

OUTER WEST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 2ND MARCH, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor M Coulson in the Chair

Councillors A Blackburn, D Blackburn,
A Carter, Mrs A Carter, J Jarosz, R Lewis
and R Wood

38 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents.

39 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion Of The Press And Public

There was no exempt information

40 Late Items

There were no late items. However, there was supplementary information which had been sent to all Members prior to the meeting. Minute no. 46 refers

41 Declaration Of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

No declarations of pecuniary interests were made.

42 Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. T Wilford.

43 Open Forum / Community Forum

There were no members of the public present at the meeting. However the Co-optee to the Committee the Reverend Canon Paul Ayers had asked to address the Community Committee on the resolution passed by the General Synod of the Church of England, of which the Canon Ayers is a member.

The Canon Ayres informed the Committee of the motion moved by the General Synod on 17th February 2016:

(a) welcome the extensive work already undertaken by the Church of England in partnership with others to evaluate the impact of benefits sanctioning and to identify and promote recommendations for the reform of sanctions policy and practice;

(b) call on Her Majesty's Government to implement the recommendations numbered 58-63 inclusive, made in December 2014 by the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry Report into Hunger in the UK Feeding Britain in respect of the use of sanctions upon benefit claimants;

(c) call on Her Majesty's Government to initiate a full independent review of the impact and efficacy of the sanctions and conditionality regime; and

(d) encourage every part of the Church of England to offer practical and pastoral support to those experiencing benefit sanctions, building on the Church's work with food banks, credit unions and debt advice.

The Canon Ayers went on to inform the Committee of the debate that this had caused with people from all over the country giving both analytical evidence and stories of human hardship. Members of Synod are bishops, vicars and lay people from all walks of life, and have direct, first-hand experience on the ground in helping to deal with some of the impact of current policy.

The Community Committee discussed the following issues:

- Universal Credit
- Length of time claimants have to wait
- Assessments of disability claims
- Assistance for both council tenants and tenants in private rented
- Use of Credit Union and food vouchers
- Advice and assistance for those with mental health issues and education learning difficulties

Members requested a co-ordinated report from officers from Housing and Benefits to inform ward councillors how they can assist and take issues forward.

The Community Committee also requested that the Chief Officer (Welfare and Benefits) be invited to attend a future meeting.

44 Minutes of 9th December 2015

It was noted that an amendment be made to minute 37 should read Calverley Rotary Club.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of 9th December 2015 be approved as a correct record.

45 Matters arising

In relation to Minute 37 Cllr. Wood informed the Community Committee that he was receiving names for the 2016 Christmas lunch.

46 Minutes of Environmental Sub Group meeting held on

Members requested information on fly grazing to be reported back to the group before the next meeting of the Environmental Sub Group.

Members discussed issues in relation to gulley cleaning within the Outer West area.

Members were informed that the issue in relation to Dawson's Corner had now been addressed.

Officers to respond directly to Cllr. Lewis to update him on the issues at Crimbles Road garages.

RESOLVED – That the Community Committee noted the minutes of the Environmental Sub Group held on 4th February 2016.

47 Outer West Community Committee Finance Report

The report of the West North West Area Leader informed the Community Committee of the current position of the Wellbeing Fund, Small Grants and skips pot, Youth Activities Fund and the Wellbeing Capital budget.

The Committee was informed that for the Wellbeing Commissioning round for 2016/17, 30 applications had been received for revenue funding totalling £143,565. A full list of the applications was attached at Appendix 2 of the submitted report.

Members had agreed 24 projects listed in Table 4 of the submitted report to be considered by the Community Committee.

Members had attended a General Purposes meeting and reviewed all applications in detail.

Members updated the Committee on some projects that had been funded by the Committee including the Community Orchard.

Members also discussed 2 applications which had been submitted as Supplementary Information and circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

Members were informed that a report is due to go to the Executive Board to discuss the criteria of the Youth Activity Fund.

Members were informed that £1,000 would be available to Community Committees to commemorate World War 1 events.

Clarification on spend was provided to Members on a number of projects listed on Appendix 1 of the submitted report.

RESOLVED – The Committee:

- Noted the current budget position for the revenue Wellbeing Fund for 2015/16 Appendix 1 of the submitted report
- Noted the Small Grants and skips that have been approved since the last meeting at Table 1 of the submitted report
- Noted the current budget position for the Capital Wellbeing Fund for 2015/16

- Noted the current budget position for the Youth Activities Fund for 2015/16 and those projects approved since the last meeting at Table 2 of the submitted report.
- Noted the available Wellbeing budget and Youth Activities Fund for allocation in 2016/17
- Considered and approved the projects listed at Table 4 and 5 from the Wellbeing Budget allocation for 2016/17
- Members also considered and approved the projects listed at Appendix A and B of the submitted supplementary information

48 Community Committee Update Report

The report of the West North West Area Leader updated the Community Committee on the work of the three sub groups of the Committee: Environment, Business, Employment and Skills and General Purposes.

Members were in agreement that the work of the West Neighbourhood Improvement Board needed to keep going forward.

Members were informed that the next themed meeting of the Community Committee would consist of a conversation dinner with local residents from across the Outer West area to discuss their aspirations for the area.

The Committee were informed that there had been an increase in the audience using social media particularly around vacancies and jobs. Members were encouraged to share details and promote the networks to their constituents.

Each of the Community Champions informed the Committee of the work that had been undertaken over the past Municipal year this included:

- Outer West dog fouling project
- Mobile teams to clean up the Outer West area
- Attendance at the Employment and Skills Board
- Engagement meeting at Robin Lane Surgery attended by all partners

RESOLVED – The Committee noted the report including the key outcomes from the sub groups.

49 Dates, Times and Venues of Community Committee Meetings 2016/17

The Report of the City Solicitor requested Members to give consideration to agreeing the proposed Community Committee meeting schedule for the 2016/2017 municipal year.

The proposed meeting schedule for 2016/17 was as follows:

- 15 June 2016 at 1pm
- 28 September 2016 at 6:30pm
- 21 December 2016 at 1pm
- 1 March 2017 at 6:30pm

The Committee had four meetings in the current 2015/16 Municipal year. The Committee met on Wednesday at 1pm for Business Meetings and 6:30pm for Business and Themed Meetings with the themed workshop follow the business meeting.

Members discussed the proposed date in December raising their concerns that due to the commitments of Ward Councillors during December the December meeting in 2015/16 Municipal year had to be rearranged to enable the meeting to be quorate. Members requested that another date be sought in January 2017.

Members were informed that a date for the Election of Chair had yet to be agreed.

RESOLVED - The Members considered the Committee's meeting schedule for the 2016/17 Municipal year as detailed at paragraph 6 of the submitted report the Members agreed the follow dates and times:

- 15 June 2016 at 1pm
- 28 September 2016 at 6:30pm
- 1 March 2017 at 6:30pm

Members requested that a date in January 2017 be sought for the third meeting of the Community Committee.

50 AOB

Members discussed the issue of litter within the Outer West area agreeing that the situation needs addressing.

Members were requested to email the Chair with specific areas that require the services of a litter picker.