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## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

### **DISTRICT COMMITTEE - KIRKLEES RURAL**

**Thursday 29th September 2016**

Present: Councillor Michael Watson (Chair)  
Councillors B Armer, D Bellamy, J Dodds, D Firth, C Greaves,  
E Holroyd-Doveton, T Lyons, A Marchington, N Patrick, K Sims,  
Smith, J Taylor, G Turner and R Walker

Parish Council Representatives and Co-opted Members: K Armitage, R Brook and  
M Moores

Apologies: Councillor H Richards, Councillor N Turner and J Margetts

In attendance: Approximately 30 members of public

**1 Welcomes and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone and members of the committee introduced themselves.

**2 Minutes of previous meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 July 2016 be approved as a correct record.

**3 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**4 Admission of the public**

It was agreed that all items be considered in public session.

**5 Deputations / Petitions**

There were no deputations or petitions.

**6 Kirklees Cycling and Walking Strategy**

Alison Millbourn of Kirklees Public Health gave an update on work towards the cycling and walking strategic framework and delivery plan. The aim is for more people to be cycling and walking to work, for sport and leisure. People need to be more active to prevent obesity. Air pollution is also a major cause of death in Kirklees.

Stakeholders have come together to form a delivery plan. There will be public consultation on the strategy in October.

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The five over-arching objectives are:

- (i) More coaches, leaders and volunteers, support for people to cycle and walk and to sustain activity.
- (ii) More and better places to cycle and walk, a high quality infrastructure providing safe and enjoyable opportunities to participate.
- (iii) Building skills and confidence to cycle and walk, access to appropriate training opportunities.
- (iv) More cycling and walking opportunities, provision of a broad range of opportunities and events.
- (v) Information, media and communications, provision of information and campaigns to encourage people to appreciate the benefits.

The committee discussed what local communities expect to see as part of the strategy and delivery plan and what the local opportunities and barriers are to achieving it.

**RESOLVED** – That Alison be thanked for the update.

### **7 Yorkshire Ambulance Service Plans in Kirklees Rural area**

Andrew Simpson of Yorkshire Ambulance Service gave an update on proposed service changes to meet increased demand across the Yorkshire and Humber region.

The service is commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Unit to provide a service for the whole of the Yorkshire and Humber region.

The average response time for emergency calls which are life threatening is 8 minutes and for other incidents it is 19 minutes. Patients are taken to more specialised centres. This means better outcomes for patients even though they travel further. Treatment starts in the ambulance.

The staffing situation was that in recent years many qualified staff had left for higher paid jobs for example in the DHSS or Police custody suite. Staff were expected to take more clinical decisions while out on operations. Staff did not receive a pay rise for 5 years. There has been a recent rise by one band to help recruit and retain the workforce. Clear career paths have also been put in place.

Sick patients were being managed for longer, they are more infirm and have more complex issues. In the last year there has been an additional 8% increase in demand for the service, the equivalent of an additional 900 call outs in comparison with the previous year. On a daily basis there is a 30% variation in workload. The highest workload is in the winter time.

In Greater Huddersfield there were 80-90 incidents each day, of which 8-10 are life threatening.

An independent assessment of demand across the whole region had resulted in a recommendation for an additional 242 staff, there are 60 vacancies to fill by April

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2017. This would increase the core staff from 25% to 35%. Stations were being asked to work to new staffing rotas, which would increase efficiency from 75% to 90-95% working on a cluster basis across West Yorkshire.

At the same time the number of rapid response vehicles would decrease, in Honley from 4 to 2 vehicles. While the number of double crew ambulances would increase overall in West Yorkshire, they would reduce from 8 to 5 in Honley.

Also in the Greater Huddersfield area there were 13 community responder sites and defibrillator access. The Fire and Rescue Responder Service at Skelmanthorpe Fire Station was responding to urgent calls for a trial period. Community volunteers including school children were also being trained to respond to heart attacks.

Andrew indicated that the staffing figures were based on patient demand so took into account factors such as people living longer, housing developments etcetera.

A lot of work had been done with the Calderdale and Huddersfield Hospitals Trust to analyse transport and scenarios should either the Calderdale or the Huddersfield site close. Closure of either site would not increase the number of call outs but would increase the time taken for each job. An additional 10,000 staff hours would be needed to compensate for it. This would be accounted for in the commissioning arrangement negotiated for the service in 4- 5 years' time when the hospital changes would come into effect.

Where patients are transported to depends on patient preference and where the specialist centres (therefore better quality care) for health conditions are. Locally Honley ambulances tended to go more to Pinderfields instead of Dewsbury, strokes now go to Pinderfields instead of Barnsley, ambulances wait longer at hospital and then tend to stay further afield. Quality of care on arrival at hospital is key.

Staff based at Honley Ambulance Centre indicated that they could not put the new staffing rota together as this was the worst performing area. The station was a stand by service for other areas and was predominantly working in towns and cities, while staff from other areas covered the rural area.

Andrew indicated that it is key that people who need the service the most get it. The additional patient increase in demand by 8% means at present there is no time for the standby service. Discussions are taking place with staff and Overview and Scrutiny would be looking at the proposals.

**RESOLVED** – That Andrew be thanked for the update.

### 8 **Community Projects - Feedback**

The Committee received updates from community groups on the outcomes of projects it has funded.

**RESOLVED** – That updates be noted from the Friends of Churchfield regarding the rebuilt wall, Shepley Spring Festival and Denby Dale Parish Council regarding Skelmanthorpe Library building.

**9 District Committee Budget Report**

The Committee considered a number of proposals for funding.

**RESOLVED –**

(1) That the return to budget of £1,942 capital underspend be noted regarding PROW improvements CVBW 197, Colne Valley Ward.

(2) That funding be approved as follows-

£450 revenue for provision of additional litter bins Tintern Ave and Manor Road, Golcar

£1,000 revenue for community safety activity in response to local issues that may arise in Holme Valley North Ward

£663 revenue for a Christmas tree in the centre of Meltham

£1,000 revenue grant to Honley Business Association towards the Honley Christmas lights switch on

£1,000 revenue grant to Holmfirth Christmas Team towards the purchase of Christmas lights in Holmfirth

£3,000 revenue to resurface the snicket off Abbey Road South, Shepley

£3,500 revenue grant to Clayton West Cricket Club towards a new mower and roller

£8,197 revenue for various Christmas trees in Colne Valley, Golcar, Denby Dale and Kirkburton

£29,387 capital and £613 revenue for replacement fencing and tree work on the river corridor in the centre of Holmfirth

£16,000 New Homes Bonus match funding towards Crossing the Pennines bid to resurface Scout Lane, Cop Hill, Slaithwaite

£39,500 New Homes Bonus towards provision of an off street car park on Springwood Road, Holmfirth.

**10 The Hall Education Charity**

The Committee considered a nomination to fill the vacancy on the Hall Education Charity, which requires a special knowledge of the Holmbridge area.

**RESOLVED –** That Mr Beardsell be appointed to serve a further term and Mr Trevor Bellamy be appointed to serve on the charity for a 4 year term from 18 October 2016.

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### 11 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

### 12 Dates of future meetings

The dates of future meetings were noted as follows:

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 (change from 24<sup>th</sup> November), Holme Valley North

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017, Golcar

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016, Holme Valley South

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## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

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**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

Co-optees:

Parish Council Representatives:

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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

### **DISTRICT COMMITTEE - KIRKLEES RURAL**

**Saturday 25th February 2017**

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

Co-optees: J Shone

Parish Council Representatives: R Brook and R Noon

Apologies: Councillor's C Iredale, N Patrick, R Smith and Co-optee K Armitage

In attendance: Approximately 20 members of public

**1 Welcomes and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2 Minutes of previous meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 be approved as a correct record.

