

174.

PROGRESS REPORT

A progress report on action arising from the last meeting was submitted for information.

The Chairman provided an update following a meeting with representatives from Colne Health Centre regarding parking issues in that area. Following discussions it had been agreed that:

- 6 parking permits would be issued for use by District Nurses on the Health Centre car park.
- 6 parking permits would be issued for other medical staff on the Health Centre car park.
- 20 dispensations would be issued for use on the Red Lion Street car park for medical staff only. The Health Centre was to decide who would qualify for these dispensations.
- This was in addition to the 4 Health Centre bays that were on a private section of the Red Lion car park.
- The usage would be monitored over the next 6 months and a report would be submitted to the October meeting.

175.

PLANNING APPEALS

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted, for information, a report giving the up-to-date position on appeals.

176.

ENFORCEMENT/UNAUTHORISED USES

(a) Outstanding Enforcements

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted, for information, a report giving the up-to-date position on enforcement matters.

(b) Enforcement Action

The Democratic and Legal Manager submitted, for information, a report giving the up-to-date position on enforcement matters.

(c) Hubbs House Farm, Colne

The Chairman informed the Committee that following a resolution made at the last meeting he had written to the Leader and Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council about the concerns expressed by Members at the last meeting but had not yet received a response.

177.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16 AND 2016/17

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report on the Committee's Capital Programme for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

A bid had been submitted for £15,000 towards the Colne Town Centre Premises Improvement Grants.

A late bid had also been submitted from Trawden Forest Parish Council for funding towards a replacement piece of equipment at the Lanehouse Lane Playground in Trawden which was circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) That it be noted that only the schemes listed in Appendix 1 attached to the report have agreed funding.
- (2) That it be noted that the following allocation of funding for horticulture projects/events be transferred to:

Ward	Councillor	Allocation	
Boulsworth	Paul White	£0.02	Colne In Bloom
Vivary Bridge	Ian Tweedie	£500.00	Alkincoats Nature Reserve

- (3) That £1,000 be allocated to each Councillor for horticulture projects/events for use from January 2017.
- (4) That a further allocation of £17,333 for the Environmental Improvement Fund be agreed (split £4,000 for the Boulsworth, Horsfield, Vivary Bridge and Waterside Wards and £1,333 for Foulridge Ward) and any uncommitted funds from 2015/16 be carried forward with the proviso that they be spent in the 2016/17 financial year.
- (5) That it be agreed that £1,500 be allocated from the Boulsworth Environmental Improvement Fund 2015/16 towards a new piece of play equipment at Lanehouse Lane Playground in Trawden.
- (6) That it be agreed that £10,434 be allocated towards Colne Town Centre Premises Improvement Grants.
- (7) That up to £1,500 be provisionally allocated to pay for traffic management works to be put in place to enable repairs to be made to a wall adjacent to Foulridge Lower Reservoir on Skipton Road, Foulridge but in the meantime other funding streams also be identified.
- (8) That with regard to the £10,000 of the Committee's Capital Programme for 2015/16 held back by the Executive pending discussions relating to the transfer of various assets to Town and Parish Councils the Executive be asked to release this funding to the Area Committee as a matter of urgency. Although not all transfers have been completed this has not been through the unwillingness or un-co-operation of the Town and Parish Councils.

REASON

To enable the capital programme funding to be allocated efficiently and effectively.

178. LAND KNOWN AS KNOTTS LANE POND, COLNE

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted a report on the future use of the above site and how it was to be maintained.

After a number of years the land, as shown at Appendix A attached to the report, was now owned by the Council. It was a linear strip of land which ran down from Knotts Drive with an open ditch which ran towards an overgrown area originally designed to act as an attenuation pond. A footpath followed the line of the stream but was not identified on the definitive map.

The Committee were advised that there were cost issues which needed to be considered. Firstly, the railway sleepers which acted as a bridge needed an anti-slip surface and hand rail to be fitted which would cost approximately £500. Secondly, the site had Himalayan Balsam growing on it which would incur an annual maintenance cost of £175 to control it; and thirdly there was a cost of £198.08 per annum for weed killing on the path and mowing either side of the path three times a year.

Three options were put before the Committee for consideration:

Option 1 – to fully dispose of the land to a third party.

Option 2 – to dispose of parts of the land to neighbours whilst still maintaining the footpath and pond.

Option 3 – to retain and maintain the whole area with the associated revenue costs.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the residents of 12 Knotts Drive, 1 and 3 Knotts Mount and 2 St. Andrew's Close Colne be asked if they were interested in purchasing some of the land and incorporating it into their gardens.
- (2) It was agreed that the remaining land, footpath and pond remain within the Council's ownership and maintenance costs be met from within existing central budgets.
- (3) That a report be submitted to the Executive recommending the footpath be included in the definitive footpath map.

REASON

- (1) ***In order for the Council to find the optimum use of the land and to reduce revenue costs.***
- (2) ***To ensure that any Council land is properly maintained.***

179.

55 PARKER STREET, COLNE

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager reported that the above property had now been sold. The new owner had provided the Council with a programme of work which he would be undertaking.

RESOLVED

That the situation be monitored but the new owner be given time to undertake the work identified.

REASON

To bring the property back into a habitable condition as soon as possible.

180. ENVIRONMENTAL BLIGHT

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report which provided an update on environmental blight in the area.

181. CONDITION OF PAVING STONES THROUGHOUT COLNE TOWN CENTRE

Further to minute number 150/15/16 the Neighbourhood Services Manager reported that a site meeting was being sought with officers from the County Council to discuss the condition of the stone flags throughout the town centre. A date had yet to be agreed.

It was reported that the County Council's Policy for replacing paving stones within conservation areas was to replace them like for like. It was accepted that this could be a lengthy process.

RESOLVED

- (1) That it be made clear to the County Council that this Committee was aware of its policy on replacing paving stones within conservation areas and expects that the paving stones in Colne Town Centre's conservation area would be replaced like for like.
- (2) That should there be a problem in replacing the paving stones like for like a report be brought back to this Committee.

REASON

To comply with the County Council's policy and to maintain the conservation heritage within Colne Town Centre.

182. TOWER BUILDINGS, COLNE

Further to minute number 147/15/16 the Neighbourhood Services Manager reported that officers had approached the owner of the Tower Buildings about applying for a Premises Improvement Grant but this offer hadn't been taken up. The 2015/16 allocation had been fully allocated but a further offer would be made during the 2016/17 financial year.

183. COLNE TOWN CENTRE WALKABOUT

Prior to the meeting Members of the Committee undertook a walkabout around Colne Town Centre. A report would be submitted to a future meeting.

184. VACANT HOMES

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted, for information, a report on the number of vacant houses within the Colne and District area. There were currently 266 empty residential properties in the area which represented 2.7% of the housing stock covered by the Committees wards.

Officers had written to the owners of all these properties and were constantly monitoring them and were in contact with the owners to encourage them to bring them back into use. Loan assistance was also offered when officers were informed that the property was to be renovated.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

185. COLNE TOWN CENTRE FORUM

Minutes of a meeting of the Colne Town Centre Forum held on 19th January, 2016 were submitted for information.

186. MISCELLANEOUS MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of Colne In Bloom were submitted for information.

187. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

The following item had been requested by this Committee and a report would be submitted to a future meeting:-

Types of replacement tree grilles (report requested 04.02.2016)

Chairman _____