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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE – KIRKLEES RURAL

Thursday 11 September 2014

Present: Councillor Holroyd-Doveton in the Chair
Councillors Armer, Bellamy, Dodds, D Firth, Greaves, Iredale, Richards,
Ridgway, G Turner and N Turner

Observer: Councillor Pandor:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barraclough, Hardcastle,
Lyons, Ward and Sims, and members of the public

Also present: Approximately 25 members of the public

1 Chair's Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Committee Members introduced themselves.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:-

(1) That the minutes of the following Committee meetings be approved as correct records; Mirfield Denby Dale and Kirkburton Area Committee held on 7 April 2014 and Colne Valley Area Committee held on 19 March 2014.

(2) That the minutes of the Holme Valley Area Committee meeting held on 27 March 2014 be approved as a correct record subject to removal of Councillor Holroyd Doveton's name from the list of Councillors present.

3 Interests

Councillor Armer declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9 regarding applications for funding by Shelley Community Football Club and Shepley Village Association, and remained in the meeting.

4 Admissions of the Public

It was noted that all Agenda items would be considered in public session.

5 Deputations/ Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Kirklees Rural District Committee – Arrangements 2014-2015

The Committee considered a report which outlined the District Committee arrangements for 2014-2015.

The report informed that District Committees were established at the Annual Council Meeting on 4 June 2014. The geographical area formally covered by Colne Valley Area Committee, Holme Valley Area Committee and Denby Dale and Kirkburton wards was now covered by Kirklees Rural District Committee. The Councillors from the six wards make up the membership of the District Committee. It has the same delegated powers and authority as the former Area Committees.

The Council has made a commitment to explore future development of area working with a proposal returning to Council in December. The two broad areas to be explored and agreed will be more devolved responsibility to a more local level than the District Committee.

A proposal will be taken to Policy Committee in Autumn to begin a consultation relating to Council budget proposals and devolution. A decision will be made in December 2014.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

7 Kirklees Rural District Committee Membership 2014-2015

The Committee considered co-opted member nominations for putting forward to the full Council meeting on 1st October 2014 for decision. The Committee considered Parish Council representation on the District Committee.

Co-opted members have been appointed by the Council, from time to time, to the former Area Committees. They brought specialist skills and knowledge, provided intelligence and advice on local issues, and helped the community to engage with the wider community. Vacancies for up to two co-opted members for each of the wards of Golcar and Colne Valley were advertised in August 2014.

It was proposed that nominations be put forward to full Council for two representatives from each of the Parish Councils in the Rural District Committee area, except for Holme Valley Parish Council which was asked to put forward three representatives to better reflect the higher population of the Holme Valley.

It was proposed that the co-optees and parish council representatives have the right to attend and speak in public meetings on behalf of the Parish Council or local community, and to be invited to participate in the committee's work for example portfolio work. They would not have voting rights on any delegated powers of the committee.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the nomination of Margetts, Moores, Woolnough and Wright be put forward to the full Council meeting on 1st October for appointment as co-opted members to Kirklees Rural District Committee 2014-2015.

(2) That the following nominations from the Parish Councils be put forward to the full Council meeting on 1st October for appointment as representatives on the Kirklees Rural District Committee 2014-2015.

Denby Dale Parish Council, Brook and Flinders

Holme Valley Parish Council, Christofi, Kaye and Roberts

Kirkburton Parish Council, Paxton and Wightman

Meltham Town Council, Danson and Maxfield

8 Policing and Community Safety in our Rural Communities

The Committee received a presentation from Inspector Trueman, and Kirklees Council officers Walsh and Simpson on the Community Safety Partnership's priorities in rural areas and initiatives, and the Neighbourhood Policing Team structure for the rural area.

A top priority for local people was road safety with work taking place with young people, community representatives and Councillors to reduce anti social behaviour which is vehicle related, speeding traffic and use of drugs and alcohol.

Inspector Trueman explained that the rural Neighbourhood Policing Inspector covered Colne Valley, Holme Valley, Denby Dale and Kirkburton since April 2014. There were three neighbourhood teams working day time and evening plus patrols. Inspector Trueman was responsible for 42 Police Constables, 21 Police Community Support Officers and 5 Sergeants. Each officer was responsible for an identified ward or area.

