

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TRANSFER OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES TO
TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS COMMITTEE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 21st JANUARY, 2016**

PRESENT –

Councillor A. R. Greaves (Chairman – in the Chair)

Councillors

*J. Cooney
M. Iqbal
J. K. Starkie
D. M. Whipp*

Also in attendance:

<i>Dean Langton</i>	<i>Strategic Director</i>
<i>Philip Mousdale</i>	<i>Corporate Director</i>
<i>Peter Atkinson</i>	<i>Neighbourhood Services Manager</i>
<i>Jane Watson</i>	<i>Senior Committee Administrator</i>



22. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

23. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Transfer of Services and Facilities to Town and Parish Councils Committee held on 12th November, 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24. PRIMET BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE, COLNE

A schedule of outstanding issues which had delayed the transfer of this property to Colne Town Council was circulated at the meeting. The schedule had been updated and the majority of the issues had now been resolved or were in the process of being resolved. Any outstanding reports would be forwarded to the Town Council as soon as possible.

25. PASSENGER BUS SHELTERS

It was reported at the meeting that Nelson Town Council had decided not to take on ownership of passenger shelters in Nelson nor pay for their maintenance.

A passenger shelter in Trawden had been damaged during recent storm weather and it was reported that repairs would be made to the shelter prior to its transfer to Trawden Forest Parish Council. Additional repairs were also going to be made within budget, prior to transfer, to some

passenger shelters in Barrowford and Colne following requests made by those councils, who would be notified of the extent of this additional work.

Reference was also made to the County Council's recent budget proposals which included the removal of funding for subsidised bus routes the effect of which would be to make a number of shelters redundant. A Member/Officer Working Group had been established to look at the County's budget proposals with the first meeting scheduled for 5th February, 2016.

RESOLVED

That the position be noted.

26. TRANSFER OF PLAY AREAS MUGAs

The Corporate Director submitted an update report on the transfer of play areas and MUGAs. Details of the responses received regarding the transfer of these sites was detailed in the report.

The Committee had allocated £1,000 per play facility towards repair/refurbishment works which would be carried out prior to transfer. Each Town and Parish Council had been contacted about this but only Colne, Earby and Trawden had replied. Reminders had been sent out asking for an early response so that work could be carried out by 31st March, 2016.

The Committee discussed a request received from Trawden Forest Parish Council regarding additional funding for improvements/repairs to the Lane House Lane play area. The total cost of the works amounted to £2,597.

Concerns were expressed over the condition of the junior and senior play areas at Vernon Street in Nelson. The safety surfacing was in a particularly poor state and needed replacing. It was also felt that the removal of surrounding trees would be beneficial as this contributed to the surface becoming slippery and deteriorating. The total cost of this work, including the replacement of a vandalised piece of equipment was £17,810. Nelson's initial allocation was £16,000 but it was acknowledged that there may well be an underspend on some of the other, newer facilities.

Any further allocations could be made from the Community Projects Fund.

The Committee was asked to consider a request from Earby Town Council for the transfer of all of Birley play fields rather than just the play area.

Approaches had been made to the Millennium Green Trust to transfer the play area on its land to Colne Town Council; Together Housing for the transfer of Northolme (north) play area to Earby Town Council and Pendle Leisure Trust for the transfer of the Vivary Way MUGA to Colne Town Council. The County Council had also been approached regarding the Emmott Lane, Laneshaw Bridge and Colne Road, Kelbrook play areas and the Waterside, Colne MUGA which were on their land.

RESOLVED

- (1) That a further allocation of £1,597 be made in respect of further work to the Lane House Lane, Trawden play area; and that £2,500 be allocated towards the cost of a new piece of equipment for the play area.

- (2) That, at this stage, a further allocation of £4,000 be made in respect of the Nelson facilities.
- (3) That the Executive be **recommended** to transfer the whole of Birley playing fields to Earby Town Council.

27. GARAGE SITES

The Corporate Director submitted a 'position' statement regarding the garage sites managed by the Council and the income derived from each.

It was noted that 2 garage sites in Barrowford had already been transferred to Barrowford Parish Council. There was also a request from Trawden Forest Parish Council for 3 garage sites to be transferred to them.

The Committee were advised that the total rental income from garage sites was £84,254.45 in the current year and that a 10% increase in garage rents had already been agreed by the Executive. This increase would take effect from 1st April, 2016. Taking account of the decisions already made in Barrowford and if the request received from Trawden Forest Parish Council was approved the Council would lose a total of £6,365.20 in the next financial year.

With this in mind the Committee were recommended not to transfer any further garage sites.

The Committee felt, however, that there was some merit in transferring the garage sites but acknowledged that some were potential development sites and that these should be removed from the list. They also felt that the smaller sites consisting of one or two garages should be offered to the existing tenants.

RESOLVED

- (1) That officers be asked to identify any garage sites which could potentially be developed and these be removed from the list.
- (2) That the tenants of the smaller garage sites remaining on the list, consisting of one or two garages, be invited to purchase the sites prior to them.
- (3) That the revised list of garage sites be circulated to Area Committees for comment.
- (4) That it be agreed that the 3 garage sites in Trawden be transferred to Trawden Forest Parish Council.

28. FUTURE PROGRAMME OF TRANSFERS FOR 2016/17 AND 2017/18

The Corporate Director submitted a report which put forward suggestions for the programme of transfers for 2016/17 and 2017/18. The Committee were asked to agree to the programme so that preparatory work could be undertaken followed by discussions with Town and Parish Councils.

The 2016/17 programme included:

- Parks

Transfer of Services and Facilities to Town and Parish Councils Committee (21.01.2016)

- Recreation Grounds (with the possible inclusion of King George V Playing Fields and Harrison Drive in Colne and the Hard Platts in Nelson)
- Miscellaneous Buildings (such as Colne Town Hall)
- Miscellaneous Pieces of Land
- Garage Sites

Mention was also made of the County Council's proposals for savings which included rationalisation of its land and buildings.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the 2016/17 programme as detailed above be agreed in principle.
- (2) That Town and Parish Councils be invited to consider what other buildings within their areas might be transferred to them.
- (3) That the programme for 2017/18 be considered further in due course.

Chairman _____