

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Barrow held on Wednesday, 11 May 2022 at 10.30 am at Community Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG

PRESENT:

Mr KR Hamilton (Chair)

Mrs A Burns	Mr B Shirley
Mr F Cassidy	Mrs H Wall
Mr D English	Mr S Wielkopolski
Mr D Gawne	Mr MH Worth
Mr W McEwan (Vice-Chair)	Mr R Worthington

Also in Attendance:-

Ms E Dobson	-	Community Development Assistant
Mr M Dooz	-	Traffic Manager Team Leader (Barrow)
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	-	Area Manager - Barrow
Mrs A Meadows	-	Community Development Officer
Mr K Tetchner	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager
Ms S Tiribocchi	-	Community Development Officer

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED, that Mr K Hamilton be appointed Chair of the Local Committee for the ensuing year.

Mr Hamilton thereupon took the Chair.

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED, that Mr W McEwan be appointed Vice-Chair of the Local Committee for the ensuing year.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs L Graham and Ms M Pearce.

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made on this occasion.

5 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item of business.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions, statements or petitions relating to the business of the Committee on this occasion.

7 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

8 ADDITIONAL POTHOLE FUNDING 2022/23 OPTIONS FOR ALLOCATION

The Committee considered a detailed report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed a number of options for allocating the additional £200,000 pothole funding received by each local committee which was in addition to the original allocation agreed a full Council in February of this year.

A detailed discussion took place regarding the options available and a previous proposal which had been considered by the Local Committee to purchase their own Pothole Pro machine. Members discussed the future maintenance and training costs associated with the purchase and were informed that following the imminent changes in local government in Cumbria this would become a Cumbria Highway and not a Barrow Local Committee asset. On considering this matter members agreed that they would not pursue the purchase of the equipment on this occasion.

Members were informed one of the two machines which had been purchased centrally by the County Council would be allocated specifically to the South Lakeland and Barrow areas. A discussion took place regarding priority of works to be undertaken and it was explained this was based on a number of factors including the priority assessed system, site inspections, insurance claims and HIAMS information, highlighting that ultimately highway officers scored and prioritised works to be undertaken.

The Committee was informed that due to the high number of defects patching had been undertaken in the Hindpool and Ormsgill divisions and would continue in all other areas.

The local Member for Hindpool welcomed the work which had been undertaken and asked that future consideration also be given to the back streets.

The local Member for Dalton North asked consideration be given to Silver Street, Marton being added to the list of schemes.

A discussion took place regarding prevention measures and members were informed that surface dressing had recently been undertaken in the Barrow area noting that, in most cases, this added approximately 10-15 years onto the life of a road. The Local Area Highways Network Manager also confirmed that any repairs undertaken by utility companies as part of a scheme they were undertaking were inspected by County Council officers upon completion with any action taken as necessary.

During the course of discussion the Local Highways Network Manager confirmed that the reference to 'rural' did not include Dalton.

Following a detailed discussion it was

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the additional £200,000 pothole funding be allocated as follows:-
 - (a) £100,000 for Nuphalt Thermal and Velocity Spray Patching schemes;
 - (b) £100,000 on Patching and Resurfacing scheme;
- (2) the Local Area Highways Network Manager determine the locations of schemes and inform members accordingly.

9 BARROW HIGHWAYS ADVISORY SUB-GROUP

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which gave details of the discussion and recommendations of the Highways Advisory Sub-Group for the Barrow area which met on 14 April 2002.

The local Member for Dalton North raised a query regarding the £0 Draft Budget allocations on a number of schemes and the Local Area Highways Network Manager confirmed the schemes were surface dressing related and were allocated from the overall Barrow Surface Dressing budget.

The local Member for Hindpool raised her concerns regarding the lack of responses regarding speeding traffic on Greengate Street (minute 43 refers) and traffic issues on Barrow Island (minute 49(1) refers) and it was agreed this would be investigated.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2022 be noted.

10 BARROW AREA PLANNING REPORT

Members considered a detailed and positive report by the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which detailed information from across the Community teams including Community Development, Archives and libraries, and provided an update on work and agreed activity since the last meeting of the Committee.

The Committee received details of a successful consultation undertaken by Barnardo's Cumbria in 2017 noting a public commitment had been made to undertake a follow-up consultation 4 years' later. Members were informed that Barnardo's were now approaching each County Council Local Committee for funding of £5,000 to support the engagement, collation and strategic responses. It was explained that a follow-up report would be produced which would give the Cumbria-wide data with a specific focus on each District with a deeper dive into the worry statements received from participants and would be available to members.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the additional one-off funding which had been agreed at full County Council 'to support environmental improvements for enhanced verge maintenance, tree maintenance and replacement, and footpath maintenance.' Members had held a series of discussions to explore potential schemes (as detailed in the report) which they wished to use the funding to support.

