

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Community & Resources Committee

Committee Room, Riverbank House, Bideford

27 July 2015 – 10am

PRESENT:

Councillor J Whittaker (Chair)

Councillors: D Hurley, J Morrish, A Boyle (substituting for R Lock), A Inch, J Himan, P Christie, C Simmons and S Robinson

ALSO PRESENT:

J Wallace - Head of Paid Service

J Hollis – Senior Solicitor

S Hearse – Strategic Manager (Resources)

V Green – Strategic Manager (Services)

M Clark – Visual Arts Manager

S Kearney – Commercial & Leisure Services Manager

S Cawsey - Democratic Services Officer

Councillor M Langmead

Councillor T Johns

Mr Harper – Non-elected Member

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lock, McGeough, Brenton and Julian.

13. MINUTES

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2015 be signed as a correct record.

(Vote: For 8, Abstentions 1)

ACTION LIST

Councillor Simmons declared a personal interest – dual hatted – Great Torrington Town Council

Councillor Morrish sought assurance from the Head of Paid Service that no public conveniences would be closed in Torrington before November 2015. Members of the public in Torrington had raised concerns that the toilets at the Commons were to close.

The Head of Paid Service confirmed that a consultation, to include Town and Parish Councils, will take place during this financial year and any public conveniences to be transferred to Town and Parish Councils or closed will not take effect until the next financial year. That was the recommendation from the Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee. She also confirmed that no correspondence had as yet been sent from this Authority, but would speak to the Communications Team regarding a press release.

The Action List was noted.

14. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

There were no public contributions.

15. FORWARD PLAN

The Head of Paid Service advised that the AONB have asked for the report regarding the Memorandum of Agreement be represented at the next meeting of this Committee. This item to be included on the Forward Plan.

It was requested by Councillor Christie that "Springfield Day Centre" be added to the Forward Plan for the September meeting.

The Forward Plan was noted.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were made when the specific agenda items to which they related were under discussion.

17. AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARTS I AND PART II

Resolved: That the Agenda as circulated be agreed.

(Vote: For unanimous)

18 URGENT MATTERS OF INFORMATION BROUGHT FORWARD WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

No items were brought forward.

19. FEASIBILITY STUDY BIDEFORD LIBRARY CO-LOCATION TO THE BURTON

The Visual Arts Manager presented the report, the purpose of which was to present to Members the feasibility study on the potential co-location of Bideford Library to the Burton Art Gallery and Museum.

The Visual Arts Manager advised there was a need for more investigative work to be undertaken if a library was required, and that the two Options recommended in the report would need to be explored in more depth.

Members, although supportive of the Scheme in principle, raised a number of concerns which required further discussion and clarification.

The concerns raised included:

- The concerns of neighbours in the area who have not been consulted and have had no input
- Capital Funding and the issues around that ie who and how
- Rental payments for the libraries from Devon County Council
- Site location (public land)
- Timescales
- Use of the old building
- Number of responses received to the Consultation and age range. The Visual Arts Manager agreed to circulate the figures to Members
- Allocation of staff resources
- The mutual being set up with Devon County Libraries

It was suggested that a Task & Finish Group be arranged to discuss further the concerns/issues raised at the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Whittaker, seconded by Councillor Morrish and –

Resolved:

That a Task & Finish Group be set up to discuss the concerns/issues raised at the meeting and to investigate further the funding implications

(Vote: For unanimous)

20. COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Commercial & Leisure Services Manager presented the report, the purpose of which was for Members to consider how the unspent Councillor Community Grants Scheme funds for 2014/15 should be spent.

The Commercial & Leisure Services Manager updated the Committee on the comments received from the Lead Member, Councillor Wiseman.

Full details of the options to be considered by Members for the use of the unspent monies were given.

Following a request by Members, the Commercial & Leisure Services Manager gave a verbal breakdown of those Councillors who had unspent grant monies.

It was proposed by Councillor Christie, seconded by Councillor Robinson that support be given to Option C as detailed in the report.

Following the vote this motion was lost.

It was proposed by Councillor A Inch, seconded by Councillor Morrish and -

Resolved:

That the underspend of £5,498 be divided equally between Members and added to their 2015/16 allocation (£152.72 each)

(Vote: For 5, Against 4)

21. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Hurley, seconded by Councillor Simmons -

That under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act (as amended) the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because of the likely disclosure of exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 and Paragraph 10 of Part 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

PART II (CLOSED SESSION)

22. TORRINGTON PANNIER MARKET & HERITAGE MUSEUM

Councillor Simmons declared a personal interest – dual hatted – Great Torrington Town Council

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the recommendations from Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee were circulated.

The Property Manager presented to Members the recommendations for their consideration and detailed the complexities with regard to the Lease.

Councillor Morrish left the meeting at 11.15am.

It was proposed by Councillor Whittaker, seconded by Councillor Hurley and –

Resolved:

That recommendation bullet point 1 from Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee be agreed and the basis for valuation was determined

(Vote: For unanimous)

23. VARIATION TO CONTRACT TERMS FOR THE VILLAGE SQUARE DISPOSAL WESTWARD HO!

Councillors J Whittaker and J Himan both declared personal interests – dual hatted – Northam Town Council

The Property Manager presented the report, the purpose of which was for Member approval of the variation of the terms of sale for the Village Square Westward Ho!

Following a lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Whittaker and –

Resolved:

That this matter be deferred until the Appeal Decision is known

(Vote: For unanimous)

24. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT NEWTON ROAD, BIDEFORD

The Property Manager presented the report, the purpose of which was for Member approval for the disposal of land at Newton Road, Bideford.

Councillor Boyle left the meeting at 12.05pm

Members discussed the recommendation detailed in the report, together with other options to be considered for the disposal of the land.

It was proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Whittaker that the valuation stated in the recommendation be amended.

Resolved:

That to facilitate the project the land be sold for a peppercorn amount

(Vote: For 3, Against 3, Abstentions 1)

The Chair used her casting vote in support of the motion.

25. APPLIEDORE FISH DOCK

The Head of Paid Service and Property Manager jointly presented this item and gave an update to Members on the ongoing matters relating to the Tenancy of Appledore Fishdock by the Co-Operative.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Christie, seconded by Councillor

Simmons and –

Resolved:

That an agreed course of action was approved by Members

(Vote: For unanimous)

It was proposed by Councillor Hurley, seconded by Councillor Himan and –

Resolved:

That the meeting return to Part I and that any press and public be readmitted.

(Vote: For unanimous)

The meeting commenced at 10am and closed at 12.35pm.

Chair :

Date: