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COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 12 January 2017 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Joanne Wild - In the Chair

Councillors Jason Atkin, Richard Bright, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Albert Catt, Ann Elliott, Tony Morley, Joyce Pawley, Lewis Rose OBE and Colin Swindell.

Dorcas Bunton (Chief Executive), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration and Policy), Giles Dann (Economic Development Manager), Mike Galsworthy (Estates and Facilities Manager), Keith Postlethwaite (Parks and Street Scene Manager), Ashley Watts (Head of Community Development) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

Chris Thomas – Director, Thomas Lister Ltd

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jennifer Bower, Vicky Massey-Bloodworth, Mike Ratcliffe, Andrew Statham and Philippa Tilbrook. There were no Substitute Members.

314/16 - MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Jason Atkin, seconded by Councillor Colin Swindell and

RESOLVED

(unanimously)

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held on 27 October 2016 be approved as a correct record.

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

315/16 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with the procedure for public participation, Ms Maresa Mellor, Trustee of Whitworth Trust, made a statement on the Whitworth Trust grant with reference to Agenda

Item 13.

316/16 – EMPLOYMENT SITES REGENERATION

Councillor Sue Bull arrived at 6.04pm during discussion of this item.

Mr Chris Thomas, Director of Thomas Lister Ltd, gave a brief presentation on the background to the recommendations made to the Committee, as set out in the accompanying report. Mr Thomas highlighted three potential key employment sites and the consultants' conclusions in respect of each. Mr Thomas then took questions from the floor.

The Committee then considered a report on progress to date with regard to developing the new approach to regeneration approved by Members in October 2016, focusing on District Council involvement in the direct delivery of business workspace and associated infrastructure.

It was noted that evidence from the Derbyshire Dales Business Survey confirmed the need and demand for more high-quality workspace in the district (see report elsewhere on the agenda). Because the market was failing to deliver this employment space, District Council interventions were being developed to speed up the delivery of employment land and workspace, with several options outlined in the report.

The Economic Plan highlighted five key employment sites in the Dales:

- Ashbourne Airfield Industrial Estate
- Cawdor Quarry, Matlock
- Riverside Business Park, Bakewell
- Halldale Quarry, Matlock
- Middleton Road quarry, Wirksworth

Commercial property consultants Thomas Lister Ltd were commissioned to review approaches to delivering new employment floorspace in the Derbyshire Dales and completed their commission in November 2016 - the full report was attached at Appendix 1 and focused on sites in the central Derbyshire Dales (Cawdor Quarry, Halldale Quarry, and Middleton Road). It was noted that Ashbourne Airfield was undergoing separate work, and Bakewell Riverside was, at the time of commission, at an uncertain stage. The report was clear that bringing forward the employment allocations at these sites was of high importance to the economy of the Derbyshire Dales. It recommended that measures were put in place to deliver employment provision to meet market demand – with serviced and remediated sites made available for immediate development, and where possible that an initial phase of speculative development was also progressed to confirm demand.

Possible interventions to provide new workspace were set out in the report, having taken account of approaches undertaken by other local authorities to deliver workspace in rural areas. Proposals to take forward such approaches would therefore be developed and brought to a future meeting of this committee.

Councillor Tony Morley, Member Representative, commented as follows:

“I fully support the officer recommendations 1 to 5. The lack of regeneration sites is a serious constraint to businesses who wish to grow and remain within the Derbyshire Dales. I believe that intervention at this stage could prove to be pivotal in the retention and support of

businesses within the Derbyshire Dales. I do not believe that maintaining the status quo is an option if we are to create numbers of reasonably well paying jobs.

The opportunity for Derbyshire Dales District Council to generate income via business rates growth should not be underestimated and I believe that investment in development sites at this point may well produce a significant payback over time.”

It was moved by Councillor Tony Morley, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. The report ‘Review of Approach to the Delivery of New Employment Floorspace in Derbyshire Dales’ is received and endorsed.
2. The seriously constrained availability of industrial land in the Derbyshire Dales is noted;
3. The consultant’s recommendations with regard to Halldale Quarry, Cawdor Quarry and Middleton Road Wirksworth are noted;
4. Interventions to facilitate the provision of new workspace are brought to Members at a future meeting of the committee for recommendation to Council;
5. Progress with respect to the Ashbourne Airfield Industrial Estate Link Road is noted

317/16 – DERBYSHIRE DALES BUSINESS SURVEY

The Committee considered a report on the results of the Derbyshire Dales Business Survey conducted in Autumn 2016.