**3 Interests**

Councillor Richards declared an Other Interest in item 9, District Committee Devolved Budget Report regarding the proposal to allocate funding to improve Golcar Library Garden as a member of the Friends of Library Group, and declared an Other Interest in the proposal to allocate funding to the Weaving Women's Project as a committee member and trustee of Colne Valley Museum, and remained in the meeting.

**4 Admission of the public**

It was agreed that an amended proposal from Slaithwaite Civic Hall Trust under item 9 District Committee Devolved Budget be considered as a late, urgent item for the reason that the Trust's financial situation has changed since submission of the original application.

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

**5 The Comoodle Platform**

Duggs Carre, Comoodle Programme Manager gave a presentation on how community groups and individuals can borrow and share skills such as IT, social media, equipment and space or venues for community benefit.

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There were many examples of this taking place across the Kirklees Rural area. Council equipment no longer in use was being passed on to community groups to look after for others to borrow.

The updated Comoodle Website included a blog, space to post stories and activities and a facility to make wishes.

There was a need to address issues of trust around the borrowing of equipment; returning items and returning them in the condition they were lent. It was up to groups and individuals lending to decide who they would lend their equipment to. The concept was that items were free to borrow though people could ask for a donation to cover any costs. Generally Council equipment was free to borrow though there could be a charge for example to transport large items.

**RESOLVED** – That Duggs Carre be thanked for providing the information.

### 6 **The Green Space Strategy, Service Standards for Parks and Open Spaces and Natural Kirklees**

Rob Dalby, Parks and Greenspaces Manager and Andy Wickham, Volunteer Co-ordinator provided information on the service standards for parks and open spaces in the Kirklees Rural district for 2017-18 and the work of the Council with Natural Kirklees.

The approach is to facilitate groups and individuals who have aspirations for the use of local land as community spaces for example the Golcar Lily Environment Group is identifying small pieces of land, how they can be used and renovated, bringing in funding to do it and getting involved in the work. The benefits for participants include improved mental and physical health as well as social.

Natural Kirklees is an umbrella organisation for voluntary and friends of groups. Support and expertise is available from the network as well as free insurance (which includes Public Rights of Way) and hand tools are available to borrow from the shed at Beaumont Park and at Wilton Park, Batley via the Natural Kirklees website.

There would be discussion with Comoodle about whether the tools could be available to borrow on the Comoodle platform. Groups were being asked what training they needed.

There is no public access to the Council's land mapping system. People with a specific piece of land in mind can check with Kirklees Council to see whether the Council owns the land or where the nearest Council sites are.

**RESOLVED** – That the service standards be noted and that Rob Dalby and Andy Wickham be thanked for the presentation on the work with Natural Kirklees.

### 7 **Community Projects - Feedback**

Updates from groups on the community impact of projects funded by the Committee were noted;

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Honley Business Association regarding Honley Christmas lights 2016

Holmfirth Christmas Lights Team regarding the 2016 lights

Milnsbridge Village Hall regarding Christmas lunch

Clayton West Cricket Club regarding new mower and roller

Aspire Trust regarding the toy library

**RESOLVED** – That the updates be received.

### 8 **Huddersfield Narrow Canal Consultation**

The Committee noted how people can get involved in the City Connect public consultation proposal to improve the 4.6 km of the tow path between Longroyd Lane in Huddersfield and Low Westwood Lane opposite Titanic Mills.

The proposal is to widen the canal tow path where possible, resurface it, relay and repoint the cobbles to improve access and improve signage.

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted.

### 9 **District Committee Devolved Budgets Report**

(It was agreed that an amended proposal from Slaithwaite Civic Hall Trust be considered as a late, urgent item for the reason that the Trust's financial situation has changed since submission of the original application).

