

33. PLAY AREAS AND MUGAS

The Corporate Director submitted a position statement on the transfer of play areas and MUGAs to Town and Parish Councils.

Transfer documentation had been sent to Town and Parish Councils for the play areas and MUGAs to be transferred by the Council. In some cases the precise extent of the area to be transferred needed further discussion with the Town and Parish Councils concerned.

In the remaining few cases where the play area/MUGA was on land not owned by the Council discussion was continuing with the bodies concerned and it was expected these would be resolved shortly.

Formal agreements had also been sent for the payment of maintenance and inspection where it had been agreed that the Council would undertake this. Where the Town or Parish Council was to carry this out itself, the Council would be shortly ceasing to do this work.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the position be noted.
- (2) That in those cases where the Town or Parish Council was to do the work of maintenance and inspection itself, they be reminded of the need to now put those arrangements in place; and that if they failed to do this they be invoiced for any work done in default by the Council.

34. PASSENGER SHELTERS

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a position statement on the transfer of passenger shelters in the borough.

The Council had set aside £8,747 from the Community Projects Fund to allow for repairs to bus shelters before their transfer. Barrowford Parish Council and Colne Town Council had been sent a schedule of the proposed works for agreement but had yet to respond. Nelson Town Council had said it was not willing to take on or pay for the maintenance of any shelters in their area.

Barley Parish Council and Salterforth Parish Council had said they were willing to take on responsibility for the passenger shelters. PBC had asked for clarification on whether they wished to maintain them themselves or pay the Council but had not received a response.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Neighbourhood Services Manager be asked to -
 - (a) Write to Barley and Salterforth Parish Councils to the effect that in the absence of hearing otherwise, it was assumed that they would be maintaining their passenger shelters from 1st April 2016.
 - (b) Write again to Barrowford Parish Council and Colne Town Council to seek confirmation of their acceptance of the schedule of works planned for their passenger shelters prior to transfer.

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- (2) That where a Town or Parish Council was not willing to take on responsibility or pay for maintenance of its passenger shelters then the Council's role be confined to removing any danger to the public, including removing the shelter completely if necessary, and that no further replacement, repair or cleansing would be carried out; and that the Town and Parish Councils concerned be informed of this.

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

The Corporate Director submitted a report to consider further the programme of transfers for 2016/17 and 2017/18 as approved by the Executive so that preparatory work and discussions with Town and Parish Councils could take place.

It was noted that a revised list of garage sites for possible transfer would be circulated to Area Committees and back to this Committee for further consideration.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a summary of comments from area committees about the transfer of miscellaneous pieces of land in their area which would be considered by the Executive in due course.

With regard to the transfer of miscellaneous buildings, the Corporate Director reported that officers, Councillor Greaves and Councillor Iqbal had met representatives of Colne Town Council earlier in the week about Colne Town Hall and agreed to work towards a transfer date of 30th September.

In respect of indoor and outdoor markets, Colne Town Council had been given details of running costs but more work was needed on the Nelson markets.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a budget summary and outline of points to be taken into consideration in respect of each of the Council's parks and recreation grounds.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Colne Town Council be informed that the Council would like to have discussions about the future of the Colne markets, but that they be put on hold pending consideration of plans for the former health centre.
- (2) That more information be provided on the operation and costs of the playing pitch service to enable further consideration of recreation grounds and playing fields.
- (3) That it be noted that grounds maintenance was one of four budget items in which the Council expected to have to make major savings over the next three years; against that background the Corporate Director be asked to prepare a draft document for discussion with Town and Parish Councils on possible options for the future of parks broadly along the following lines:
- (a) The Council continues to own and maintain the parks with a significantly reduced budget;
- (b) The Council continues to own and maintain the parks with a significantly reduced budget and with top up funding provided by Town and Parish Councils and agreements on how this is to be used;

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- (c) The Council transfers the parks to Town and Parish Councils but continues to maintain them with its significantly reduced budget and top up funding provided by Town and Parish Councils and agreements on how this is to be used;
 - (d) The Council transfers the parks to Town and Parish Councils who take over their maintenance with a tapering grant or transitional payment from the Council;
 - (e) The Council transfers the parks to Town and Parish Councils without any funding;
 - (f) Trusts and/or social enterprise arrangements be examined involving the Council, Town and Parish Councils and potentially other interests, either for individual parks or for groups of parks;
 - (g) For all the options the potential for any disposal of parts of park land with the receipts used for maintenance be investigated.
- (4) That the draft document be circulated to Members of the Committee for comment.
 - (5) That following meetings of the Executive and the Budget Working Group in May/early June a meeting be held with Nelson, Barnoldswick, Colne, Earby, Brierfield, Trawden, Barrowford and Kelbrook and Sough Town and Parish Councils to discuss the options.
 - (6) That the next meeting of the Committee be held in June/July after the above meeting with Town and Parish Councils.
 - (7) That the programme for 2017/18 be considered further in due course.

Chairman _____