

MEETING:	Penistone Area Council
DATE:	Thursday, 9 June 2022
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Penistone Town Hall

MINUTES

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

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 7th April, 2022 (Pac.9.6.2022/2)

The Area Council received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th April, 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Penistone Area Council meeting held on the 7th April, 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

3 Notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance Meetings held on 14th April and 12th May, 2022 (Pac.9.6.2022/3)

The meeting received the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 14th April and 12th May, 2022.

RESOLVED that the notes from the Penistone Ward Alliance held on 14th April and 12th May, 2022 be received.

4 Report on the Use of Ward Alliance Funds (Pac.9.6.2022/4)

The Area Council Manager spoke to the report, drawing attention to the base allocation and carry forward figure totalling £28,737.23 for the 2022/23 financial year. The Schools Out Fund was included within the total figure which amounted to £4,040. It was reported that whilst only a small number of Groups had initially made applications to the Schools Out Fund, those that had had proven a success and further promotional work would be carried out to encourage further applications.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5 Q4 Performance Report (Pac.9.6.2022/5)

The Area Council Manager provided members with an overview of performance for Quarter 4 covering January to March, 2022 and all contracted Services.

An overview of the projects assigned to the Area Council priorities was given and it was noted that a significant increase had been seen in residents and young people receiving support from CAB and DIAL and the number of young people engaging in events funded by the Working Together Grant Fund for Supporting Young People.

A highlight of the Clean, Green and Tidy commission delivered by Twiggs Grounds Maintenance was provided. Members were informed that previous concerns around communications had been addressed and were improving with Twiggs publicising their regular work and areas they would be covering during a 2 week period and also requesting reports of any areas of concern raising directly with them. Regular dialogue was also taking place due to a fortnightly drop-in meeting with a staff supervisor in order to relay any areas of concern or specific requests. It was noted that many of the groups that had previously been helped had become self-sufficient and relied very little on support from Twiggs due to the success of the mentoring service. It was also reported that volunteer numbers had been in decline and that there was a push to initiative and encourage people to come back.

As the contract was in it's final year, members were in agreement to hold a workshop towards the end of summer in order to review and discuss what a future Clean, Green and Tidy contract would look like and contain.

Lot 1 of the Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People Grant had seen an increase in one to one support and information and advice around fuel poverty issues. It was reported that the number of community car journeys had significantly increased and that more volunteer drivers were required. Members noted that the information contained in this section of the report was an update from the old provision with a final report provided to PAC in July, although the newly commissioned contract has now been established.

Lot 2 activities were reported as all up and running and getting good numbers through particularly around the targeted dementia work at the Happy Vibes Café and activities support physical mobility. Attention was drawn to the success of the Men in Sheds group which had gained publicity in the Barnsley Chronicle and Radio Sheffield and was holding 2 sessions a week and had recently completed a project with the help of Twiggs Grounds Maintenance in building bird boxes and delivering them out to various groups.

Lot 3 had seen a number of benches that had been identified for 'badging' up for the Take a Seat Campaign. A number of physical activity sessions were due to take place across the area including Tai Chi and seated exercises.

The information and advice contract was in it's last quarter for CAB with overall targets being above the original target of 150 and actually achieving 187. Face to face appointments were expected to return late summer. It was hoped to create links with the service and Adult Skills and Learning to aid the 25% of working age population to upskill and apply for vacancies.

The DIAL contract was operating successfully with 101 issues being dealt with in January alone, predominantly relating to benefits claims and personal independent payments. 49 winter warmth packs had been delivered to clients identified as being at risk on DIAL's register.

Members were made aware of investigations that were underway with regards to the information and advice contract and whether there could be a rationalised approach to commissioning across the Borough.

The Young People's projects had good outcomes so far with members having the opportunity to observe some of the work being undertaken by Ad Astra in Penistone Grammar school. An invitation had been received from the Deputy Principal for members to observe Mental Health Support in Penistone Grammar School which would be arranged late June/early July time.

