

Minutes of Community Services

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 24 May 2022, starting at 6.30 pm
Present: Councillor R Newmark (Chair)

Councillors:

S Atkinson	G Mirfin
D Birtwhistle	S O'Rourke
S Brunskill	S Rainford
S Carefoot	M Robinson
R Elms	J Schumann
S Fletcher	G Scott
A Humpheys	

In attendance: Head of Engineering Services, Head of Leisure and Cultural Services and Senior Accountant

34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for the meeting were received from Councillor J Alcock.

35 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY, OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary, other registrable and non-registrable interests.

37 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

38 APPOINTMENT TO WORKING GROUPS

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking committee to consider the reappointment of the working groups under the remit of this committee and their membership.

The two active working groups under the remit of this committee were for grants and car parking.

RESOLVED THAT COMMITTEE

Approve the following working groups and their membership for the 2022/23 municipal year

Grants – Councillors R Newmark, S Atkinson, J Alcock and S Fletcher
Car Parking – Councillors R Newmark, S Atkinson, G Mirfin and S O'Rourke

CAR PARKING

The Director of Community Services submitted a report seeking members' views on the changes to the car park ticket machines and informing committee of the current position of electric charging points.

He informed committee that investigations into funding opportunities were ongoing for electric charging points and a visit from the Energy Savings Trust had been arranged. The results of this would be reported to the car park working group.

He also informed committee that all the current machines can carry out all payment options with the addition of Apple Pay and Google Pay, however because of the rural location and lack of good mobile phone signal the machines at Dunsop Bridge and Slaidburn would remain as cash only. Investigations were ongoing with telecommunications contractors to try and find a way to enable the two particular car parks with the full suite of pay options.

Members discussed Apps that made paying for parking easier and signage to make the user aware that it was available. The question of a 'sports pass' to be made available for users of recreational facilities was also raised and would be considered again by the car park working group.

RESOLVED THAT COMMITTEE

1. Refer the results of the investigations from both the electric charging points and the parking machines to the car park working group for consideration, and
2. Delegate to the Director of Community Services, in consultation with the car park working group, decisions on the final specifications for the renewed infrastructure.

ARTS DEVELOPMENT AND RIBBLE VALLEY IN BLOOM GRANTS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report presenting the further recommendations of the working group in relation to the allocation of grants under the Recreation/Culture/Arts Development scheme. It also outlined the grants made under the Ribble Valley in Bloom scheme.

Members were reminded that some applications had required further evidence before they could be properly considered. That information had now been received and the working group had been consulted on this along with several new applications.

The working group had also considered the applications made under the Ribble Valley In Bloom scheme and agreed the recommendations made.

RESOLVED THAT COMMITTEE:

1. Endorse the recommendations of the working group outlined in the appendix for the Arts Development grants, and
2. Approve the grants as outlined made under the Ribble Valley in Bloom scheme.

CLITHEROE FOOD FESTIVAL

The Director of Community Services submitted a report updating committee on the preparations for this year's event.

Preparations were progressing well, and although some of the businesses that had attended previously were no longer trading, over 75% of the stalls had been booked. He reminded members that the number of non-food stalls had been capped to three in previous years but that given the Council's concern about/commitment to sustainability issues in our natural environment it was proposed to increase the number to ten in include stalls that supported environmental/sustainability themes.

He also informed committee that the costs of the festival would be higher than in previous years with the infrastructure, transport and staffing all seeing significant price rises. The income from the stalls does not cover the cost of staging the event that is free to attend.

Members discussed possible sponsorship and advertising of the event.

RESOLVED THAT COMMITTEE:

Agree to raise the number of non-food stalls from three to ten for the 2022 event.

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CAPITAL OUTTURN 2021/22

The Director of Resources submitted a report reviewing the final outturn of the 2021/22 capital programme for this committee and seeking member approval for the slippage of some capital scheme budgets for the 2021/22 financial year to the 2022/23 financial year.

Actual expenditure on this committee's capital expenditure was £430,510 which was 72.8% of the revised estimate budget.

Seven of the twelve capital programme schemes were completed in-year and overall expenditure on these schemes was contained within the revised estimate budget approved in February 2022.

Slippage of £153,240 into 2022/23 was requested to fund completion of the five schemes not completed in 2021/22.

Members discussed the frameworks used for letting contracts and the need to keep communities informed of the timeframe of capital projects coming to fruition.

RESOLVED THAT COMMITTEE:

Approve the slippage of the following budgets into the 2022/23 capital programme

- Play Area Improvements 2021/22 - £80,600
- Play Area Improvements 2020/21 - £40,000
- Clitheroe Town Centre Car Park Scheme - £15,000
- Refurbishment of Bowling Green Café, Castle Grounds - £2,150
- Edisford Playing Pitches Drainage Works - £15,490

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LONGRIDGE INVESTMENT PROJECTS

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for information updating members on several capital projects the Council was investing in to provide better facilities for Longridge residents.

These included Longridge Cricket Club, the Sports Club at the High School, Kestor Lane play area and access road and Mardale football pitches.

Further investment in the sport and leisure provision would take place as more S106 monies became available from the housing sites in Longridge.

44 LONGRIDGE PUMP TRACK

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for information updating members on the progress of this community project.

They were now a constituted group and were looking to investigate potential funding options before submitting the scheme for planning permission.

Committee were mindful that this was a scheme worth supporting in Longridge.

45 DRS, EPR AND COLLECTION CONSISTENCY CONSULTATION

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for information providing members with an update on Deposit Return Scheme, Extended Producer Responsibility and Collection Consistency consultations.

EPR places the cost of managing products once they reach end-of-life on to producers. The government dropped plans to make producers responsible for the cost of business waste until at least 2026/27 when a review will take place, and England and Northern Ireland will not make producers responsible for litter 'on the ground'. Implementation of EPR would also be delayed from 2023 to 2024 and glass would be excluded from the scope of the DRS scheme in England and Northern Ireland.

Responses to the consultation on consistent collections in England were yet to be published with a delay of the 2023 date likely. The EPR system would inform councils how much money they would receive, while consistency would tell them how to proceed.

46 GENERAL REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Community Services submitted a report for information on a variety of issues including the proposed town centre car park, refuse, town wells and tourism being transferred from the remit of Community Services to Economic Development. He also informed committee that litter bins were to have a sticker attached with a unique reference number for ease of reporting any issues.

47 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from representatives on outside bodies.

48 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items under this heading.

The meeting closed at 7.28 pm

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, Olwen Heap 01200 414408 olwen.heap@ribblevalley.gov.uk.