

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 19 July 2018
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Barnard (Chair), David Griffin, Hand-Davis, Kitching, Millner and Wilson.

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

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

11 **Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 7th June, 2018 (Pac.19.07.2018/2)**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th June, 2018.

An update was provided on the Penistone Alehouse project, with it entering the next stage of development. Volunteers with expertise were being sought in order to consider proposals and support with obtaining the potential accommodation which had recently been identified. A meeting had been arranged to take place on 8th August to discuss the latest developments.

Members heard how the Community Car Scheme was now being more widely promoted.

Members heard how the procurement for Penistone Matters had now concluded. Due to delays the next edition was expected to be published in Autumn, not Summer as previously planned. Members were encouraged to forward any ideas for articles. It was noted that copy deadlines would be shorter with the new supplier, and therefore content was likely to be more current.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 7th June, 2018 be approved as a true and correct record.

12 **Notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 17th May, and 14th June, 2018 (Pac.19.07.2018/3)**

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 17th May and 14th June, 2018.

Members made enquiries in relation to the planters in front of Penistone Town Hall, and heard that the current plans were for community groups to remove and repurpose these, with the Paramount taking responsibility for those in front of the cinema.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone East and West Ward Alliance held on 17th May and 14th June, 2018 be received.

13 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.19.07.2018/4)

A report on the levels Ward Alliance Fund expenditure was considered, and it was noted that just over £2,000 remained to allocate from a budget of £20,000 for the financial year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

14 Performance Report Q1 (Pac.19.07.2018/5)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, and it was noted that many projects had come to an end at the close of quarter 4. However, information was still outstanding in relation to a number of Working Together Fund grants, including those given to the Roundtable and Trans Pennine Trail Volunteers.

The attention of Members was drawn to the numbers of Adult Volunteers, which had increased significantly in the previous quarter. This was largely due to the work of Twiggs. Members also noted the significant increase in the numbers of young people volunteering. Though the Area Council did no longer fund any direct intervention with young people, the increase in numbers were attributed to work of Twiggs and the intergenerational work undertaken by AGE UK.

Members also noted the significant increase in the value of volunteering, which was in part due to increases in numbers, but also due to the increase in hourly rate now attributed.

The Area Council Manager provided an overview of the performance of DIAL, noting that demand was now being managed effectively, but that there was still the need to produce a leaflet with useful telephone numbers to assist those waiting.

With regards to the contract with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance, the team were making significant progress with many other organisations involved, including schools and businesses. Members heard how good progress was being made in relation to the roll out of Incredible Edible in Penistone.

The service delivered by AGE UK was performing well, with 'sloppy slipper' events being an effective way of engaging residents in outlying areas. Future events planned would look towards planning for winter including measures to tackle cold homes, safety in the home, and wellbeing, which can be linked to excess winter deaths.

Members noted that Sporting Penistone had made progress on training, but that there was still more to be made. Feedback was also provided on Penistone FM, which had been instrumental in upskilling both younger and older people. The role of the radio station in increasing awareness of what was happening in the community was also acknowledged, with increased audiences at both football and cricket matches showing its impact.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

15 Penistone Market (Pac.19.07.2018/6)

Maria Cotton, Group Leader – Markets, and Robert Cawthrow, Market Rents and Compliance officer, were welcomed to the meeting. An update was provided on the current situation in relation to the markets held in Penistone, and the marketplace itself.

In relation to comments that the market had been quiet, the fruit and vegetable trader had responded that they had not been affected and for a number of weeks the Thursday market had been 100% let. Historically and more recently the Thursday market had been strong, and was thought to complement the current offer within Penistone.

The market on Saturday remained static, despite investment of time and effort from officers, however this was set against a national trend of decline.

Traders had expressed concerns in relation to banks closing in the centre of Penistone, and how this would impact on trade. Concerns had also been raised in relation to workers using the Tesco carpark as long stay parking, however it was noted that the time limit was now being enforced.

A number of options were being considered in relation to the marketplace, including securing the building in the evening. Previous concerns regarding an alleged public right of way through the building had been thoroughly researched and no evidence to confirm the existence of a right of way had been found. It was noted that as it had been previously used for this purpose, any closure of the route could potentially be challenged.

Members heard how preliminary costs had been sought, with £15,000 expected for shuttering to secure the building, with installation costs in addition to this. However, it was noted that repairs to the site are in the region of £4,000 per annum currently.

Members discussed the merits of closing the space, ensuring it was fit for purpose as a market without repeated repairs being necessary. However, it was also recognised that part of the issue related to the lack of facilities for young people, and that closing off the space would likely just move the problem elsewhere. Members commented on the need to maximise the benefits the Market Barn afforded, with it being used as a venue space as well as for markets.

Comments were received that town centre traders had expressed a desire to work with market traders in order to invigorate the economy of the town. Those present were in agreement that the market barn and its use was integral to the town centre and therefore would feed into the Principal Towns Programme, and the feasibility study currently underway.

RESOLVED that the feedback be noted and feed into the Principal Towns Programme.