At its meeting of 27 October 2016, the Community and Environment Committee considered the Derbyshire Dales Economic Plan. It commissioned work to develop a new approach to regeneration, with a focus on District Council involvement in the direct delivery of workspace and associated infrastructure. In order that demand for workspace could be evidenced, and to gain insight into wider business issues in the Derbyshire Dales, a business survey had been undertaken by M.E.L Research on behalf of the Council. The full report of the Derbyshire Dales Business Survey 2016 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report, with a summary set out in the report, together with conclusions drawn.

It was recognised by Members that the market was failing to deliver the employment space that Derbyshire Dales businesses needed. This Committee had agreed that a proactive approach was required, as recommended in the report.

Councillor Tony Morley, Member Representative, commented as follows:

“I am pleased to support the officer recommendations. The results of the survey confirm the need to encourage growth businesses to remain within the Derbyshire Dales, and the dangers if we do not adopt a proactive stance in supporting and facilitating business growth.

The results of the survey are extremely interesting on a number of levels. The response from the manufacturing sector is encouraging, since this is a sector which tends to create larger numbers of better paid jobs. This encouragement is however qualified because the current lack of expansion space may well lead these businesses to consider re locating elsewhere,

outside the district. I believe that ongoing dialogue with these businesses and support from all departments is crucial to keeping them in the Dales.

I fully support the recommendation that small and medium sized businesses should be targeted. I believe that we are in a good position to assist this segment because of the robust and effective level of business advice and support which is currently available to businesses in the Derbyshire Dales.”

It was moved by Councillor Albert Catt, seconded by Councillor Tony Morley and

- RESOLVED**
(unanimously)
1. The results of the Derbyshire Dales Business Survey October 2016 are noted and used to inform the new approach to regeneration approved by Members in October 2016 focusing on District Council involvement in the direct delivery of workspace and associated infrastructure.
 2. Results are shared with Derbyshire County Council to inform the Digital Derbyshire programme.

318/16 – WHITWORTH TRUST GRANT

The Chairman agreed to bring forward this item to accommodate the speaker.

The Committee considered a proposal to reduce the grant awarded to Whitworth Trust from April 2018 for the maintenance of Whitworth Park.

The Parks and Street Scene Manager drew Members’ attention to a letter received from the Whitworth Trust after publication of the Agenda – this was distributed at the meeting. In light of the contents of this letter, which represented a request for deferral of the repayment plan, the Parks and Street Scene Manager amended Recommendation 2 in his report, as follows:-

“That the Corporate Director be delegated authority to enter into dialogue with the Trust to secure an acceptable repayment plan for repayment of the debt and that if that dialogue fails, a further report be presented to this Committee.”

In 1999 the Whitworth Trust secured Heritage Lottery funding (HLF) for almost £1m for improvement works to its park. As part of the Council’s support of the application it was resolved that the Council would offer a revenue grant for the sum of £18,000 to assist with the resultant annual maintenance costs, and in 2003 the Council entered into a 5-year maintenance agreement with the Trust, which ended in June 2008, though the Council continued to provide services in line with that initial agreement on an informal basis and pending discussions on future provision. However, by 2011 the nature of the works being undertaken on behalf of the Trust had varied significantly from that originally agreed in 2003; thus the Council entered into further negotiations with the Trust, from which a revised schedule of works was agreed.

It was noted that two annual invoices (2012/13 and 2013/14) had remained unpaid, leaving the Trust with an outstanding debt plus a balance of £8,961 for works carried out in 2015/16 not yet invoiced. In July 2016, the newly appointed Manager of the Whitworth Centre contacted the Council’s Chief Executive with a view to discussing repayment of the outstanding debt with the Council. In turn, the Council agreed to review the work that had been carried out on behalf of the Trust over the past 3 years in light of their concerns over reduced standards, and to

provide a revised schedule of works for future maintenance, against which the Trust may obtain competitive quotations. The Manager was also informed that the future of the grant could not be guaranteed and that a review was to be undertaken.

Officers of the Council had completed a review of works carried out since 2012/13 and had agreed to revisions amounting to £5,298.41 in favour of the Whitworth Trust, bringing its outstanding historical debt to £21,493.61 (inclusive of VAT).

The Council's Clean and Green Operations Manager had provided the Trust with a revised maintenance schedule, and the Trust had been assured that it was under no obligation to use this Team to carry out works and that the grant of £18,000 for 2017/18 would be available to them in full. However, Members were aware of the requirement to review all concessionary grants currently offered by the Council to outside bodies and it was considered that the proposal to reduce the level of grant by 10%, year on year for 3 years, following 12 months prior notice, was in keeping with Council's plans to make necessary savings in its grant allocation budget by 2020. It was expected that the grant allocation scheme would be reviewed again in 2019/20, in light of the Council's financial position at that time.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Richard Bright and

- RESOLVED**
1. That the annual reduction of 10% to the grant of £18,000 year on year for 3 years, as outlined in 2.5 is approved, and that this be reviewed further in 2019/20;
 2. That the Corporate Director be delegated authority to enter into dialogue with the Trust to secure an acceptable repayment plan for repayment of the debt and that if that dialogue fails, a further report be presented to this Committee

Voting:

For	9
Against	2
Abstentions	0

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

319/16 – WIRKSWORTH LEARNER POOL GRANT

The Committee considered a proposal to provide the Wirksworth Learner Pool Trust with a grant to enable improvements to the facility.

Early this year, a letter was received from the Learner Pool requesting a one off grant of £4,000 to help with building improvements, specifically to help purchase new windows for the facility. Money to support this could be sourced from the Revenue Grants Unapplied Reserve. Given the current financial challenge the Council is facing, the Learner Pool Trust would be informed that any further funding was unlikely.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Jason Atkin and

- RESOLVED** (unanimously) That the one off payment of £4,000 to Wirksworth Learner Pool Trust for facility improvements be approved.

320/16 – PUBLIC CONVENIENCES STEP REVIEW

Councillor Jason Atkin left the meeting at 7.00pm during discussion of this item.

The Committee considered a report that sought approval to undertake a fundamental review of the remaining 25 public conveniences across the district.

The Chief Executive drew Members' attention to an amendment to Recommendation 5, as follows:

That 'the Corporate Director' be amended to read 'the Head of Corporate Services'.

In 2010/11 a review was undertaken of public conveniences other than the main facilities in Matlock, Bakewell and Ashbourne. These three facilities were outside the scope of the review and subject to investment funded from capital receipts to improve the facilities.

In September 2011, following consultation, Council approved a number of recommendations in respect of individual proposals made for all of the public conveniences, aimed at improving the standard of service to the public and safeguarding the future of many of the facilities by transferring them to an alternative service provider, thereby minimising the number of closures. The proposals fell into four categories:

- Transferring the service provision (in whole or in part) to others such as Parish & Town Councils
- Partnerships with the Private Sector.
- Closing the toilets in the evenings to reduce vandalism.
- Adopting seasonal opening.

Progress on the recommendations had been slow, but in the main, many had been delivered with a few slight variations. The recommendations of the 2011 review were outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, together with an update on the current position, including ongoing associated costs. It was noted that the Public Conveniences Service, whilst popular with some residents and visitors, was a discretionary service and one that could not be sustained at its current level.

A STEP Review had been completed for the public conveniences service and an action plan developed. A copy of the action plan was attached as appendix 2 to the report. Many actions had been agreed within the action plan but the first action was to complete a fundamental review of the service in 2017/18, as outlined in the report. Once this review of facilities was complete, the resources required to service the remaining facilities or options where asset transfers had not been agreed would be determined along with the most appropriate delivery model for the service, and a further report would be brought to this committee early in 2018 to outline the findings and propose a way forward.

It was moved, as amended, by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

RESOLVED (unanimously) 1 That a fundamental review of the remaining 25 public conveniences including Bradwell, Thorpe, Monsal Head and the Pavilion, Matlock Bath be conducted by December 2017.

- 2 That consultation takes place as outlined in paragraph 1.9 of the report to determine the most appropriate course of action for each facility.
- 3 That the grant agreed of £7,000 be secured for the Canoe Club until December 2017 after which time the grant will be withdrawn.
- 4 That a maximum grant of no more than £3,000 be offered in any future asset transfer deals to be funded from the Capital Programme or Invest to Save reserve.
- 5 That the Head of Corporate Services be given delegated authority to agree to an asset transfer in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of this committee.
- 6 That a future report outlining the findings of the review be reported to this committee early in 2018.

321/16 – OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CHARGE FOR REPLACEMENT WASTE CONTAINERS

The Committee considered a report on the outcome of the consultation undertaken in respect of charging for replacement containers/liners and the withdrawal of the annual supply of black bags, and on a number of proposed changes to the service and introduction of new charges.

The Authority had a statutory duty to collect household waste. However, under subsection (1B3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the authority may specify a charge for the provision of containers, and if a customer refused to purchase a bin from the authority they were entitled to purchase their own container as long as it matched the exact requirements of the authority in terms of size, colour and quality standards. If it did not match the requirements the Authority could refuse to empty the bin.

