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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - KIRKLEES RURAL

Thursday 25th February 2016

Present: Councillor Edgar Holroyd-Doveton (Chair)
Councillors B Armer, D Bellamy, J Dodds, D Firth, C Greaves,
C Iredale, T Lyons, A Marchington, H Richards, J Taylor, G Turner,
N Turner, M Watson

Co-optees: K Armitage and M Moores

Parish Council Representatives: M Blanshard and R Brook

Apologies: R Barraclough, N Patrick, D Ridgway and K Sims

In attendance: Approximately 22 members of public

1 Welcomes and Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves. Thanks were recorded to Robert Bamforth for his contribution as a co-opted member of the committee.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 November 2015 be approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

Councillor G Turner declared an other interest in item 8, grant application regarding Skelmanthorpe Library building by Denby Dale Parish Council, as a member of the Parish Council, and remained in the meeting.

Parish Council representative R Brook declared an other interest in item 8, grant application regarding Skelmanthorpe Library building by Denby Dale Parish Council, as a member of the Parish Council, and remained in the meeting.

Parish Council representative M Blanshard declared an other interest in item 8, grant application regarding Skelmanthorpe Library building by Denby Dale Parish Council, as a member of the Parish Council, and remained in the meeting.

4 Admission of the public

It was agreed that all items would be discussed in public session.

5 Deputations / Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Neighbourhood Policing Team Update

Sergeant Hayley Marsland and Police Constable Sally Baines gave an update on crime and safety initiatives in the Kirklees Rural area.

Police Officers in the rural team were designated to specific wards. Police Constable Baines gave an update for the Dearne Valley (Denby Dale and Kirkburton). There were some incidents of youths hanging around in different areas. Police Constable Baines undertook to investigate illegal parking on the pavement in Flockton and to carry out speed enforcement checks at the Sovereign Cross Roads.

RESOLVED – That Sergeant Marsland and Police Constable Baines be thanked for their update.

7 Greenspace Service Standards - Rural District

The Committee considered a report by Nigel Hancock, Streetscene and Housing Service which informed of the service standards to be applied to maintenance of parks greenspaces in 2016.

Following a trial of revised standards in 2015 Councillors were consulted on their own wards in the district area. As a result changes have been made. Volunteer groups will be encouraged to work with the Council and there will be a further review of standards in September/ October 2016. Kirklees Natural Wildlife Trust would be working with the Council to ensure that natural areas are clear for people to use, there would be a rigorous maintenance regime.

A ward level breakdown will be sent to Councillors for information. A catalogue will be available of sites where work will be delayed at the start of the season due to the wet weather and risk of damage to machinery.

Where a gold, silver or bronze area is adjacent to a natural area, if it is by properties or facilities the boundary will be mown but if by woodland the boundary will not be mown.

Nigel undertook to look into cutting of brambles on the bank at Shelley Green Meadow and the cutting of hedges in the field at Coal Pit Lane, New Mill (by the Scout Hut).

RESOLVED – That the outcome of the consultation on service standards which will be implemented in April 2016 be noted.

8 District Committee Delegated Budgets

(Councillor G Turner declared an other interest in item 8, grant application regarding Skelmanthorpe Library building by Denby Dale Parish Council, as a member of the Parish Council, and remained in the meeting.

Parish Council representative R Brook declared an other interest in item 8, grant application regarding Skelmanthorpe Library building by Denby Dale Parish Council, as a member of the Parish Council, and remained in the meeting.

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Parish Council representative M Blanshard declared an other interest in item 8, grant application regarding Skelmanthorpe Library building by Denby Dale Parish Council, as a member of the Parish Council, and remained in the meeting).

The Committee considered applications for funding and made the following decisions.

RESOLVED :-

- (1) That the following applications be approved as follows:
 - (a) £30k (revenue £4,661.43 and capital £25,339.57) for streetscene improvement in Holme Valley North Ward, the work done to be reported to the Committee.
 - (b) £19,800 (New Homes Bonus) grant to Denby Dale Parish Council for new doors and windows at Skelmanthorpe Library building.
 - (c) £19,000 (New Homes Bonus) to resurface footpath off Wessenden Head Road, Meltham.
 - (d) £2,500 grant to Kirklees Dementia Alliance to raise awareness of dementia with local communities across the Kirklees Rural district.
 - (e) £2,000 to resurface a section of footpath off Wood Lane, Thunderbridge.
 - (f) £900 grant to Aspire Co-operative Learning Trust for a mobile exhibition for the Life of Wilson project.
 - (g) £800 for speed indicator devices in the Holme Valley North Ward in 2015 – 2016.
 - (h) £350 for Heroes are Welcome stickers for display in shops and organisations in the Denby Dale Ward.
 - (i) £300 for a litter bin on River Street, Milnsbridge.
- (2) That the following decisions be noted:
 - (a) £500 discretionary grant to Marsden Football Club.
 - (b) £500 discretionary grant to Holme Residents Association towards transfer of public toilets.
 - (c) £414 underspend to return to committee budget regarding Marsden Walkers are Welcome project approved on 30 July 2013.