(Councillor Richards declared an Other Interest in item 9, District Committee Devolved Budget Report regarding the proposal to allocate funding to improve Golcar Library Garden as a member of the Friends of Library Group, and declared an Other Interest in the proposal to allocate funding to the Weaving Women's Project as a committee member and trustee of Colne Valley Museum, and remained in the meeting).

The Committee considered a number of proposals for funding:-

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the following decisions be noted:
  - (a) £500 revenue for CCTV in Holme Valley North (approved 15/12/2016).  
Change of use, work with young girls at Honley High School, diversionary activity April 2017.
  - (b) £205 revenue grant towards equipment for Milnsbridge Village Hall Christmas Lunch (approved 13/12/2016)

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- (2) That the following underspend be noted:
- (a) £920 capital underspend regarding Brockholes Recreation Ground footpath (£7,000 approved 13/11/2014) is returned to the district committee capital budget (Holme Valley North)
- (3) That capital funding be approved for the following projects:
- (a) £4,188 capital to improve Golcar Library Garden
- (b) £920 capital towards road widening at St Mary's Mews, Honley (Holme Valley North)
- (4) That revenue funding/ 10% New Homes Bonus be approved for the following projects –
- (a) £345 grant to Golcar Together towards Weaving Women's Project (Golcar)
- (b) £600 for the redesign of the car park at Cliffe House, Shepley (Kirkburton)
- (c) £1,000 grant towards the Honley Children's Book Festival 2017 (Holme Valley North)
- (d) £1,000 grant towards an intergenerational project between Holme Valley Sharing Memories Group and Holmfirth Junior School (Holme Valley South)
- (e) £1,500 grant towards the Honley Roundway TRA Plant it, Grow it, Eat it Project (Holme Valley North)
- (f) £2,000 grant towards Honley Wood Bridle Path improvements (Holme Valley North)
- (g) £3,270 grant towards completion of the Holmbridge Cricket Club pavilion (Holme Valley South)
- (h) £4,475 to continue the Citizens Advice Bureau outreach provision at Skelmanthorpe Library in 2017-2018 (Denby Dale)
- (i) £8,252 grant towards improvement of the Kirkburton Spur of the Trans Pennine Trail at Bank Lane and Long Lane (Denby Dale/ Kirkburton)
- (j) £12,000 grant towards the start-up costs to be incurred by the Slaithwaite Civic Hall Trust on taking on a short term lease of the premises from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, subject to the Trust setting up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or an incorporated organisation (Colne Valley)
- (k) £6,580 revenue road widening at St Mary's Mews Honley (Holme Valley North)
- (l) £600 white lining and stone transport to prevent littering on Litherup Lane, Clayton West (Denby Dale)

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- (5) That New Homes Bonus funding for the following projects:
- (a) £14,000 mental health first aid training for community champions (All Wards)
  - (b) £15,000 community physical activity programme to encourage people to be more active (All Wards)  
  
£25,000 towards the building of a Skatepark at Marsden Goods Yard (Colne Valley)
  - (c) £27,000 Denby Dale to Upper Cumberworth path improvement (Denby Dale) subject to resolving the route and how the footpath will be accommodated in the Planning application made by the quarry owners
  - (d) £33,244 short term loan to Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome Group regarding work on the Kirkburton Spur of the Trans Pennine Trail (Denby Dale/ Kirkburton), subject to written confirmation from EPIP of the grant award, a signed agreement with the Council for the loan and written confirmation of the timescale for the work.
  - (e) £45,000 improvements to Colne Valley Bridleway 197 at Marsden (Colne Valley), subject to match funding being obtained towards the total cost of £45k.
  - (f) £52,000 for speed limit reduction orders and associated works at 4 locations on the B6116/ A629 roads (Denby Dale/ Kirkburton)

### 10 Deputations / Petitions

There were no deputations or petitions.

### 11 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

### 12 Dates of future meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7pm in the Holme Valley South Ward (venue to be confirmed).