

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 13 June 2019
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Barnard (Chair), Greenhough, Hand-Davis and Kitching

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

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

2 **Minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on 11th April, 2019 (Pac.13.06.2019/2)**

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th April, 2019.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 11th April, 2019 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 **Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 11th April and 23rd May, 2019 (Pac.13.06.2019/3)**

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 11th April and 23rd May, 2019.

Members discussed the concerns expressed regarding the application for Millhouse Sports Club, and the Chair agreed to ask for an update from Cllr David Griffin.

Those present discussed the great work undertaken by Team Green Moor and their preparations for Britain in Bloom.

The Area Council Manager made Members aware of the first meeting of Age Friendly Penistone, which would be held on 14th June, 2019.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 11th April and 23rd May, 2019 be received.

4 **Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.13.06.2019/4)**

The Area Council Manager updated Members on the latest position in relation to the Ward Alliance Fund.

£6,015 was carried forward from the previous financial year, therefore £26,015 was available for distribution in 2019/20.

At the time of the report being published, £17,665 remained after approving five applications. Members noted that two grants had subsequently been recommended

for approval and therefore finance remaining would be reduced by approximately £2,000 once processed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5 Performance Report Q4 (Pac.13.06.2019/5)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager, who reminded Members that the report covered the quarter January to March 2019.

Overall the position was positive, with increases being noted in the number of jobs created, number of people undertaking work experience and number of adults volunteering.

Members noted that the number of young people engaged in volunteering was low, but that this did not take account of the engagement of young people through schools.

The attention of Members was also drawn to the high numbers of residents in receipt of advice and support, and also the number of young people making a positive contribution to their local environment.

A brief update was then provided on each of the contracts held by the Area Council. The service provided by DIAL continued to performance well, with over £9,000 of additional benefits gained following 51 residents in receipt of face-to-face support.

Performance against the contract with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance continued to be positive, with all targets consistently being reached. Members heard of the work to establish an new community group in Ingbirchworth, and work with Tankersley and Pilley environmental group. Those present noted the significant input Penistone groups, supported by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance, had made to Incredible Edible.

With regards to the Social Isolation and Volunteering project, Age UK was engaging volunteers to support and look out for people in their communities, as part of a befrienders/good neighbour campaign. This could involve home visits, or afternoon outings. The project also continued to provide information and advice to service users and manage the community car scheme.

The Community Activities project looked to support more isolated communities, with a focus on improving health outcomes and engaging men. Members heard of the health group established in Pilley, which was hoped could be replicated elsewhere. A 'Men in Sheds' project was in the process of being established, with 8 volunteers and 7 participants expressing an interest.

Members heard of the group established via facebook to share knitting patterns and provide mutual support, with the aim of knitting items for premature babies. It was noted that work continued with U3A to generate more groups.

The third project delivered by Age UK involved establishing a community network, which is now called Supporting Older People in the Penistone Area (SOPPA). The forum, designed to encourage established organisations to work more closely has already met more than once and is looking at different ways to engage more widely.

Members heard how a subgroup of SOPPA was meeting to discuss at how best to take forward the Age Friendly Penistone initiative.

An update was received in relation to the Penistone FM Young Voices project, funded through the Working Together Fund. Positive links had been made with Penistone Grammar School and pupils were taking part in activities as part of curriculum enrichment. It was noted that this offered real work experience and qualifications recognised by industry.

Members received an update on the South Pennine Community Bus service which had been popular, with 50 users per day against a target of 20. It was noted that sponsorship was now being sought and discussions were scheduled to take place with South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive. There had been a further application to the Working Together Fund to continue the service, which had been approved. This would only provide 46% of costs as the project looked to become self-financing.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6 Presentation by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance (Pac.13.06.2019/6)

Wendy Twigg, John Twigg and Adam Price from Twiggs Grounds Maintenance were welcomed to the meeting.

Members noted that the contract was in the second year of operation and that information provided was intended to give an overview of performance over the contract period to date.

An overview of the service was given, which included the types of work undertaken, and the groups and organisations engaged. 260 Twiggs led social action projects had been undertaken, and the team had helped to establish 10 new community groups. The team had worked with schools on 39 occasions and with businesses on 79 occasions.

131 litter picks had been undertaken, with 340 bags of waste collected. 763 volunteers and 168 young volunteers had been engaged, with a contribution of 2,595 volunteer hours.

Members heard about a variety of interventions and assistance delivered through the contract. These included working with residents, community groups and schools on a variety of environmental projects. A variety of examples including litter picking, bench painting, and bulb planting were given.

Members also heard of the impact of the contract on Twiggs employees and apprentices, with them gaining skills and confidence as part of their employment.

A reflection on the contract so far offered an opportunity to consider what needed to be done going forward. It was suggested that groups from throughout the area could be linked more closely, sharing information, knowledge and skills. Work to establish this had already started, but much more could be done.

Members praised the work showing that, with a little support from Twiggs, residents, businesses, schools and community groups could achieve positive results.

RESOLVED that thanks be given for the presentation and hard work undertaken by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance to improve the area.

7 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.13.06.2019/7)

Members were reminded of the previous discussion about the Supporting Isolated and Older People Fund and it was noted that contracts would conclude in early 2020. It was suggested that consideration ought to be given to the needs of the service users and what provision, if any, Members may wish to see following the conclusion of the current contracts.

With regards to the underspend from the 2018/19 financial year, Members noted that this was transferred to the Working Together Fund. Since this was last discussed, South Pennine Community Transport had been funded and £14,596 remained.

Members noted that the Clean, Green and Tidy contract, currently held by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance was due to end in November, 2019. A suggestion was made to apply for a waiver to contract procedure rules in order to extend the contract to the end of the financial year. This would allow further time for evaluating the impact of the contract, and discussing potential changes to any future procurement, should this be agreed as a priority from 2020 onwards.

The current financial position of the Ward Alliance Fund was noted, and it was suggested that this be monitored throughout the year.

It was noted that plans were in place to feature in the August edition of Penistone Living, with space being purchased to highlight the work of the Area Council and Ward Alliance twice a year in the publication.

The Area Council Manager provided an overview of the current financial position of the Area Council and it was noted that if the proposal to extend the Clean, Green and Tidy service was agreed £107,495 would remain within the current financial year.

The Area Council Manager suggested that Members may wish to convene a workshop to discuss current finance available together with the agreed priorities areas, and consider which areas may merit further investment.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the update on procurement activity be noted;
- (ii) The progress of contracts funded through the Supporting Isolated and Older People Fund be noted;
- (iii) That the update on the Working Together Fund be noted;
- (iv) That the update on the Twiggs Clean and Tidy contract be noted, and that the Executive Director Communities be authorised to completed all necessary paperwork in order to support a waiver to contract procedure rules to extend the contract with Twiggs Grounds Maintenance to 31st March, 2020 at a cost of £32,670;
- (v) That the current financial position for 2019/20 be noted; and

- (vi) That a workshop be arranged for Members to consider future projects under the current priorities for Penistone Area Council.

8 Consultation to inform Area Council priorities from 2020 onwards (Pac.13.06.2019/8)

The Area Council Manager reminded Members of previous discussions on the Area Council priorities which had suggested that further consultation be undertaken to inform priorities from 2020 onwards.

A suggestion was made to undertake consultation over a three month period, utilising summer events to engage the community. It was proposed that this would commence in June, with the ability to complete the consultation online, but with paper copies available for those who did not have internet access.

It was noted that the consultation would be promoted through press releases and on social media, and it was hoped that it would also be distributed through other community networks.

Members discussed the proposal, making minor amendments to the categories and simplifying the form to be completed. It was agreed that the outcome of the exercise be considered by the Area Council in October, and that this, alongside other forms of information and intelligence, be used to inform priorities from March 2020 onwards.

RESOLVED that, subject to the amendments discussed, the proposed consultation methodology be approved.

Chair