

Minutes of a meeting of the Keighley Area Committee held on Thursday, 21 November 2019 at 6.00 pm in Council Chamber - Keighley Town Hall

Commenced 6.00 pm
Concluded 7.00 pm

Present – Councillors

| LABOUR | CONSERVATIVE |
|---|--------------------------|
| Abid Hussain M Slater Godwin Lintern | Brown Goodall Herd |

Councillor Hussain in the Chair

Apologies: Councillor Hawkesworth

36. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

37. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2019 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

38. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

39. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

40. OAKWORTH JUBILEE GARDEN - NOMINATION TO LIST PROPERTY AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

The report of the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, (**Document “Q”**) informed Members that the Council had received a nomination to list Oakworth Jubilee Gardens, a small landscaped area, as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act 2011.

Document “Q” considered whether the nomination and nominated asset met the Asset of Community Value criteria set out in the Localism Act 2011 and Members were asked to make a recommendation to the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, to approve or not to approve the nomination.

The report advised Members that the Council owned land was used as a garden area and monitored by Oakworth Village Society. The Community Right to Bid process was explained; a definition of an Asset of Community Value provided and who could nominate an asset to be listed was explained.

The nomination was appended to Document “Q” and an assessment of that nomination was provided in the report. Council officers had assessed that the criteria for listing had been met and recommended that the land be listed as an Asset of Community Value.

A local Ward Member, who was also a Committee Member, provided local background information and reported that Jubilee Gardens had been improved and signage erected using money from the sale of Leeds Bradford Airport. Oakworth Village Society had also invested in seating; bollards and carved stones in that location.

It was believed that the occupant of an adjacent property wished to redevelop the area and the nomination had been requested by Oakworth Village Society to protect the asset. The resident had maintained that they wished to purchase the land to rectify damp issues in their home. Oakworth Village Society had offered to allow the area to be dug to rectify damp issues and it was maintained that other properties with damp issues had been rectified with tanking. There was pedestrian access to that property but no vehicular access. The Society were concerned that the purchase was being requested to develop a car parking area. A map and photograph of the area was provided.

The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources explained that listing the area as an Asset of Community Value would not prevent the sale of the land but would give Oakworth Village Society the opportunity to make a bid to purchase the land in the event of a sale. It was suggested that a Community Asset Transfer would provide the Society with more control.

Resolved –

That it be recommended to the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, that in accordance with option 1, contained in Document “Q” the nomination of land at Oakworth Jubilee Gardens be approved as an Asset of Community Value on the grounds that it does meet the criteria and definition of an Asset of Community Value as set out in the Localism Act 2011.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Corporate ACTION: Strategic Director, Corporate Resources

41. LOCAL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE - UPDATE AND FUNCTION OVERVIEW

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “R”**) detailed how the Planning, Transportation & Highways service currently managed the Local Highway Maintenance (LHM) function and allocated resources.

Document “R” also provided an update with regard to current operations being undertaken on the network and the cost of works undertaken in the current financial year.

Appended to the report were details of work undertaken as part of the Local Highway Maintenance function; technical and operational staff overviews; Category A and B works updates; an updated 2018/19 category C and D works list; current category C and D works undertaken and details of completed gully cleaning in the Keighley constituency.

The budget for the Keighley constituency broken down into Category A, B, C and D works was discussed and it was explained that a large proportion was required for Category A and B issues in the area. It was explained that the Keighley constituency had a significant volume of culverts and becks and following very wet autumn drainage problems had occurred.

It was explained that there was a very rigid gully cleaning programme in the Keighley constituency and work was undertaken with the Cleansing and Neighbourhood Teams during periods of severe weather.