The Council introduced wheeled bins for household waste in 2005 with a life expectancy of 10 years. Over the years a number of replacement bins had been provided for which the council had incurred a cost but in the future there was a risk that a large number of bins would need replacing. The rate of replacement of both 140ltr grey bins and 240l grey bins in the last 3 years and the costs that had been incurred by the District Council were tabled in the report. It was noted that where it was evident that damage was caused to containers by the contractor the resident would be provided with a replacement container free of charge and under the contract these costs would be recovered from the contractor.

In June 2016, the Environment and Community Committee approved a consultation with residents on the subject of charging for replacement bins, as set out in the report. The results of the consultation, together with various recommendations for implementing charges for waste containers, were detailed in the report. It was noted that some charges for containers already existed, as outlined in the report, including those to residents who moved into a newly constructed property or who purchased an existing property where the wheeled bin was missing. It was recommended that if the proposed charge for replacement grey bins were approved, the annual supply of 52 black sacks provided to residents whose properties could

not be accessed by a vehicle with a bin lift or due to steps or storage issues should cease from April 2018. However, one roll of 52 caddy liners would continue to be supplied annually to residents free of charge. This would be reviewed at the same time as the contract renewal.

It was also proposed that there be no concessionary rates for any of the proposed charges for replacement bins. All concessionary rates were to be reviewed by the fees and charges working group in 2017/18, together with a review on the eligibility of the 240ltr bins. However, as it was felt that introducing a charge for blue recycling bins would discourage residents from recycling, it was recommended that no charge proposed, or for the annual supply of 44 compostable garden waste sacks to residents who were unable to use a green bin.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE seconded by Councillor Tony Morley and

RESOLVED

1. That a charge of £20 is introduced for a replacement 140ltr grey bin and £25 for a replacement 240ltr grey bin from 1st April 2017. These charges will also replace the existing charges in the fees and charges for grey bins provided to new properties.
2. That a charge of £25 is introduced to households who exchange their 140ltr grey bin for a 240ltr bin to allow extra capacity from 1st April 2017. No refunds will be issued where capacity criteria is no longer met when a 140ltr bin will be provided free of charge.
3. That a review of existing 240ltr bins is undertaken in 2017/18 to confirm eligibility.
4. That a nominal charge of £15 be introduced for a replacement 240ltr garden waste bin from 1st April 2017
5. That the price of a second 240ltr garden waste bin be reduced from £57.30 to £25.00 from 1st April 2017 and the service promoted
6. That no charge be introduced for replacement blue bins at the present time and reviewed in the future
7. That the annual supply of 52 black sacks ceases from 1st April 2018 and that residents be advised to purchase their own black sacks from any retail outlet
8. That the annual supply of 52 food waste liners and 44 garden waste bags, free of charge continues and is reviewed as part of the new contract.
9. That caddy liners are sold by the District Council and that the current sales price of £2.50 is reduced to £2.00 per roll.
10. That all proposed charges agreed be included in the annual fees and charges and reviewed each year.

Voting:

For	7
Against	3
Abstentions	0

322/16 – WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTION CONTRACT CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

The Committee considered a report on the results of the customer satisfaction surveys undertaken on performance of the Waste and Recycling services in 2016/17.

The Environmental Services Department's service plan target for customer satisfaction on performance of the waste and recycling services was currently set at 91%. The survey results compiled so far showed an overall satisfaction result of 94%; an increase from 93% last year.

The satisfaction levels reported per service had remained relatively constant throughout each survey with customer satisfaction remaining high above 91% for each service as set out in Figure 1 of the report. The survey also showed that participation rates were high, as tabled in figure 2 in the report and it was noted that the average satisfaction rate over the five surveys had increased by 1% to 86%.

It was recommended that members note that the results of the survey showed positive results and high levels of customer satisfaction. The surveys would continue to be carried out twice yearly and future results would be reported to the committee.

It was moved by Councillor Albert Catt, seconded by Councillor Tony Morley and

RESOLVED

(unanimously)

1. That the customer satisfaction results on performance of the contract, achieved in 2014, 2015 and 2016 are noted.
2. That future customer satisfaction results on performance of the services be reported to the Committee in due course.

323/16 – IMPLEMENTATION OF PARKING POLICY 2013 - UPDATE

The Committee considered a report on the progress of implementing the recommendations identified in the Car Parking Review 2013 and approved by the Environment Committee in 2013 and proposed that a further review of the Derbyshire Dales Off-Street Parking Places Order be undertaken during 2017. A summary of those recommendations were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

New pay-and-display machines had been installed at all chargeable car parks, complete with web-based communications network in order that machines may be remotely checked and cash content monitored. Machines were currently 'coin only' but most had been equipped with hardware for 'chip and pin' and 'contactless' card payments.