9 Estates and Environmental Works Budget

The Committee considered schemes put forward from the area forum meeting held on 16th December 2015.

RESOLVED - That the following schemes be approved, and noted that the schemes without costings will be put forward to a future committee meeting for decision:

- (a) £14,672 for metal fencing to communal boundaries at Burhouse Court, Honley.
- (b) £4,050 for replacement surface to footpath Lime Grove, Golcar.
- (c) £6,000 for environmental works at Deacon Close, Meltham.
- (d) £7,640 for improvements to fencing at Beech Avenue, Golcar.
- (e) £5,000 to create a green walkway on the Woods Estate, Marsden.
- (f) £8,600 for re-surfacing of lane to rear of Barnsley Road, Flockton.

10 Calderdale and Huddersfield Hospital Proposals for Service Changes

The Chair explained that the Committee's Health Portfolio Group had felt it important that the rural district should have the opportunity to put forward views on how hospital service changes will affect local residents and local communities.

Technically there were not yet any proposals in the public domain as the public consultation has not yet been announced.

Councillor Andrew Marchington provided information on the forthcoming public consultation process, the role of scrutiny and how people could put their views forward. Both Councillors Marchington and Robert Barraclough are members of the Joint Calderdale and Kirklees Health Scrutiny Panel which will look at and comment on the proposals put forward by the Greater Huddersfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). If the Scrutiny Panel does not agree with the proposal it can refer them to an independent adjudicator for final decision.

As part of the consultation process the Clinical Commissioning Group would be holding local roadshows to answer questions and concerns from the public including Shepley, Skelmanthorpe, Emley, Clayton West, Holmfirth, Honley, Meltham and Milnsbridge. Email addresses would be provided to feed in views. The Scrutiny Panel would be holding six meetings in public to look at specific themes as well as two meetings to receive deputations from the public.

There are issues of particular concern to the rural area. Scrutiny has asked the Clinical Commissioning Group for a detailed travel analysis from specific locations and villages to services for users and their families. The impact on neighbouring local authorities will be looked at. The work by Scrutiny will be evidence based. Any views submitted to the consultation should include how the proposals impact on use of services or examples of experiences.

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Points and questions made at the meeting were:

- (a) Will the travel analysis be about clinical impact only or include a broader impact on the local economy and whether more transport resources will be needed. The Ambulance Service will be consulted and asked how they will deliver to rural areas.
- (b) If there are more car journeys to services will the impact on congestion and air pollution be taken into account.
- (c) How will the “golden hour” in which to treat people be met from parts of the rural area like Denby Dale and Kirkburton if it is rush hour traffic.
- (d) Strokes cannot be treated in ambulances, people need to get to hospital to get the right drugs and time is important.
- (e) Similar questions had been asked of maternity services a few years ago, people were now going to Barnsley and Wakefield instead. In Kirkburton residents travel to Dewsbury, what is the impact there. The Joint Dewsbury and Wakefield scrutiny panel is looking at that.
- (f) Will ambulance service bases change so that travel works across the region and there needs to be consideration of Kirklees as a unit.
- (g) The parking of ambulances at Calderdale Hospital is a concern .
- (h) Bad weather or an accident on the M62 causes widespread grid lock, how will emergencies at these times be dealt with.
- (i) What will be the impact on elective surgery.
- (j) Ambulance response times to Holmfirth have not managed to meet the eight minute time limit for a number of years, how will they manage with the extra distances.

It was noted that the full Council meeting will discuss the proposal on 16th March 2016.

RESOLVED – That local residents be encouraged to feed their issues directly into the public consultation with evidence, that the issues raised in the meeting be forwarded to Scrutiny and that a representative from the Greater Huddersfield Clinical Commissioning Group be invited to the next meeting.

11 Public Question Time

The Committee was asked whether it has a view on the location of the proposed skate park in Highburton. Councillor Taylor gave a response.

The Committee was asked whether it monitored local lighting issues. Councillor Taylor responded that he is monitoring the issue raised in Highburton.

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12 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting of the Committee on 24th March 2016 at 7pm was noted.