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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE - KIRKLEES RURAL

Tuesday 22nd November 2016

Present: Councillor Michael Watson (Chair)
Councillors E Holroyd-Doveton, B Armer, D Bellamy, D Firth,
C Greaves, C Iredale, T Lyons, A Marchington, H Richards, Smith,
N Turner and R Walker

Apologies: J Dodds, N Patrick, J Taylor and G Turner. Co-opted member:
K Armitage and Parish Councillor R Brook

In attendance: Approximately 15 members of public

1 Welcomes and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Councillors introduced themselves.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th September 2016 be approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

Councillor Bill Armer declared an other interest, as a member of the Kirkburton Parish Council in the grant application by the Parish Council for hanging baskets, 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 Natural Flood Management in Leeds City Region

Guy Thompson, Kirklees White Rose Forest Project Manager gave a presentation on the role of natural flood management and the work that is starting with Yorkshire Water through the West Yorkshire Nature Partnership to create natural barriers, and to work with all landowners.

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Guy explained that tree coverage in West Yorkshire is low at 7.9% and the region's economic strategy is that it has to increase. Since the year 2000 1.2 million trees had been planted, an extra 6 million was required over the next 20 years. In the rural areas there was a lot of over grazing by sheep compacting the soil and preventing woodlands and rough grass from growing. This allowed water to flow quickly to water courses which contributed to the risk of flooding.

The approach was to slow up water and make space for it, which can reduce peak flows by 4 – 10%. Trees slow the time it takes water to run into the ground and can be used to create leaky dams. Interventions include planting woodlands and creating wetlands on the moors, taking care not to interfere with wildlife habitats.

A capital funding plan is in place with the Natural Trust and Yorkshire Water regarding water quality and retention and creating an area of conservation in the Holme Valley and Wessenden catchment areas. Funding would also be sought from the Local Enterprise Partnership.

There is an opportunity to work with small landowners if they are interested. This message needs to get out locally. Changes to farming subsidies in the next few years would mean more control over sheep grazing.

It was noted that the Local Authority has a role to play in managing drains and ensuring that natural springs are not damaged as part of the Planning process.

It was commented that the opportunity to pilot some innovations locally ought to be taken and trees should be regarded as having an economic value when determining flood prevention costs.

RESOLVED – That Guy Thompson be thanked for the presentation.

7 **Winter Maintenance**

The Committee received an update on the Council's approach to winter maintenance in 2016-2017, which was unchanged from the previous year.

A number of questions were raised and will be forwarded to Kirklees Highways for response:-

- (i) As we cannot provide any more grit bins, can we require applicants to include them in Planning applications for new estates particularly those on hill sides?
- (ii) We are told there is a night patrol, can gritters be sent out on a case by case basis targeting areas where there is snow, for example when there is snow on the tops only?
- (iii) We have a priority gritting route which has a bad junction, the Council makes provision for the grit. Every year vehicles get stuck because there is not a community group or farmer who can help. So how can we help to provide the grit?

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- (iv) Regarding differential gritting of heights (the tops rather than the town centres in the valley bottoms). In the past we have been told it is too “problematic”, at the last meeting we were told it is now at the stage we can do it. So can we now do demand based gritting of the upper hills?

8 District Committee Budgets

The Committee considered a number of proposals for funding.

RESOLVED – That funding for projects be approved as follows:

- (i) £570 revenue grant to Milnsbridge Enhancement Group towards the repair of steps to the riverside walk.
- (ii) £950 revenue for traffic investigations at St Mary’s Mews, Honley and £180 revenue for a speed count on Mill Moor Road, Meltham, total £1,130
- (iii) £1,500 revenue grant to Kirkburton Parish Council towards the cost of hanging baskets in Summer 2017
- (iv) £12,400 revenue to purchase a new Speed Indicator Device (SID), for 2 sockets and 24 moves in the Colne Valley Ward
- (v) £7,101 revenue and £2,499 capital (total amount £9,600) for 24 moves for the Speed Indicator Devices (SID’s) in the Holme Valley North Ward
- (vi) £1,100 revenue to install 5 sockets and for 24 moves of the Speed Indicator Devices (SID’s) in the Kirkburton Ward

9 Community Projects - Feedback

The Committee received updates on the outcomes and benefits for local communities of projects funded.

These were Birdsedge bench, Honley Feast event, Harold Wilson Exhibition, Leymoor Cricket Club pavilion improvements and Kirkburton Hanging Baskets Summer 2016.

RESOLVED – That the updates be noted.

10 Housing Revenue Account - Estates and Environmental Works Budget

The Committee received an update on schemes approved in 2015-2016 and considered funding of schemes in 2016-2017.

RESOLVED – That the following schemes be funded in 2017-2018:

- (i) Coronation Street, Meltham improvements to pathways £13,464
- (ii) Cornmill Estate, Slaithwaite improvements to pathways £14,960
- (iii) Deacon Close, Meltham environmental works £6,000

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- (iv) Stony Lane, Honley improvements to pathways £9,700
- (v) Wessen Court, Marsden replace flagged area with tarmac, bench, and artificial grass £7,800
- (vi) Deacon Close, Meltham plant trees and shrubs to design out dog walking area £9,000
- (vii) Various addresses retirement living schemes £68,000
- (viii) Barnsley Road, Flockton clear shrubbery £12,350

11 Public Question Time

A question was asked about concerns raised in the community about the Council's new approach to dealing with waste, how the new rules are being implemented at the local tips and concern that more restrictions will be introduced.

Councillors responded and updated on the questions they have asked at the full Council meeting and raised with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Enforcement Management. Members of public are asked to raise any particular issues direct with ward Councillors.

A question was asked about an increase in fly tipping. Councillors responded and asked that people report any incidents to the Council.

12 Dates of future meetings

Dates of future meetings were noted.