In respect of the option to make payment by phone or tablet, Members were advised that the procurement process had been deferred by the County Council, and as such the District Council now intended to procure the service in conjunction with Derby City Council and Chesterfield Borough Council. It was anticipated that a contract may be awarded by March 2017 and a live payment system may be in place by May 2017.

In early 2014 the District Council approached the Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living (DCIL) to seek their assistance in carrying out access audits of pay and display car parks and assessment of Blue Badge Bay provision. Surveys were conducted from late 2014 to June 2016, and the summary findings were attached as Appendix 3 to the report, together with the Council's summary responses. In light of the improvements undertaken to date and those currently in progress, most particularly in respect of access to pay stations, it was

recommended that the Council now considered the introduction of charges for Blue Badge Bays, as previously discussed by the Environment Committee in October 2013, hopefully to be implemented on 1st April 2017 depending on the outcome of the consultation. In addition to physical changes to the layout of car parks and pay points, a further allowance in respect of length of stay was to be afforded to blue badge holders, allowing an additional hour beyond the period of paid parking. Furthermore, the District Council currently offered Discount Season Tickets to motorists, together with 3-day and weekly Rover passes, all of which could be adapted to best serve the needs of Blue Badge holders.

It was noted that the Council must follow a special procedure for the making and amending of off-street parking orders, as set out in the report. Following the required consultation, a further report would be brought to this committee outlining the results and making recommendations regarding the implementation of charges for blue badge bays.

The last review of car parking policy was undertaken in 2013 it was therefore recommended that a further review of parking policy be undertaken to look at future options for existing parking tariffs, permits, and the remaining free car parking locations at Cockayne Avenue Ashbourne, Market Place Cromford, Edgefold Road Matlock and Canterbury Road Wirksworth. It was proposed that the Chairman of this Committee would undertake the role of the member representative on the review group. The findings of the review group would be brought forward to a future committee for consideration and implementation by January 2018.

It was noted that following comments received from residents regarding the cost of replacing the parking permit when part way through the year, it was recommended that the charge be reduced to £40 for permits purchased between 1st October and 31st March.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Richard Bright and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

- 1 That the Committee notes the works undertaken in respect of the Pay and Display ticket machine replacement programme, implementation of cashless parking systems and improvements to Blue Badge holders' parking in public car parks and final steps required.
- 2 That charges for Blue Badge parking be introduced from 1st April 2017 as outlined in the report presented to Environment Committee on 10th October 2013.
- 3 That the Derbyshire Dales Off Street Parking Places Order be revised accordingly and the proposed revisions published for a period of statutory consultation. Following statutory consultation a further report outlining formal representations will be brought to this committee recommending a way forward for Blue Badge parking.
- 4 That the annual charge of £60 introduced for a second or replacement resident parking permit be reduced to £40 for permits purchased between 1st October and 31st March for each respective year.
- 5 That a further review of existing parking tariffs, permits and

remaining free car parking locations be undertaken by an Officer/Member review group and that the recommendations of the review be reported to a future meeting of this Committee and implemented by January 2018.

324/16 – MATLOCK BOWLS CLUB GRANT

The Committee considered a proposal to award a further one year grant in 2018/19 when the current grant agreed until 2017/18 expired, to Matlock Bowls Club for the maintenance of the bowling green.

In 2014, the Corporate Committee approved a variation of the existing lease of Hall Leys Park Bowls Pavilion held by Matlock Park Bowls Club to increase the term to 25 years. In varying the lease to include the maintenance of the green a grant was approved to Matlock Park Bowls Club to help them sustain the green for a period of 4 years whilst they pursued other options for funding. A grant was approved as tabled in the report, with a review having been carried out earlier than originally anticipated to tie in with the council review of all grants paid to external organisations.

A meeting was held with the Secretary of the bowls club on 12 December 2016 and whilst the club had been active in attracting grant funding and generating income through advertising local businesses on banners, it was recommended that to ensure that the bowling green could be maintained a further payment of £2,000 be made in 2018/19 in addition to the remaining grant already agreed in 2017/18 as outlined in the table above. Once the grant had been paid in 2018/19 no further grant payments would be made.

It was moved by Councillor Colin Swindell, seconded by Councillor Martin Burfoot and

RESOLVED That Members approve a further one year grant of £2,000 in 2018/19
(unanimously) and then cease to pay any future grant funding to Matlock Bowls Club.

MEETING CLOSED 7.59PM

CHAIRMAN