The Committee was informed that if members agreed to the schemes and the indicative costs this would be a total of £184,000 committed from the Environment Fund, therefore, leaving £16,000 to be used as contingency funding for additional projects or, if required, additional funding for the project.

The local Member for Walney North thanked Mark Hammond for the work undertaken on the footpaths around Cows Tarn Lane. Members were informed that the vegetation on the link path between the two main footpaths remained overgrown and asked the Local Committee to consider allocating an additional £3,749 from the Environment Fund to clear this section. Whilst the Local Committee agreed to the allocation they highlighted that future maintenance costs of public footways should be investigated from other sources.

The local Member for Dalton North asked that the Committee consider the possibility of allocating funds from the Environment Fund for the footpath at Saves Lane to the top of Ireleth Road and it was agreed the Area Manager would investigate this matter and report back.

The local Member for Dalton North raised a concern regarding the poor state of repair of the Police Pod building in Askam; highlighting the significant benefit this was for the community. Members were informed that various organisations were proposing to allocate £500 towards repairs and asked the Local Committee to consider match funding this amount.

Members were asked to consider funding £5,000 towards staffing at Walney Community Trust to enable the work being carried out to support the community to continue, whilst longer term funding was being sought. The Committee was asked to confirm they agreed that the Area Manager, under delegated powers, agree the £5,000 allocation to provide this support.

The Committee was informed of school crossing patrol vacancies at St Paul's C of E Junior School and South Walney Infant and Nursery School and welcomed support from members to fill those posts.

The Committee received an update on the Community COVID Recovery Group which continued to meeting regularly and included the Community Resource Distribution Points (CRDP) (3 x food hubs – Barrow Island, Spring Mount and Dalton) and wider partners such as ICC, Age UK, Barrow Foodbank, Family Action and the Barrow Advice Hub. It was explained that the key issues now were to support people on matters which were identified through the Group who were working at the frontline in their communities.

Members were updated on the Young People's Multi-Agency Partnership Programme and noted that providers had been invited to participate in an event following which a locality Working Group would be established with additional partners. Officers explained that the response from providers had been encouraging with a desire to undertake a collaborative approach to this initiative.

The Committee welcomed the positive update on the range of service delivery which continued at Ormsgill Community Centre including Adult Community Skills & Learning, Family Action, Health, Drop Zone, library service and the post office service.

The Chair, on behalf of the Local Committee, asked that their thanks and appreciated be conveyed to the Community Team for the significant amount of positive work undertaken.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the request for £5,000 funding from Barnardo's to undertake a consultation in 2022 on 'What it is like being a child living in Cumbria' (as outlined in paragraphs 4.47-4.56 of the report) be agreed;
- (3) the proposed project spend against the Environment Fund (as detailed in paragraphs 4.66-69 of the report) be agreed;

- (4) £3,749 be allocated from the Environment Fund to maintain the link path at Cows Tarn Lane (as detailed above);
- (5) £500 be allocated from the General Provisions budget to undertake repairs at the Police Pod, Askam on the proviso that this was match-funded by other agencies;
- (6) the Area Manager, under delegated powers, agree that £5,000 be allocated to the Walney Community Trust (as outlined in paragraph 4.70 of the report).

11 HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which provided an update on the work of the Public Health Locality Manager (PHLM) to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for communities. Members received detailed information regarding Barrow Health and Wellbeing Partnership, Morecambe Bay Flourish Programme, Community Public Access Defibrillators (CPADS) and Furness General Hospital (FGH) Inreach.

Members received an update on the FGH Inreach, an extremely successful pilot exercise undertaken four years ago relating to people attending A&E departments for alcohol-related reasons, comprising of assertive inreach at FGH by The Well. The Committee was informed this had reduced presentations at A&E, reduced hospital admissions and increased people accessing support services in the community but noted that funding was temporary and the programme had ended.

The Committee was informed that over recent months, as the pressures of COVID have reduced, the PHLM had been working with colleagues, including FGH and The Well in an attempt to reinstate this valuable project back in FGH. It was explained that a potential window of opportunity had been identified by the PHLM, which had enabled the development of a specification which met the identified need. Members noted that as a result, the PHLM was preparing a funding bid which supported the use of a whole person recovery approach, which addressed barriers to accessing support, caused by social isolation and stigma and the Committee would be kept updated of any progress.

Members received an explanation regarding the CPADS (cabinets located on the outside wall of a building containing a defibrillator, sometimes known as an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)); a small electronic device designed to allow minimally trained people to provide lifesaving defibrillation (electric shock to the heart) to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. Further information would be made available at the next Informal meeting of the Local Committee.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

12 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES

It was noted there were no updates from members serving on outside bodies on this occasion.

The local Member for Dalton North asked for the Joint Rural Committee to be re-established.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Tuesday 5 July 2022 at 10.30 am in the Community Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG.

The meeting ended at 12.05 pm