16 Rural Waste Collection (Pac.19.07.2018/7)

The item was introduced by the Chair, who reminded Members of the changes to waste collection which meant that refuse would only be collected from the kerbside. The impact of this was most greatly felt in rural areas, which had a higher proportion of un-adopted roads and tracks.

Where problems occurred, bespoke solutions had been considered and had been implemented in a number of places. Councillors were reminded of discussion about the issue at the recent Ward Alliance meeting, where it was suggested that this could be an issue for the Area Council to discuss and potentially assist with a solution.

Members noted the need to make efficiency savings, but questioned the costs of solutions being put in place and the significant time of officers and Members to arrive at and implement the solutions. Members noted the outstanding issues faced by number of residents, and discussed potential ways to alleviate some of the issues.

Suggestions were made to provide support from the Area Council, but consensus was that any solution should be permanent as ongoing revenue financial support could not be sustainable.

As Members were aware that the number of residents with issues was declining, due to the interventions by the service being implemented, it was agreed not to undertake any intervention at the current time, but to monitor the situation and discuss it at a future meeting should issues remain outstanding.

RESOLVED that a future meeting of the Area Council revisits the discussion should the need arise.

17 Traffic Management (Pac.19.07.2018/8)

Councillor Millner introduced the item, referring to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) proposed in The Green. After consultation with Highways, and taking into consideration the evidence provided from local residents, it was suggested that yellow lines be applied to the entrances/exits to The Green.

In addition, Councillor Millner also reminded the meeting of previous discussions around implementing a 20mph zone within the Town Centre.

Acknowledging budgetary pressures within the Highways service, Members discussed how previous TROs had been funded. It was noted that finance had often been provided through the Devolved Ward Budget, and although the current criteria for the Ward Alliance is to promote social action and volunteering there is scope to fund other projects which do not require with volunteer time. Although no volunteer time could be attributed to a TRO, it was noted that in the case of the problems faced by residents at The Green, this had brought them together as a community to address the issues.

Members discussed the criteria for considering a TRO and went on to discuss the process of approval for local funds. It was noted that decisions were those

delegated to an officer, taking account of the recommendations of the Ward Alliance, and in the case of TROs would take account of the views of officers in Highways.

It was acknowledged that there was more than one TRO being put forward which would require funding, but it was unlikely that many could be financed locally per year through the Ward Alliance Fund. Members also acknowledged the low numbers of officers to enforce TROs, however the use to encourage appropriate parking was acknowledged.

RESOLVED

- (i) that Members encourage an application from Highways to the Ward Alliance Fund for a Traffic Regulation Order in relation to The Green;
- (ii) that implementation of a 20mph zone in Penistone Town Centre be considered as part of the Principal Towns Programme.

18 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.19.07.2018/9)

Members were reminded of discussion at the previous meeting in relation to provision for isolated and vulnerable older people, following the completion of the current contract delivered by AGE UK.

It was recommended that a grant fund be established, with a total value of £70,000 and grants be invited to address the issues raised by the current AGE UK contract. It was suggested that this operate similarly to the current Working Together Fund.

Members noted the current situation in relation to the Working Together Fund, with £13,856 remaining. Members discussed its promotion and it was agreed not to promote the fund widely at the current time, but that word of mouth or referral to the fund from organisations interested in applying to the Ward Alliance Fund, but requiring additional finance, would be sufficient.

The meeting briefly discussed its current priorities, and it was suggested that these be reviewed in the autumn.

Following on from the presentation from Twiggs Grounds Maintenance at the previous meeting of the Area Council Members were asked to consider whether to renew the contract for a further year. All Members were in agreement.

A recommendation was received to devolve £20,000 from the Area Council budget, to the Ward Alliance Fund, noting the small amount of Ward Alliance Fund remaining. All Members noted the significant benefit of the support given to Ward Alliance Fund recipients, and supported the suggestion.

The Area Council Manager provided an overview of the financial situation of the Area Council. It was noted that approval of the Isolated and Vulnerable Older People Fund, approval of the transfer of £20,000 to the Ward Alliance Fund, and re-contracting of Twiggs Grounds Maintenance would mean that £18,958.75 remained for allocation in 2018/19.

RESOLVED:-

- (i)** The update on procurement activity be noted;
- (ii)** That an Isolated and Vulnerable Older People Fund be established at a cost of £70,000;
- (iii)** That the Executive Director Communities be authorised to approve the grant procedures, including award criteria, taking account of the recommendations of the working group established to assist the development of the process;
- (iv)** That the Executive Director Communities be authorised to approve Isolated and Vulnerable Older People Fund grants, up to a total value of £70,000, following recommendations from the grants panel;
- (v)** That the update on the Working Together Fund 2018/19 be noted;
- (vi)** That £20,000 be devolved to the Ward Alliance Fund, to be allocated through previously approved mechanisms;
- (vii)** That the update on the Clean and Tidy Contract be noted and that the contract with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance be extended for a further 12 months at a cost of £98,007;
- (viii)** That the update provided on the financial position of the Area Council be noted.

Chair