

Minutes of a meeting of the Keighley Area Committee held on Thursday, 15 September 2016 at Council Chamber - Keighley Town Hall

Commenced 6.00 pm
Concluded 7.00 pm

Present – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	THE INDEPENDENTS	INDEPENDENT
Ali Brown Mallinson BM Smith	M Slater Farley	Hawkesworth	K Hussain

Apologies: Councillor Cath Bacon

Councillor Ali in the Chair

23. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

24. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2016 be signed as a correct record.

25. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

26. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.



27. **KEIGHLEY AND ILKLEY VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION (KIVCA)**

The report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Sport, (**Document “M”**) summarised the work of Keighley and Ilkley Voluntary Community Action (KIVCA) in supporting communities and voluntary organisations in the Keighley area.

The background to the report explained the objectives of KIVC’s work including:-

- To support organisations, charities, individuals and local groups in practical ways to achieve their own aims and develop new projects to meet local needs
- To help people to influence how services were developed, funded and delivered
- To bring people together to create solutions that help local people and communities

It was explained that the work was carried out by KIVCA’s team which consisted of paid staff and volunteers. The trustees all represented voluntary organisations and KIVCA had 180 members who were almost entirely local groups.

It was reported that KIVCA was based at Central Hall, and had an office base in Ilkley. They also worked across the Bradford District in partnership with others, to create a stronger voice for the voluntary sector and the public to influence commissioning and service delivery, and address inequalities while building the resilience and capacity of the Voluntary and Community Sector to be effective partners at local and district levels, and service delivery organisations.

More recent developments since the preparation of the agenda were reported and included that the organisation had been successful in their application to deliver the Healthwatch commission for the next three years.

Members were advised that KIVCA had taken the lead on the first stage of the Keighley Community Led Local Development Programme. The first stage had been completed and a Local Development Strategy had been submitted. If that strategy was approved by the Leeds Enterprise Partnership it could attract £3million pounds of European Funding so long as much funding could be found.

Proposals for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) planned in December 2016 included that members would be asked to vote on merger plans, currently being developed, for the organisation to merge with Bradford Community Voluntary Service and Shipley and Bingley Voluntary Service by April 2017.

The report revealed that KIVCA was funded from a number of sources including commissions from Bradford Council. Members questioned that funding and were informed that Community Development Commissioning funding would be ending in March 2017. In March 2015 a new Infrastructure Commission had received a grant from the Local Authority. The commission was now beginning to generate income by trading services.



A Member advised that in Appendix B to the Document “M” Healthwatch should be included in the Keighley East Ward. He questioned the support reported in Appendix B, for some groups believed to be in opposition to Bradford Council actions. In response it was confirmed that the groups were not receiving financial support but were being assisted with funding advice.

Resolved –

That the wide range of activities undertaken by Keighley and Ilkley Voluntary and Community Action (KIVCA) be noted and activities to assist communities and voluntary organisations be supported.

**Overview and Scrutiny Area: Corporate
Action: Strategic Director, Environment and Sport**

28. PARKS AND GREEN SPACES SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

Previous references: Minutes 9 & 42 (2015/16)

The Strategic Director of Environment and Sport submitted **Document N** the annual report for the Parks and Green Spaces Service which reviewed activity during the past year and also considered the significant issues that would have an effect over the coming 12 months. The report also presented options, where appropriate, for future service delivery.

The report provided information about the service and confirmed that it currently sat in the Sport and Leisure Service, part of the Environment and Sport Department. It also described the managed facilities in the Keighley and Ilkley area; new facilities which were planned and in progress; a number of events (over 150) held throughout the year in parks and recreation grounds and provided an update on trees and woodlands in the area.

Members were reminded of the floral display review which had arisen as a result of reductions in the level of funding for that provision in the 2015/16 budget setting process. The issue had been thoroughly debated at the meetings on 25 June 2015 and 3 December 2015 and an update on progress since that time was provided.

Following discussions about trees and woodlands a Member reported unauthorised trial bike riding taking place on woodland routes in Ben Rhydding. It was agreed that the issue would be communicated to the Council’s Woodlands Officer. The potential for the Wardens on motorbikes to inspect the area was also discussed.

The support/subsidy provided to Bingley Music Festival was queried and, whilst all the information from the recent event had not yet been received, it was believed that the event would not ‘break even’. The festival had been well attended but had been affected by the inclement weather.



The report revealed consultation with Ilkley In Bloom and their agreement to assist with the majority of the bedding schemes in Ilkley. Those arrangements were questioned and it was explained that the Parish Council would fund the 2017/2018 summer and winter bedding schemes. A rough estimate of the cost had been provided to them but that would need to be confirmed. The spring planting would be managed by the Council.

The impact that the renovation of the park and buildings at Cliffe Castle could have on Devonshire Park was queried. Members were assured that the maintenance of all parks was undertaken by the service. The grass was cut ten times per year and refuse bins emptied twice weekly. A Member believed a Friends of Devonshire Park was being organised but said that he not seen any developments. Concerns around drug users in the park were also raised. In response it was explained that Devonshire Park was more of an arboretum than other parks. The park contained many beautiful trees but their presence could make the area dark and residents may feel afraid. It was explained that the trees could not be felled but shrubs could be removed and the holly lifted. An increased Warden Service would also reassure residents.

A Member raised concerns about the play facilities at the top end of Devonshire Park. He confirmed that measures were being undertaken with the Friends of Devonshire Park to raise funds to improve the area. He discussed social issues in Lund Park also and liaison with the 'Friends of' groups; the police and Council Wardens. It was reported that the Child Sexual Exploitation unit were also involved.

The contracts for the grounds maintenance for large housing developments in the area were raised. A Member questioned if there were any legal restrictions preventing the Council tendering for that work. In response officers were unable to confirm the legalities of any such arrangements. The service had not previously tendered as they no longer had the resources to undertake those works. It was agreed that investigations would be undertaken to ascertain if there were restrictions on the Council bidding for maintenance contracts.

Funds received from S106 agreements or Community Infrastructure Levy, under the terms and conditions of planning approval, were raised. It was questioned if the service were proactive in utilising those funds in the locations they were intended to benefit or if those decisions were left to the Parish Councils. It was explained that the funds available to the service were for play facilities and the technical unit liaised with the officers in charge of those funds. It was believed that those technical officers regularly checked the available resources.

The report revealed that a new pathway at East Morton Recreation Ground, at a cost of £12,000, was to be funded by S106 monies. A Member raised concerns that he had not been made aware of the availability of those resources. It was agreed to include, in the future annual reports provided, an overview of the S106/CIL process and the apportionment of those funds in the Parks and Green Spaces Service.



Members also asked that the Assistant Director, Planning, Transportation and Highways be requested to advise Ward Members of the S106/CIL resources available in their wards, and as a matter of course, before those resources were allocated.

The highway weed control arrangements were discussed and a Member explained that he was receiving enquiries from his constituents but that he was not informed of the schedule or routes undertaken. He felt that it was apparent that some areas were not being treated. The effective management of the contract to undertake that work was questioned and Members advised that the service had a good relationship with the contractors and that they were pro-active if an area had been missed.

It was explained that the schedule of treatment was provided to the Council's Contact Centre and, weather permitting, those arrangements were not changed. It was agreed to send the schedule to all Members.

Concern about the effectiveness of the treatments used and schedule of works were discussed. Members were advised that the weeds were sprayed in May and then at eight weekly intervals. The final treatment was undertaken in September/October time. It was explained that the chemicals utilised were residual and were only effective on the day of use and could not prevent regrowth.

Arrangements following the closure of Riddlesden Golf Club were outlined in Document "N". Members explained that they were being contacted by residents about that issue; the details in the report were brief, and they were unsure who to contact to be kept updated about the issue. In response it was explained that a working group had been established which included the Strategic Director, Environment and Sport and the Assistant Directors for Sport and Culture and Estates and Property Services. It was confirmed that no decisions on options for that site had been made and that Ward Members would be kept updated.

The cost of maintenance of the central verges of the bypass and if that maintenance was cost effect was questioned. It was explained that those issues were dealt with by the Council's Highways Department and that the Council may be legally required to undertake that work. It was agreed to pass those costs to the Member who had raised that issue.

Resolved –

That the content of Document "N, particular the bowls club agreement and the outcomes achieved following the flower bed consultation, be noted.

**Overview and Scrutiny Area: Regeneration and Economy
Action: Strategic Director, Environment and Sport**



Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Keighley Area Committee.

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER

