

Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee

Minutes

Thursday, 06 December 2018 at 18:30

Councillor Grant (in the Chair); Councillors Bird, Carpenter, Drewitt, Flaxman-Taylor, Hacon, Hammond, Martin, Smith-Clare, Wainwright, C Walker & Williamson.

Also in attendance at the above meeting were:

Mr N Shaw (Strategic Director), Mrs K Watts (Strategic Director), Ms K Sly (Finance Director), Mr T Chaplin (Interim Head of Housing), Mr D Addy (Senior Housing Licensing Officer), Ms C Sullivan (Project Manager), Mrs S Bolan (Enabling & Empty Homes Officer), Mrs S Amiss (Active Norfolk), Ms D Lee (HRA Service Accountant) and Mr S Ellwood (Interim Democratic Services Manager).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bird and Hammond declared a personal interest in the item relating to Reducing Empty Homes and Selective Licensing as they were both private landlords.

Councillor G Carpenter declared a personal interest in the item relating to the Borough Sports and Activity Survey as an outside body representative on Active Great Yarmouth.

Councillor Smith-Clare declared a personal interest in the item relating to the Borough Sports and Activity Survey as he was project development manager at Great Yarmouth Football Club.

Councillor Grant subsequently declared a personal interest in the item relating to Wellesley Recreation Ground Options as he was a member of the Great Yarmouth Sports and Leisure Trust

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 October were confirmed.

4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee received and considered the Forward Plan.

RESOLVED :

That the Committee note the Forward Plan.

6 WELLESLEY FEASIBILITY OPTIONS

The Strategic Director (KW) introduced a report on the shortlisted options for the Wellesley Recreation Ground site asking Members to consider these options and to recommend which option should be further developed into a detailed feasibility study and business case to be considered by this committee at a future date.

The Strategic Director (KW) then answered a number of queries by Members. about encouraging participation, funding (and income) and the introduction of a BMX track.

RESOLVED :

That Option 2a contained in the report, the 9v9 floodlit artificial 3G pitch, refurbished tennis pavilion, refurbished ticket office, resurfaced athletics track and refurbished football stand changing rooms has the smallest gap to close in relation to future funding and be the option to be developed. Further that this option to also include the introduction of a BMX track.

7 SELECTIVE LICENSING CONDITIONS REPORT

The Committee considered a report from the Senior Housing Licensing Officer on the proposed Selective Licensing conditions for the Designated Selective Licensing Scheme within the Nelson Ward.

It was hoped that responsible landlords would not pass on any costs of the scheme onto tenants.

RESOLVED :

That the Selective Licence conditions for the Designated Selective Licensing Scheme which starts on 7th January 2019 as appended to the report be approved.

8 GREAT YARMOUTH BOROUGH SPORTS AND ACTIVITY SURVEY - UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

The Strategic Director (KW) introduced a report requesting members to consider high level priorities in relation to revising the current Sports and Leisure Strategy for Great Yarmouth. The priorities have been developed taking into account the results of the participation survey, in addition to local data sets in relation to demographics, health and social outcomes.

In approving these priorities members noted that the following work will continue with Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Active Norfolk :

- Develop a set of delivery action plans to support the approved priorities
- Use the data to refresh the existing Sports and Leisure Strategy 2014-2029

Shelley Ames (Active Norfolk) provided a presentation to Committee on physical activity in Great Yarmouth.

Following discussion it was agreed that further demographic information would be circulated to members.

RESOLVED :

(1) That the high level priorities, which have been developed taking into account the results of the participation survey, in addition to local data sets in relation to demographics, health and social outcomes in relation to revising the current Sports and Leisure Strategy for Great Yarmouth be approved.

(2) That in approving these priorities members note that the following work will continue with Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Active Norfolk :

- Develop a set of delivery action plans to support the approved priorities
- Use the data to refresh the existing Sports and Leisure Strategy 2014-2029.

9 REDUCING EMPTY HOMES

The Strategic Director (NS) submitted a report requesting approval to the adoption of an Empty Homes Policy which included a suite of options for homeowners. The Council would be adopting an interventionist role rather than leaving it to market forces to reduce the number of empty homes.

The Enabling and Empty Homes Officer then gave a presentation on the number of empty properties, current activity and further details of the suggested approaches.

RESOLVED :

- (1) That the council progresses the i) loan and ii) invest and lease approaches outlined in the report to bring more empty homes back into use.
- (2) That the Empty Homes policy as contained in the report be approved.
- (3) That nplaw be instructed to provide written advice on the establishment of a property management company to hold rental properties.
- (4) That a further report on the purchase and repair scheme be submitted in due course.
- (5) That delegated authority be given to Strategic Directors to approve individual loans, property purchases and leases to bring more empty homes back into usage as outlined in the Empty Homes policy.
- (6) That the existing Empty Homes capital budget be used to deliver the loan and lease schemes as contained in the report.
- (7) That a further report is brought back to Committee in six months time to update members on the take up of the projects and capital spend.

10 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY AND POLICY

The Strategic Director (KW) submitted a report outlining a new Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and Policy Document.

During consideration of this item the Strategic Director (KW) undertook to :

- investigate existing Public Space Protection Orders
- report back on how environmental complaints are dealt with out of hours

The column on Status contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour Work Plan for 2018/19 to be changed to outcomes.

RESOLVED :

(1) That the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and Policy Documents as appended to the report be approved.

(2) That the content of the action plan and performance measures, which will be reviewed by the Council's Enforcement Group and updated on an annual basis, as attached to the report be noted.

11 2018/19 PERIOD 6 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Housing Revenues Account Service Accountant submitted a report on the 2018/19 housing revenue budget monitoring position as at the end of period 6.

Members expressed concerns that target spends would not be achieved, particularly on the improvement programme to windows and doors.

RESOLVED :

That the 2018/19 housing revenue budget monitoring position as at the end of period 6 and the full forecast budgets for 2018/19 as contained in the report be noted.

12 HOUSING & NEIGHBOURHOODS PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2 2018-19

The Interim Deputy Head of Housing submitted a report providing key performance data from the Housing Department for Quarter 2 of 2018/19.

Members expressed concern over the lack of Occupational Therapists available in Great Yarmouth and requested information on numbers working in Great Yarmouth compared with other areas.

RESOLVED :

That the report be noted.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business to be considered at the meeting.

14 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED :

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in

paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12(A) of the said Act.

15 GYN MINUTES

The confidential minutes of the GYN Partnership Liaison Board dated 26th July 2018 were noted.

The meeting ended at: 20:10