

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TRANSFER OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES TO
TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS COMMITTEE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON THURSDAY 15th SEPTEMBER, 2016**

PRESENT –

Councillors

*A. R. Greaves
M. Iqbal
J. K. Starkie
K. Turner
D. M. Whipp*

Also in attendance:

*Philip Mousdale Corporate Director
Peter Atkinson Neighbourhood Services Manager
Sarah Waterworth Committee Administrator*

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(Apologies were received from Councillor A. Mahmood)

35. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor A. R Greaves be appointed Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2016/17.

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

36. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor M. Iqbal be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2016/17.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

38. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

39.

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Transfer of Services and Facilities to Town and Parish Councils Committee held on 7th April, 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

40.

PARKS AND RECREATION GROUNDS

The Corporate Director submitted a report on the responses received from the Town and Parish Council's regarding the transfer of parks and recreations grounds in their areas. A meeting had been held with representatives of all the councils concerned on 20th June, 2016 and details of the briefing note issued at that meeting was included in the report.

Representatives were asked to arrange for their councils to consider the issue and submit their views by early September.

The Committee were reminded that its work needed to dovetail with that of the Budget Working Group specifically on the savings which needed to be made in the area of Grounds Maintenance. A target saving of £200,000 had been recommended by Officers. Further work had been requested on the detail and impact of this potential saving by the Budget Working Group. Reference was made to the desirability of an early decision on this by full Council so that information could be provided to town and parish to enable them to consider their precepts.

The Corporate Director circulated, at the meeting, supplemental information from the Town and Parish Councils.

It was reported that Barnoldswick Town Council wished to take over, in principle, Victory, Letcliffe and Clough Parks and Valley Gardens but were not able at this stage to say on what basis.

The Clerk to Barrowford Parish Council reported that an informal meeting had taken place with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council and the Chairman of GP to discuss the outcomes of the discussion from the meeting with members of this committee. It was agreed that a policy statement or declaration of intention was needed to allow constructive negotiations with Pendle Council regarding taking over the parks in Barrowford.

Brierfield, Colne and Nelson Town Councils were not in a position at this time to assist with any facilities in their area.

A letter from Colne Town Council was circulated which stated that they wished Pendle Council to continue to provide a high standard of parks services and also expressed concerns regarding the sale of any parks across the Borough.

Earby Town Council had expressed an interest in Hill Top Recreation Ground and Springfield Playing Pitch being transferred to the Parish Council with some tapering or transitional financial support from Pendle Council. The Town Council was also interested in considering Sough Park but required more information.

Mention was made of concerns raised by Friends' Groups about not being involved in discussion regarding the transfer of the parks.

RESOLVED

- (1) That further discussions take place with Barnoldswick Town Council with regards taking over Victory, Letcliffe and Clough Park and Valley Gardens.
- (2) That further discussions take place with Barrowford Parish Council on the transfer of the Barrowford park.
- (3) That Brierfield, Colne and Nelson Town Councils and Trawden Forest Parish be advised that that in future the Council would not be able to provide the same high standard of parks services due to likely cuts in the budget and that they may wish to reconsider their positions: and that further meetings be sought with them in due course.
- (4) That a meeting with Earby Town Council and Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council be arranged to discuss Sough Park
- (5) That the Executive Member for Communities, Parks, Recreation and Devolution be requested to arrange a meeting at an appropriate time with the Friends' Groups to discuss the transfer of the parks and recreation grounds.
- (6) That it be clarified that the Council has no intention of selling off any parks but that it is looking at the feasibility of selling pieces of park land with the proceeds to be used for the upkeep of the park.

41.

SPORTS PITCHES SERVICE

The Corporate Director submitted a report which provided information on the service. At the meeting on 20th June, 2016 the town and parish councils were also provided with information on sports pitches. It was noted that discussion was predominately around parks which may indicate that currently there wasn't a strong wish on their part to take them on.

Neighbourhood Services were responsible for the service with support from Environmental Services. Details of the tasks undertaken and the number of fixtures and income generated in 2016/16 were included in the report.

Reference was made to teams booking a number of pitches across different sites in the Borough and the problems which could arise should the town and parish councils take on responsibility for these pitches.

A short discussion took place with regards the Sports pitches and it was felt that the Council needed to retain a core sports pitch service based on the facilities in the main towns.

It was reported that Earby Town Council had expressed a wish to take over Hill Top Recreation ground and Springfield Playing Pitch and that Trawden Forest Parish Council had also agreed to take over Trawden Recreation ground.

RESOLVED

That the Executive be recommended to transfer Hill Top Recreation Ground and Springfield Playing Pitch to Earby Town Council; and Trawden Recreation ground to Trawden Parish Council.

42. PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The Committee was presented with the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Pendle, Burnley and Rossendale. The document identified the quantity and quality of the Borough's stock of playing pitches with the contents being an important part of the evidence base for Phase 2 of the Local Plan.

The Strategy had been approved by the Executive at its last meeting and was presented to the Committee for information.

43. GARAGE SITES

The Corporate Director submitted a report which detailed the resolutions from the Area Committees regarding the possible transfer of garage sites to Town and Parish Councils.

It was felt that the Council should retain the majority of the garage sites as the rental income was an appreciable contribution to the Council's income from fees and charges.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Executive be recommended to invite the tenants of the following garage sites to purchase their sites at the current market value:
 - (a) Back Bamford Street, Nelson
 - (b) Barkerhouse Road, Nelson
 - (c) Clayton Street, Nelson
 - (d) Lee Road, Nelson
 - (e) Pickering Street, Brierfield
 - (f) Union Street, Brierfield
- (2) That no further action be taken at this time on the disposal of other sites or their transfer to town and parish councils.

REASON

To achieve a capital receipt for the Council.

44. MISCELLANEOUS PIECES OF LAND

The Corporate Director submitted a report which detailed the resolutions from the Area Committees regarding the possible transfer of miscellaneous pieces of land to town and parish councils. The report also referred to other requests received from Earby Town Council.

It was suggested that the pieces of land in Nelson needed to be looked at further and any located next to gable ends be offered to those residents.

Reference was made to the open area at Selbourne Terrace, Earby and related flooding issues.

RESOLVED

That the Executive be recommended as follows:

- (a) That the miscellaneous pieces of land in Nelson be further reviewed and any located next to a gable end of a house be marketed for sale with an appropriate condition regarding the use of the land.
- (b) That all the miscellaneous pieces of land in Barnoldswick be offered to Barnoldswick Town Council.
- (c) That all the miscellaneous pieces of land in Earby be offered to Earby Town Council whilst noting the concern regarding the open area at Selbourne Terrace; that the Youth Hostel be transferred to the Town Council; and that further discussions be held with the Town Council regarding the other sites it put forward.
- (d) That the open area fronting No's 268-276 Colne Road be offered to Kelbrook and Sough Parish Council.
- (e) That further discussion take place with Salterforth Parish Council regarding the land fronting 3-10 Moor View.
- (f) That a meeting be arranged with Colne Town Council to discuss the following pieces of land - land at Greenfield Farm, Greenfield Road, Open Area, adjacent Byron Road Junction, Keighley Road, Land Junction Langroyd Road, Skipton Road, Open Area, off Windy Bank, Adjacent Car Park, Collingwood Street, Greenfield Road, Open Area, Corner Dewhurst Street and Knotts Lane, Open Area Fronting No's 1-4, Allison Grove, Open Area, Adjacent Bethel Chapel, Burnley Road, Open Area, Adjacent Hagg Street, Cross Helliwell Street, Open Area, Corner Cotton Tree Lane, Keighley Road.
- (g) That the open area, Town Top, Corner of Noyna Road and Skipton Road Foulridge be offered to Foulridge Parish Council.
- (h) That the open area adjacent to Covey Bridge, Carriers Road, Laneshaw Bridge be offered to Laneshaw Bridge Parish Council.
- (i) That further discussion take place with Trawden Forest Parish Council regarding the miscellaneous pieces of land and also the tram tracks and land near the bus turnaround.
- (j) That the views of Brierfield and Reedley Committee be noted.

45.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

- (a) Colne Markets

It was reported that at the last meeting of the Budget Working Group reference was made to the potential transfer of the markets to the Town Council. It was suggested that an early meeting now be sought with the Town Council to take this forward.

The Chief Executive Officer, Colne Town Council reported that he had been tasked to look into the markets to see if they were a viable option. However at present the Council's main priority was the transfer of the Town Hall and a bid for Heritage Lottery funding. A meeting to discuss the transfer of the markets would probably be feasible in early 2017.

RESOLVED

That a meeting be arranged at the appropriate time.

(b) Colne Municipal Hall and Colne Blues Festival

It was reported that at the last meeting of the Budget Working Group the future of both the Municipal Hall and the Blues Festival was discussed. It was suggested that a meeting be sought with the Town Council and Pendle Leisure Trust to discuss these.

It was reported that a meeting to discuss the Blues Festival had now been arranged for 7th October.

The Chief Executive Officer, Colne Town Council reported that he was starting to look at the Municipal Hall and that a meeting would probably be feasible in early 2017.

RESOLVED

That a meeting be arranged at the appropriate time.

Chairman _____