

Colne Town Council; Foulridge Parish Council; Laneshaw Bridge Parish Council; Trawden Forest Parish Council; and Colne BID.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct concerning the declaration of interests.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th March, 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. PROGRESS REPORT

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

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES AND POLICE MATTERS

The crime figures for April 2023 compared to the same period last year were submitted for information. The figures related to the policing areas of Waterside, Horsfield, Colne Rural, Vivary Bridge and Foulridge and the totals were broken down as detailed below.

	2022	2023
Burglary – Residential	10	1
Burglary – Commercial	2	1
Vehicle Crime	13	15
Hate Crime	0	0
Assaults	28	29
Theft	34	27
Criminal Damage	21	4
All Recordable Crime	207	178
Anti-Social Behaviour	68	58

Draft minutes of a meeting of the Colne and District Working Group of the Colne Community Safety Partnership held on 30th March, 2023 were submitted for information.

The Chairman also provided a brief update on community safety issues and police matters following his attendance at the earlier Community Safety Partnership meeting. It was noted that the police had not been present.

Members recognised the continued hard work of the police but expressed disappointment at their non-attendance at the Community Safety Partnership meeting. It was agreed to ask if the Community Safety Partnership meeting could be prioritised.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning appeals

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on planning appeals.

A verbal update was given in which it was reported that the appeal relating to Hilldene, Rock Lane, Keighley Road, Trawden had been allowed.

10. ENFORCEMENT/UNAUTHORISED USES

Enforcement Action

The Head of Legal Services submitted a report which gave the up-to-date position on prosecutions.

A verbal update was given on each case.

11. CONFIRMATION OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER – TPO/No1/2023 – REEDYMOOR LANE, FOULRIDGE

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report which sought Committee approval of the confirmation of TPO/No1/2023 – Reedy Moor Lane, Foulridge.

RESOLVED

That Tree Preservation Order TPO/No1/2023 – Reedy Moor Lane, Foulridge be confirmed.

REASON

- (1) *The tree was potentially under threat from a proposed new access that had been approved.***
- (2) *The tree contributes to the character of the area and is an important part of the tree lined lane.***
- (3) *The tree evaluation system used to determine suitability for TPO found the tree to be suitable.***

12. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2022/23 AND 2023/24

The Director of Place submitted a report which advised Members on the Committee's 2022/23 and 2023/24 area committee budgets.

The report included the following three bids for consideration –

- Litter and dog waste bins - £1,000
- Knotts Drive Pond - £1,050
- Improvements to drainage of communal footpath to allotments on site of Grosvenor Street and Mabel Street, Colne - £2,500

However, the Committee was advised that the bid for funding to clean out Knotts Drive Pond and adjoining watercourses had been withdrawn to allow for further clarity regarding the ongoing

maintenance and funding sources available. Members requested that this information be made available to the Committee prior to the next meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) That £1,000 be allocated for the provision of litter and dog waste bins.
- (2) That consideration of the bid for funding for improvements to drainage of the communal footpath to the allotments on site of Grosvenor Street and Mabel Street, Colne be deferred to allow for a site visit.
- (3) That the area committee budget remain as one central pot, with no allocation to individual councillors as in previous years.

REASON

To allocate the Committee's budget effectively.

13. LAND AT GREENFIELD ROAD, COLNE

The Director of Place submitted a report for Members to consider requesting the Executive to agree to grant an easement over land at Greenfield Road, Colne to allow an adjoining owner to construct an underground drain. The easement would be subject to the owner obtaining consent from the Environment Agency. There may also be a requirement for other statutory consents.

RECOMMENDATION

That, subject to the Council's costs/legal fees being covered, the Executive be recommended to agree to grant an easement over land at Greenfield Road, Colne to allow an adjoining owner to construct an underground drain and that the Chief Executive be authorised to agree the amount of the premium.

REASON

The grant of an easement would result in the Council receiving a premium from the benefit to the owner.

14. CEMETERY LODGE, KEIGHLEY ROAD, COLNE

The Director of Resources submitted a report on Cemetery Lodge, Keighley Road, Colne. The property had been declared surplus by the Policy and Resources Committee in December 2021, but was not advertised for sale until September 2022 due to issues with the Cemetery gates which had to be resolved. The property had been advertised for offers in the region of £210,000.

The report advised that offers at £100,000 and £180,000 had been submitted which included an area of adjoining land and access area. The highest offer of £180,000 was to purchase and convert the property to rent out for a commercial use. However, since submitting the report, the offer at £100,000 had been increased to £150,000. This offer was to retain the property as residential. During discussion, the Committee expressed the view that commercial use of the premises was unacceptable in this location.

The Committee was asked to consider requesting the Executive to accept the highest offer for the property (as shown edged black on the plan attached to the report) and to declare an area of adjoining land surplus to requirements in order for it to be included within the sale.

Members made reference to the decision of the Policy and Resources Committee in December 2021 at which the property had been declared surplus subject to –

- Potential access from Sagar Fold being explored but if this access was considered to be viable the wall should not be breached;
- Suitable electric gates being installed, or the existing cemetery gates being altered to electric opening, to allow for controlled vehicular access and 24 hour pedestrian entry/exit to the cemetery.
- A condition being imposed to ensure that no further development was carried out on the land.

Authorisation had also been given for officers to apply for planning permission for the additional area of land to be used as a garden and parking for the property.

There was concern that this detail was not referenced in the report. The Committee also had concern over the way in which the property had been marketed.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Director of Resources be requested to seek at least two independent valuations and arrange for the property to be marketed through an online agent.
- (2) That the decision of the Policy and Resources Committee at which the property was declared surplus be incorporated into any future report on this topic, namely that the decision is subject to –
 - Potential access from Sagar Fold being explored but if this access was considered to be viable the wall should not be breached;
 - Suitable electric gates being installed, or the existing cemetery gates being altered to electric opening, to allow for controlled vehicular access and 24 hour pedestrian entry/exit to the cemetery.
 - A condition being imposed to ensure that no further development was carried out on the land.

and that authorisation had been given for officers to apply for planning permission for the additional area of land to be used as a garden and parking for the property.

REASON

To ensure the property is valued accurately and marketed effectively; to protect the integrity of the cemetery and its entrance; and to potentially increase the demand and amount of consideration which could be achievable.

15. WHEEL PARK, VIVARY WAY, COLNE

The Assistant Director, Operational Services reported that discussions were currently taking place with all three contractors that had expressed an interest in quoting to design the proposed Wheel Park at Vivary Way, Colne. Information on initial design and costings would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

16. PROVISION OF LITTER/DOG WASTE BINS

Members were advised that due to wear, damage or a reduced need for the facility, 22 bins had been replaced/removed by Environmental Services in Quarter 4, for the period January 2023 to March 2023.

17. PREMISES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Committee was asked to nominate three Members to the Premises Improvement Grants Panel to consider future applications.

RESOLVED

That Councillors David Albin, Sarah Cockburn-Price and Tom Ormerod be appointed to the Premises Improvement Grants Panel.

REASON

To allow Members to make decisions that support the ongoing regeneration of Colne town centre.

18. COLNE MARKET FORUM

The Committee was asked to consider the appointment of three Members to the Colne Market Forum.

RESOLVED

That Councillors Sarah Cockburn-Price, Kieran McGladdery and Ash Sutcliffe be appointed to the Colne Market Forum.

REASON

To maintain Council membership on the Colne Market Forum in line with the Forum's Terms of Reference.

19. COLNE YOUTH ACTION GROUP

An update was provided on the work and activities of the Colne Youth Action Group (CYAG). This included a progress update on works to the Youth Hub; the Holiday Activities with Food (HAF) programme; and a funding set-back.

A full-time member of staff was due to start on 30th May. An appointment to the senior role was yet to be made.

20. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) 'Concrete balls on Hartley Square'

Members were asked to consider the possible relocation of the stone spheres currently situated on Hartley Square, Colne. It was stated that, during events in the town, the spheres restricted the event space and became a hazard, particularly to children who liked to climb on them.

It was noted that the stone spheres had been gifted to the town by a local businessman. It was understood that there was also a stone plaque in the ground to accompany them.

RESOLVED

That, in consultation with the local businessman who had gifted the stone spheres, the possibility of them being relocated to an equally prominent position within the town be explored.

REASON

To open up the event space at Hartley Square and reduce the potential for accidents.

(b) Future of the light festival

An update was provided on this year's light festival and future plans to grow and develop the programme to include more schools and organisations were reported. These plans included the return of the window walk.

The Committee was thanked for its funding allocation to this year's light festival and asked if it would consider supporting the festival in the future.

Members were happy to consider a bid to the area committee budget at a future meeting of the Committee.

21. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

The following items had been requested by the Committee. Reports would be submitted to a future meeting(s).

- (a) Conservation areas
- (b) Town Boundary Signs

22. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the next items of business when it was likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings or the business to be transacted, that there would be disclosure of exempt information which was likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

23. OUTSTANDING ENFORCEMENTS

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted, for information, a report which gave the up-to-date position on outstanding enforcement cases.

A verbal update was given on a number of cases on the list.

24. ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

The Assistant Director, Operational Services submitted a report which informed Members of the

enforcement action taken during the period between 1st January to 31st March, 2023 within Colne and District and provided annual totals for 2022/23.

25. ABANDONED VEHICLES

The Assistant Director, Operational Services submitted an update on progress on reported abandoned vehicles in Colne and District.

A request was made for the date of when vehicles were first logged to be included in future reports.

CHAIRMAN _____