Challenges in the rural area included sheep rustling, poaching and lamping, and growth of magic mushrooms, a Class A drug. The teams worked closely with the neighbouring forces in South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Manchester as travelling criminals and stolen vehicles were a large problem. Technology had played a large part in solving crime for example cameras on arterial routes into Kirklees.

Current crime statistics for the area included drugs down by 46% (over 3,000 offences) compared to 57% Kirklees wide, domestic burglary (360 offences) down by 56% compared to 57% Kirklees wide, vehicle crime (1,174 offences) down by 65% compared to 64% Kirklees wide and violent crime (500 offences) down by 48% compared to 49% Kirklees wide. The overall rate of crime was 5.3 per 1,000 population for this area compared to 9.9 per 1,000 population Kirklees wide.

Initiatives to improve community safety in this area were the bogus callers initiative sharing useful phone numbers to check if callers are genuine, no uninvited traders zone and the report it cards of useful contact numbers which will be available electronically in future.

Stone theft was currently an issue in the rural area. People who are unsure whether a crime is being committed are asked to phone Crime Stoppers and take details or to phone 999 if they see stone being removed. A number of people had been arrested since the launch of the initiative in early August.

Budget challenges in future would mean working smarter and asking people to try to sort out issues for example neighbour friction before it escalates to crime and monitoring speeding. The focus of resources will be on prevention and early intervention.

It was emphasised that if people see a crime being committed they should phone 999, if they are not sure whether it is a crime or it is a local issue they should phone 101, the staff liaise with each other and will take the appropriate action.

There was some discussion on local crimes.

RESOLVED-

That Inspector Trueman, and Kirklees Council Officers Walsh and Simpson be thanked for their presentation.

9

Area Committee Budget

Councillor Armer declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9 regarding applications for funding by Shelley Community Football Club and Shepley Village Association, and remained in the meeting.

The Committee noted the balance of its budgets and considered funding a number of projects. The Committee also considered having a grant scheme for 2014-2015.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the current budget position and £500 discretionary grant to Holmfirth Parish Council towards WW1 Commemorative Event 6/7 September be noted.

(2) That the following revenue schemes be approved:

(a) £2,000 to top up Holme Valley South Neighbourhood Management Group budget for community safety initiatives.

- (b) £1,000 to 25th Salendine Nook Scouts for external brick work repair and new weather proof render.
 - (c) £2,000 to Holmfirth Enterprise and Development Limited towards Holmfirth Food and Drink Festival 2014 subject to feedback on how sponsorship from Kirklees Council has been spent.
- (3) That the following capital schemes be approved:
- (a) £1,228 to Shepley Village Association towards resurfacing the area around the war memorial and bronze plaque.
 - (b) £3,000 to Shelley Community Football Association towards covered seating and ground erosion protection of pitch at Storthes Hall club site.
- (4) That the application from Marsden Community Association for community noticeboards be refused.
- (5) That the committee's grant scheme for 2014-15 be approved.

10 Public Question Time

Questions were asked in regard to the following issues and Councillors responded as follows.

- * Councillor Turner asked the Chair for information on meetings which are discussing devolution and powers to District Committees. The Chair responded that the Cabinet working party is discussing models, no decision have yet been made and that there will be a workshop on 25th September for members of this committee to discuss and feed in ideas.
- * Councillor Ridgway asked the Chair whether a decision has been made to devolve waste collection. The Chair responded that no decisions have been made yet.
- * Councillor Ridgway asked that the public meetings for this Committee be held in more central locations. It was agreed that the meetings should continue to rotate across the district in community venues.
- * Kirklees Youth Councillors asked a number of questions including could these meetings be better publicised and devolution. The Chair responded that publicity would be looked into.
- * A question was asked about publicising Ward Councillor contact details and political group. The Chair responded that the Committee would not promote political groups.

11 Dates of Future Meetings

RESOLVED –

That future meetings take place at 7.00 pm as follows:

Thursday 13 November 2014 at community venue in Colne Valley/Golcar

Thursday 12 February 2015 at community venue in Kirkburton ward