Following a detailed presentation Members raised a number of queries to which the following responses were provided:-

- Work not completed on Category C and D works during 2018/19 could be because of limited resources with staff engaged on more urgent issues.
- A 40mm pothole on the highway or 25mm holes on the footway would be dealt with urgently. All maintenance reports/requests for repairs should be made through the Council’s Contact Centre to allow them to be assessed and recorded.
- There were 93,000 gullies in the District and appendix 7 detailed the number of gullies in each ward in the Keighley constituency.
- It was very difficult to prevent damage to the highway or gullies when residents were carrying out building works at their private homes.
- Leaves blocking gullies formed a film preventing water drainage. Due to the wet weather in autumn there had been more leaf fall and work was undertaken with the Cleansing Service to sweep areas more regularly and thoroughly. There had been very limited occasions when roads had needed to be dug to clear gullies and that was an expensive process. There were drainage problems on the main road towards the hospital and that location was cleaned more regularly.
- There were problems, in some areas, with parked cars preventing the

gullies from being cleaned. Days of action could be arranged when cars could be moved. Members were asked to report those issues via the Council Contact Team. Members wishing to arrange days of action should speak to their Ward Officer.

- Pot hole repairs which Members felt were not to a satisfactory standard could be because the tarmac was laid at an inappropriate temperature. It should not be installed to repair pot holes at temperatures below five degrees. A jet patcher had been used successfully in the Keighley constituency but it was an expensive process. It was agreed to monitor the standard of repairs carried out.
- To address subsidence on cobbled areas was expensive and would require 10 metres to be removed to repair 1 metre.
- Unless they were located in a listed area replacement for flags which had been stolen would be in tarmac.
- The largest problem caused by water was drainage from fields. It was acknowledged that land owners did have responsibility for their land there were, however, problems with enforcement.

A Member raised concerns that although there were a relatively small number of gullies in the Ilkley ward the area was very hilly and there was a lot of leaf fall. He questioned if locations he had highlighted in the Ilkley Ward would be treated as a priority to prevent problems occurring. In response it was explained that the service would respond to particular reports. The reduction in resources since 2010 was discussed. The assistance provided from Ilkley Parish Council with the purchase of grit bins was discussed and it was suggested that approaches could be made with the Parish Council and voluntary groups to assist with the removal of leaves. A Member questioned if the Highways Service would collect leaves which had been cleared and it was explained that it would be the Parks Department who could assist.

A Member made reference to a number of Category five potholes in the Ilkley area and that their location in cul- de- sac locations had designated them as low priority. It was explained that following parking restrictions imposed in Ilkley town centre use of those areas had increased and it was queried if the priority could be reconsidered.

Members raised a few anomalies in the appendices to Document "R" and reported that some locations had been identified as being in the incorrect Wards. It was agreed that all Members would email the Highway Service to advise of inaccuracies in their Wards.

A lack of co-ordination between the District and Town and Parish Council regarding grit bin locations was raised as a concern and it was explained that whilst Parish and Town Councils purchased the bins from the Council the Council was not consulted on where they should be located. Whilst the scheme worked well problems did arise if the bins were empty when inclement weather arrived. A Member who was also a member of Keighley Town Council explained that they utilised a private contractor to fill their grit bins. Following suggestions that the

schemes could be co-ordinated it was explained that the differing criterion used by Keighley Town Council to obtain a grit bin would make that difficult. It was agreed to discuss that issue with the Councillor outside of the meeting.

Members were reminded that Bradford was the highest city in the UK and assurances were provided that there was a robust winter service plan in place with the priority being to keep A and B roads open during periods of severe weather. Good arrangements were in place with the bus operators and the buses did adhere to the gritted routes.

Arrangements to receive future Local Highway Maintenance updates and function overviews were discussed. It was acknowledged that allocation of the budget had not been devolved to the Committee so no decisions were being made but that it was useful to be made aware of progress and where the budget was spent. It was agreed that in future the information should be emailed direct to Members as opposed to the formal presentation of a report to Committee.

In conclusion officers were commended for the impressive work undertaken on Law Street.

Resolved –

- (1) That the current operational methods adopted for Local Highway Maintenance be noted.**
- (2) That the costs to date for the 2019/20 financial year be noted.**
- (3) That the 2018/19 updated list of CAT C and D works as shown in Appendix 5 to Document “R” be noted.**
- (4) That the list of completed and ordered CAT C and D works for 2019/20 as shown in Appendix 6 to Document “R” be noted.**
- (5) That the details of gullies cleaned within the constituency as shown in Appendix to Document “R” be noted.**

***OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Regeneration & Environment
ACTION: Strategic Director, Place***

Chair

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

THIS AGENDA AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER