund be noted and received;

- (iii) that the update on the existing Supporting Young People ringfenced funds within the existing Working Together Grant Fund be received and the update on progress for the next round of funding be noted;
- (iv) that the updates on the current Clean, Green and Tidy contract started in April 2020 and now in its final extension period to the end of September 2023 be noted;
- (v) that Option C, set out at 3.11 in the report, to devolve responsibility for the formal approval of the contracts to the Executive Director for Public Health and Communities, enabling a swifter process for procurement based on a direct purchasing of services for the procurement of future services, in relation to meeting the Penistone Area Council environment priority be agreed and that £50,000 from the 2024/25 budget in support of this be approved;
- (vi) that the current financial position of the Penistone Ward Alliance be noted;
- (vii) that the recommendation to promote the work of the Penistone Area Council through a Penistone 10 year celebration event be agreed and the contribution of £2,000 from within the Penistone Area Council Budget to support this, be approved; and
- (viii) that the record of allocated and proposed spend and current budget position for 2023/24 be noted.

Chair