

Contact Officer: Julie McDowell - Tel. 01484 221000

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

DISTRICT COMMITTEE – KIRKLEES RURAL

Thursday 12 February 2015

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

Representatives: Parish Councillors' Roberts, Brook, Kaye and Paxton and
Co-opted Member M Moores

Also present: Approximately 60 members of public

Apologies were received from Councillor Ward and J Margetts

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 - The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 November 2013 be approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

Councillor Greaves declared an other interest in the application for funding at Honley Village Hall, devolved Committee budgets and remained in the meeting.

RESOLVED – That an additional report provision of District Committee funded grit bins be considered as a late urgent item for the reason that as this is the last public meeting of the Committee in 2014/2015 there is no further opportunity to consider this item in the present municipal year, and that the report be considered as part of the devolved Committee budgets item.

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 **Update from Rural Police Team**

Sergeant Hughes and Helen Simpson, Community Safety gave an update on crime statistics for the rural area, key local issues and crime prevention initiatives.

Overall the number of offences had reduced from the previous year by 300. Theft from shops was an issue locally. A lot of work was being done with shop owners to improve security and the confidence of staff. The number of incidents was down to 1 – 2 per week.

Stone theft was a problem in Holmfirth and effort was going into tackling it with rural horse riders being recruited to look out for any thefts. People could pass information to the Police via the line link <https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/contact-us/report-crime>.

An agreement was in place with Crime Stoppers that people can phone about any stone activity they see even if it looks legitimate and it will be checked. If it looks like a crime people were advised to ring the Police direct on 999.

Speeding vehicles and HGV's in Flockton was an issue with local people being stopped.

The Ale Trail in Marsden was being supported by a weekend patrol and work with the British Transport Police and work with local pubs.

Mental Health Nurses were now working with the Police to deal better with people who have mental health issues in their homes.

The Police Crime Commissioner has a new website for victims of crime at <http://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk>

Local intelligence from the Community and Partners about who is committing crime was important. The Rural Police Team was now using hand held computers so that officers could be out and about for longer in the community.

RESOLVED - That Sergeant Hughes and Helen Simpson be thanked for the update.

7 **Kirklees Library Services – budget proposals and consultation**

Carol Stump, Chief Librarian gave a presentation on Library and Information Services, outlined the budget proposals and how people could get involved in the consultation on Library services from 19 January 2015 to 10 April 2015.

A reduced budget of £3.9 million to run Library Services was being proposed for 2015/2016. It was proposed that future provision comprise two Town Centre Libraries in Dewsbury and Huddersfield plus a mix of community Libraries supported by volunteers. The consultation was asking for people's views on different models of provision.

The consultation was available on the Kirklees Website, in paper format and a research company had been commissioned to run some Focus Groups. Staff consultations were also taking place to look at different models of provision for example staff mutual. During the first three weeks of the consultation 2,000 responses had been received.

A number of Friends of Library Groups were forming across the Kirklees Rural area, in Honley, Holmfirth, Golcar, Meltham, Marsden, Denby Dale, Shepley, Kirkburton, Skelmanthorpe and potentially Slaithwaite. They were all at different stages of the development and activity. An asset transfer was progressing in Denby Dale.

RESOLVED – That Carol Stump be thanked for the presentation.

8 District Committee Budget

(An additional report provision of District Committee funded grit bins was considered as a late, urgent item).

The Committee noted the balance of its budgets and considered funding a number of projects. Applicants provided information and answered questions.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the following revenue schemes be approved:

- (a) Extension of Outreach Advice provision for 2015/2016 in Skelmanthorpe £4,475.00 and transport from Kirkburton Ward £150.00.
- (b) Young People's Community Reporting Project £1,628.00 (Denby Dale and Kirkburton Wards).
- (c) £1,110.00 contribution to feasibility study for the development of St. Thomas Church, Thurstonland as a community building subject to completion of grant application registration process.
- (d) £1,200.00 contribution to a visit by a Hungarian Children's Choir to Scissett in June 2015.

(2) That the following capital spending be approved:

- (a) That £3,000.00 contribution towards replacement doors and windows at Honley Village Hall be approved.
- (b) That £4,000.00 capital and £1,000.00 revenue be approved towards re-surfacing a public footpath at Church Field, Denby Dale.
- (c) That the request for funding to create a Community Garden at Healey Greave, Shelley be deferred in order to investigate new information received about management of the land.
- (d) That Cabinet be recommended to approve 6 extra grit bins £1,300.00 revenue each for five years at Longlands Bank Thongsbridge, Butt Lane Hepworth, Allergyll Park Upperthong, Spring Lane New Mill, Hill Top View Hade Edge and Low Common Lane Cumberworth. (It was noted that this item was referred to Cabinet as the Committee does not have the delegated power to agree a course of action on powers delegated by the Executive which is contrary to Cabinet policy and which commits the Council to future maintenance costs).
- (e) That it be noted that a total of £90.74 underspend has been returned to the revenue budget (£44.50 underspend Meltham Responsible Dog Owners Initiative and £46.24 Engagement at Young People's Meeting (Colne Valley and Golcar Wards).

7 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

8 Dates of Future Meetings

It was noted that future meetings would be arranged in the new municipal year.