

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday 30 January 2025
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Conference Room - Penistone Library

MINUTES

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

30 **Declarations of Interests on matters contained within the Agenda**

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

31 **Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 21 November 2024 (Pac.30.01.2025/2)**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 November 2024.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 21 November 2024 be approved as a true and correct record.

32 **Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 14 November and 12 December 2024 (Pac.30.01.2025/3)**

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance meetings held on 14 November and 12 December 2024.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance meetings held on 14 November and 12 December 2024 be received.

33 **Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.30.01.2025/4)**

Members received the report and noted its contents. Members noted that £9,219.71 remained in the budget and expressed confidence that this amount would be spent before the end of the financial year due to the receipt of several applications.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

34 **Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.30.01.2025/5)**

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

It was reported that there had been significant interest in the recently advertised Community Development Officer post which would support the Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older Peoples Service. Members were informed that DIAL had commenced their dedicated welfare advice service and that there had been promotion around a new advice at home service offered in rural areas which had received good uptake. Members were reminded that the new Community

Development Officer would commence mapping out the provision of the transport solution once in post. The Area Council had maintained contact with volunteers and had carried out a Christmas event to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

The Working Together Grant Fund had commenced the 2025/26 financial year with £37,052 in the pot. A further £50,000 had been added from the Area Council budget with £40,000 being ringfenced for the Supporting Young People programme. An Information and Advice service from DIAL had been commissioned for a 2 year period commencing January 2025 at a total cost of £20,485 and a further allocation of £10,021.44 to the Supporting Young People grant fund which left a total of £16,545.56. Members were informed that the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) service was due to expire at the end of March 2025. Members were keen to encourage a further application to continue this service as it provided much needed help within the Penistone area.

Members raised their concerns as to the future impact of the increase in Employers National Insurance contributions and how this would affect the area council budget and contract/project costs in the future. It was noted that there had been no indication that the base budget would increase to take these increases into account

The Supporting Young People Grant Fund had funded 5 projects over the past year all of which had now ended. There was an opening grant pot of £42,662.17 for projects over a 12 month period in 2024/25. An assessment Panel had met in November 2024 to consider the fourth round of the grant and 6 applications were assessed and approved for funding. These included:

- Ad Astra – Wellbeing café for young people in Penistone Grammar School
- Angel Voices – Music industry master classes
- Penistone Taekwondo development programme
- Thurgoland welfare – Young peoples talent event programme
- Walking the Goats – young people’s wellbeing programme extension
- Sporting Penistone – Youth active hub

Total allocations came to £52,683.61. £10,021.44 had been transferred from the Working Together Grant Fund to support the shortfall. A performance update would be provided to members at the April meeting.

Members raised their concerns as to the access Ad Astra had to the pupils within Penistone Grammar School which had proven an issue in the past. The Area Council Manager commented that they would follow up with Ad Astra on this issue and if concerns remained, then maybe they could look at flexing their offer for an alternate provision or utilise a venue outside of school.

The Angel Voices project would be a holistic approach to provide young people with experience of different aspects of building up to recording and making a video. Penistone Area Team would be purchasing equipment to support the programme in the future in order to run the project, once concluded this equipment would then become a community asset to be used for other community run projects in the future.

The Environmental Services grant pot had been gathering momentum with 4 more applications being received. Members were asked to approve funding at a cost of

£80,000 which comprised of £40,000 for each commissioned service in order to extend contracts for a further 12 months from April 2025 in order to embed existing services further. £40,000 would be allocated from the 2024/25 budget and £40,000 would be earmarked from the 2025/26 budget. Members all agreed that they would be happy to approve this additional 12 month spend.

An overview of the financial position of the Area Council was provided, noting that £12, 216 remained for allocation and carry over into the 2025/26 financial year.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the updates on progress with procurement for new options to support vulnerable and isolated older people as at agreed at Penistone Area Council in July 2024 be noted;
- (ii) that the update on the current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Grant Fund be received and noted and that applications for funding to continue services provided by Citizens Advice Bureau be encouraged.
- (iii) that the update on the current Supporting Young People Grant for 2024/25 and the final position of round 3 (2023/24) of the Supporting Young People Grant Fund be noted;
- (iv) that the updates on the new environmental service contracts to support Penistone Area Council's environmental priority be received and that the allocation of £80,000 to fund the agreed extension of services for a further 12 months from April 2025 to the end of March 2026, with a £40k allocation from the existing PAC 2024/25 budget and £40k earmarked for allocation from the PAC 2025/26 budget be approved;
- (v) that the current financial position of the Penistone Ward Alliance within the budget allocation for 2024/25 be noted; and
- (vi) that the record of allocated spend from within the current Penistone Area budget for 2024/25 be received and that the potential carry forward of funds to the 2025/26 budget be noted.

Chair