

PENNINES TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday, 12th June 2019

PRESENT: Councillor Mir (in the Chair); Councillors: Bamford, Besford, Blundell, Davidson, Dearnley, Hartley, Hussain, Paolucci and Taylor.

OFFICERS: T. Knight, C. Woods (Neighbourhoods Directorate), A. Eadie (Economy Directorate) and P. Thompson (resources Directorate).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: C. Davies (Metro Moneywise) and three members of the public.

APOLOGIES

1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Emsley and Kelly.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2 There were no declarations of interests.

OPEN FORUM

3 The following issues were raised in the Committee's Open Forum session:

a. Metro Moneywise

The Committee received a presentation from a representative of Metro Moneywise, Mrs. C. Davies, on Metro Moneywise including its association with Rochdale Borough Council, outlining its benefits and key services.

A Member suggested that the Council investigate the possibility of the Council working together with Metro Moneywise Credit Union to develop a borough-wide Credit Union.

Decided:

The work of the Metro Moneywise Credit Union be commended by the Committee and the presentation be noted and welcomed.

b. Lane Bank Road, Littlebrough

The Committee was informed of a written question, received in advance of the meeting from Mr. B. Cropper, requesting that the double yellow lines at Lane bank Road, Littleborough, be repainted. The Council's Highways Service had responded, in writing, to Mr. Cropper's question, advising that this work had been included in their 'Relining programme'.

c. Bee-Hives

Councillor Blundell requested that the Committee consider the introduction of bee-friendly environmental measures across Pennines Township.

MINUTES

4 Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of Pennines Township Committee, held 19th March 2019, be approved as a correct record.

PROPOSED NEW SITE OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

5 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Economy which advised that Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) were local planning designations covering areas of nature conservation importance in Greater Manchester, containing locally valuable habitats, plants and animals. Whilst these were not statutory designations, like Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) or Conservation Areas, and therefore did not provide legal protection, they could be taken into consideration when determining planning applications which may affect the areas and the nature conservation interest.

To not support the proposed SBI could leave this locally important area of habitat more vulnerable to damage from development in the area or nearby

New SBIs and changes to existing SBIs were recommended on an annual basis by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and thus were reported to the relevant Township Committee in order that they may be adopted for planning purposes.

The latest review which GMEU had undertaken was recommending that a new SBI be designated at Shaw Moss, to the east of Wildhouse Lane and south of Hollingworth Lake (outlined on the map at the end of the submitted report). The reason for this proposal was because the site supported breeding bird populations, including lapwing, mallard and swallows and several other UK Biodiversity Priority Species. The site would be three hectares in size and was comprised of mainly marshland and grassland.

Alternatives considered:

The alternative would be not to support the proposed SBI, which would leave this locally important area of habitat more vulnerable to damage from development in the area or nearby

Resolved:

The Committee approves the new SBI, as outlined in the submitted report, so that the nature conservation interest of the area can be taken into account when planning applications which may affect that interest are being considered.

Reasons for the decision:

National Planning Policy Framework states that planning decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by, amongst other things, protecting and enhancing valued sites of biodiversity value. The areas in question had been identified by experts as being of local biodiversity value and the Council should thus try and protect this value by taking it into account in planning decisions.

Eligible for Call-in: Yes

OBJECTIONS TO TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - HOLLINGWORTH ROAD AND CANAL STREET, LITTLEBOROUGH

6 The Township Committee considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods which described a request that had been received for the Council to investigate the introduction of parking restrictions along Hollingworth Road. Members of the public had reported issues of obstructive parking along the route. The parking activity was associated with members of the public visiting the lake and it was reported that during busy periods parking occurs on both sides of the Hollingworth Road. This affected both traffic and pedestrians.

A scheme detailing new parking restrictions had been drafted and approved by local members. The restrictions were then formally promoted and during the consultation period the Council had received two letters of objection.

In general, the objectors reported that the restrictions will unnecessarily reduce the number of available on-street parking spaces for visitors accessing the lake and request that the Council first look to increase the number of off-street spaces available for visitors.

The Committee had received a written question on this matter from Mr. Cropper, asking if there was an option for this proposed traffic Regulation Order to include: 'no waiting at any time' restrictions. The Highway Officer informed the Committee that he had replied in writing to Mr. Cropper, advising him that this was not an option available for consideration.

An objector was present at the meeting and with the permission of the Chair she addressed the Committee to amplify these concerns.

The report outlined the reason for the proposal, the objections received and the responses to the objections.

Alternatives considered:

The Committee could consider recommending that the proposal be amended or abandoned.

Resolved:

1. The Traffic Regulation Order, Borough of Rochdale ((Civil Enforcement of Traffic Contraventions) (Various Streets) (Pennines Township) Order 2008) (Amendment) (No.71) Order be implemented as advertised
2. The Director of Neighbourhoods be requested to submit a report to a future meeting of Pennines Township Committee that reviews the provision of parking for buses and coaches in the vicinity of Hollingworth Lake and which also reviews the car parking tariffs

Reasons for the decision:

The Director of Neighbourhoods reported that a request was received from Littleborough Lakeside Ward Members to review the existing restrictions on Hollingworth Road with a view to addressing issues of indiscriminate parking.

An approved commissioning form has been received from Rochdale Township for the Council to promote new restrictions.

Hollingworth Road is classified as the B 6225 and extends from Hollingworth Lake to Littleborough Town Centre. The road is one of two access routes to Hollingworth Lake, the areas main major tourist attraction. The road is also a bus route and the alternative route for high vehicles avoiding the low bridge in Littleborough. It forms part of the Council's strategic route network.

There were existing restrictions in place at the southern end of the road in the form of double yellow lines on the west side and a single yellow line on the east side. These extend to a point approximately 200 metres north of Lake Bank. The single yellow line restricts parking on weekends and bank holidays between Noon and 8pm. There are no further restrictions except towards the northern end of the route.

It was reported that visitors to the lake are parking to the north of the restrictions, often in a double parked arrangement, despite spaces being available within the dedicated car park located on the west side near to Lake Bank. Vehicles also park wholly or partially on the footway and on the single yellow line outside of the operational times.

Eligible for Call-in: Yes.

PENNINES TOWNSHIP FUNDS REVIEW

7 The Township Committee considered a report which presented a review of the Township revenue and capital expenditure during 2018/19 and provided options for the allocation of funds for 2019/20.

Members were also requested to consider the Pennines Township Funds terms and conditions and to agree delegation arrangements concerning funding decisions.

Alternatives Considered:

The Committee could decide whether or not to approve the allocation of funds to funding streams and adopt the terms and conditions.

Resolved:

1. That the expenditure, commitments and balances for Pennines Township revenue and capital funds at financial year end 2018/19 be noted.
2. That the findings of the review of Township Funds 2018/19 and evaluations received to date for some of the projects funded be noted.
3. That the allocation of Pennines Township Funds to funding streams in 2019/20 be approved.
4. That the terms and conditions for Pennines Township revenue and capital funds for 2019/20, be approved;
5. That the delegation arrangements for Pennines Township Funds 2019/20 as detailed in the report be approved;
6. The Committee agrees that any uncommitted/unspent funds be reallocated to a central revenue or capital funding stream as appropriate

before the end of January 2020, to enable members to spend/commit all Pennines Township Funds during the 2019/2020 financial year.

Reasons for the Decisions:

Management of the Pennines Township Fund is delegated to the Pennines Delegated and Funding Sub-Committee. Pennines Township Funds were allocated to projects that benefit the Township's community and environment, and which realised the Township's priorities.

Eligible for Call-in: Yes

PENNINES TOWNSHIP DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS 2019/20

8 The Township Committee considered a report of the Director of Resources which asked the Township Committee to confirm its delegated decision making arrangements for the 2019/20 Municipal Year and to appoint Members to agreed roles including the Chairs, Vice Chairs and substitute members; and the appointment to other Township Bodies and outside bodies.

Alternatives considered:

The Township Committee could choose not to appoint to sub-committees and undertake all delegated functions themselves, but that this may have a detrimental impact on the ability to progress Township priorities or deal with urgent items of business.

Resolved:

1. That the Sub-Committee structure of the Pennines Township Committee be confirmed comprising of the Pennines Delegated and Funding Sub-Committee, established in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved;
2. That all Members of the Pennines Township Committee be appointed to the Pennines Township Delegated and Funding Sub-Committee and with the Chair being Councillor Mir and the Vice Chair Councillor Besford;
3. That the Regeneration and Facilities Service Group and Highways and Environmental Management Service Group be retained and all Members of the Township Committee be appointed to each;
4. The relevant Ward Councillors be appointed to the following Ward Area Forum's:
 - a) Milnrow, Newhey and Firgrove Area Forum;
 - b) Littleborough and Wardle Community Meeting;
6. Councillors Bamford, Davidson, Kelly and Besford be appointed to the Ellenroad Trust Limited;
7. That Councillor Hartley be appointed to the Moorend Trust Management Committee;
8. That Councillors Bamford, Besford, Blundell, Dearnley, Emsley, Hartley, Kelly, Paolucci, be appointed to the Pennines Township Planning Panel;
9. That Councillor Dearnley be appointed as the Pennines Township Older Person's Champion;

10. That Councillor Davidson be appointed at the Pennines Township Highways Champion;

Reasons for the decision:

The recommendations were presented as the Council has established and appointed Township Committees to undertake certain executive and non-executive powers, as set out in the Responsibility for Council Functions in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution. In addition the Township's Sub-Committee exercises either delegated powers or acts on any matter detailed in the Committee's Terms of Reference on which it is essential to take a decision. Appointments to the Sub-Committee are made, as far as is possible, in accordance with the Township Committee's political balance. The proper appointment of Sub-Committees is required to permit the undertaking of delegated functions in accordance with statutory and procedural requirements, and appointments to Working Groups and Other Bodies are required to enable the Township Committee to undertake and to respond to the full range of issues relevant to the Township.

Eligible for Call-in: No.