Young Voices remained a successful project and continued to engage in singing workshops held at Cawthorne Village Hall. Money raised through events and concerts held had been donated back to the Village Hall.

It was reported that Penistone Leisure Centre had been unable to achieve their outcomes due to changes in staffing and difficulties with getting equipment and volunteers for some of the initiatives. The Area Council Manager informed members that a forward plan had been agreed and monitoring of the programme would continue.

Penistone FM had provided a presentation at the previous meeting of the Area Council and the programme progressed well.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6 Update on the Principal Towns Plan for Penistone - Fiona O'Brien

Fiona O'Brien and Gareth Web attended the meeting to provide members with a Principal Towns Updates.

Members were informed that the Penistone Sheep had been signed off by Highways and that their bases were being installed in time for the summer school holidays. The Sheep Trail information would be promoted on social media with a bio for each sheep in order for people to find and visit each one.

An update of the proposed Penistone Town Hall building works was provided with news that some changes had been made following the 4 years that had lapsed since the initial plans had been made including a change to office space and the removal of a planned cafe. Members expressed their frustrations as to the length of time it had taken with no proposed planning date for approval.

Members were minded to progress with the launch of the Penistone Sheep for the summer holidays with a view to also releasing communications for an approval date for going out to tender at the same time.

Members were informed that new market stalls had been ordered to boost the look of the market barn and make it more appealing for hosting events in order to increase footfall in the Town.

RESOLVED that Fiona and Gareth be thanked for the update.

7 Procurement and Financial Update (Pac.9.6.2022/7)

The item was introduced by the Area Council Manager who highlighted a few of the main items for decision.

The new contract for Supporting Vulnerable and Isolated Older People had been rebranded as Penistone Ageing Well Together which would have a formal launch in July, 2022. Members were informed that a key feature of the new contract was eyes on the ground which involved leaflets being handed out to hairdressers and taxi drivers etc for referrals of lonely people into the programme. Members were informed that the contract was in its transition period from the previous contract and members would be informed of the launch date.

The Area Council Working Together Fund had received an application for the next CAB contract which had been approved in April. The DIAL contract was due to end in December 2022. Members were reminded of the update provided earlier in the meeting that there were plans for a central commission with the added option of Area Councils purchasing additional services based on the needs of the area.

The Penistone Area Council Working Together Grant Fund had a total of £25,408 and investigations were being carried out as to whether there would be a future potential need for the grant fund and an update would be provided at a future meeting.

The Working Together Grant Fund – Supporting Young People had a £40,000 in its budget with a view to promoting and progressing from the existing projects or new projects.

Members agreed to hold a workshop in order to look into the Clean, Green and Tidy Contract and review its priorities and what it would like to see from a new commission once the contract ended in 2023.

The work around the Private Sector Housing Support post in the Penistone area was agreed to be paused until the Penistone Area Council priorities had been reviewed. Members were informed that work would be carried out on the review following the pandemic with the proposal to hold a workshop late summer.

Members attention was drawn to the 2022/23 budget with an overall budget of £241,904 and an approved spend of £140,000 and a ringfenced self isolation fund of £13,845, leaving a total of £88,059.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the update of contracts funded by the existing Supporting Isolated Older People Grant Fund be noted and the outcomes of the procurement process for a new contracted service be noted;
- (ii) that the update and current financial position of the Penistone Working Together Fund be received and the potential for future need be noted;
- (iii) that the update on the Supporting Young People ringfenced funds within the existing Working Together Grant Fund be received;

(iv) that the update on the Clean, Green and Tidy contract which had commenced in April, 2020 be noted and that the recommendation to review the needs for a future service be agreed;

(v) that the update on the Ward Alliance budget be noted;

(vi) that the deferral of any future investigations into the need for private sector housing support until after Area Council priorities have been reviewed be agreed;

(vii) that the recommendation to review Penistone Area Council priorities in light of any emerging issues resulting from impacts of the pandemic over the last two years be agreed; and

(viii) that the current financial budget position for 2022/23 and allocated spend be noted.

Chair