

POLICY COMMITTEE

18th August 2014

Present – The Chairman (Councillor Knowles-Fitton) and Councillors Barrett, Beck, English, Foster, Harbron, Heseltine, Kerwin-Davey, Lis, Moorby, Myers, Quinn (substitute for Place), Sutcliffe and Turner.

Officers – Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Corporate Legal Advisor, VFM and Improvement Manager, Assets and Projects Manager and Committee Officer.

Also in attendance: Councillors Barrington, Brockbank, Ireton and Roberts.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Place.

Start: 6:30pm

Finish: 7.42pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 22nd July 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Minutes for Report

POL.614

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. Bentham : The Committee heard from Town Councillor Thomas Marshall (on behalf of Bentham Town Council), and Messrs Mark Paige of the Bentham Traders Association and Peter Lennard, resident of Bentham regarding the proposed introduction of car parking charges in High Bentham. In addressing the Committee the above spokespersons highlighted the reasons why charging had not been introduced in 2013 and expressed concern at the potential negative impact charging may have on residents, the community and retailers. The point was also made that they considered an adequate level of consultation had not been carried out.

b. Cross Hills : The Committee also heard from Parish Councillor Phil Baker (on behalf of Glusburn and Cross Hills Parish Council), Terri Debney-Succoia of the South Craven Together group and the Chairman of Cononley Parish Council, Lois Brown. In addressing the Committee the spokespersons stated that the Parish Council remained opposed to the introduction of charging for the reasons given in 2012/13 when the introduction of charging had been rejected by Craven District Council, and questioned the value of the limited survey data quoted in the report presented. They also highlighted the importance of Cross Hills as a service centre for neighbouring parishes and expressed the belief that the introduction of charging would have a detrimental effect on traders in Cross Hills, and reverse grow the experienced since the decision was taken not to introduce charges in 2013. A petition opposed to charging had attracted 1,398 signatures. Consultation and an opportunity to work with the Council to identify an alternative solution would be welcomed.

Copies of a survey of local traders was circulated to Members.

POL.615

CAR PARKING CHARGES – BENTHAM, CROSS HILLS AND GARGRAVE

Further to Minutes POL.483/12-13 and POL.610/14-15, the Director of Services submitted reports seeking approval to the introduction of charging on a number of the Council's car parks in Bentham,

Cross Hills, and Gargrave with a view to improving traffic management within the village centres and ensuring the provision of sustainable parking provision. The car parks in question were located as follows:-

- a. Cross Hills - Hall Street and Milligans Field car parks.
- b. Gargrave - North Street and West Street car parks.
- c. Bentham - Grasmere Drive car park.

During the course of the ensuing discussion in relation to the proposed introduction of charging in Cross Hills concerns were raised that consultation had not been carried out with the local community in accordance with statements within the Council's adopted Parking Strategy for the period 2014/19. It was therefore moved and

Resolved – That the proposed introduction of charging on this Council's car parks in High Bentham, Cross Hills and Gargrave is referred for further consideration and consultation by the Select Committee.

(Councillor Myers declared an interest under Appendix A of the Code of Conduct in relation to the proposed introduction of parking charges in Gargrave and indicated that he would leave the room at that point in the Committee's deliberations.)

Minutes for Decision

POL.616

SKIPTON TOWN HALL

Further to Minute POL.508/12-13, the Director of Services submitted a report (a) updating the Committee on the progress of works and proposals for the refurbishment of Skipton Town Hall, and (b) requesting a supplementary capital estimate to fund delivery of the next phase of the business plan, namely the formation of commercial letting units to the front of the building and utility works, and a supplementary revenue estimate to resource preparation of an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a new museum, heritage, community and entertainment venue.

If approved the supplementary capital estimate in the sum of £773,600 would be funded from a combination of borrowing and the New Homes Bonus and would be required. It was estimated that undertaking the capital works would facilitate annual revenue budget savings in the sum of £90,000 by the end of March 2016.

Resolved – (1) That progress made to date with refurbishment and redevelopment works at Skipton Town Hall is noted.

(2) That a supplementary revenue estimate in the sum of £25,000 to resource preparation of an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a new museum, heritage, community and entertainment venue at Skipton Town Hall is approved.

RECOMMENDED (3) That a supplementary capital estimate in the sum of £773,900 to fund the formation of commercial letting units to the front of Skipton Town Hall in accordance with the agreed business plan is approved.

(Councillors English, Harbron and Heseltine declared interests in the above matter as Members of Skipton Town Council.)

Chairman