

AT A MEETING of the CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Thursday, 8 May 2014.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Elaine Still

Vice-Chairman:
p Councillor Frank Pearce

Councillors:

p Phil Bailey	p Fiona Mather
p Peter Chegwyn	p Patricia Stallard
p Shaun Cully	p Alan Rice
p Brian Gurden	p Tim Rolt
p Rob Humby	p John Wall
a Mark Kemp-Gee	p Chris Wood
p Peter Latham (substitute Member)	

Also in attendance:

Councillor Keith Chapman – Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside

44. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee. It was noted that Councillor Peter Latham was in attendance as the appointed substitute for the Conservative Group.

Councillor Jonathan Glen – Chairman of Policy and Resources Select Committee, who has a standing invitation to attend also sent his apologies as he was engaged in Council business.

45. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting, they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in

Items to be actioned on the Committee's work programme:

accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore, Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

46. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee, held on 20 January 2014, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

47. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced an additional meeting in early September to give the Select Committee the opportunity to pre-scrutinise the outcome of a consultation. Members heard that the consultation on proposals to re-provision three small libraries, (Grayscott, Kingsclere and Milford-on-Sea), and to reduce the number of underused stops in the mobile library service to make it more efficient had finished on Friday 2 May and that so far there had been 300 responses. In regard to the three libraries included in the consultation, the Committee heard that there was some potential for them to be run as community libraries. It was noted that the consultation results would be analysed and recommendations considered by the Select Committee in September prior to a final decision being taken by the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside later that month.

The Chairman highlighted the "Artists Rifles" exhibition, which had launched at Southampton City Art Gallery. It was explained that this was part of Hampshire's Big Theme and that visitors were being treated to an impressive range of magnificent works by some of Britain's finest artists. Many of these works will tour on after Southampton, when the exhibition moves to the Willis Museum in Basingstoke, and then Gosport Gallery at the end of the year.

An important Milestone for the outdoor service was reported as the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside had recently marked the re-opening of the Hampshire and Cass Foundation Mountain Centre in the Brecon Beacons. This five year joint funding partnership sees the Sir John Cass's Foundation contributing 50 percent of the running costs to support access by its inner London schools and also use for teacher training by the University of East London. This partnership will see core use by Hampshire schools supported by new and wider groups utilising this great facility.

48. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received.

49. **SCRUTINY ITEM:**
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION SERVICE – TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Committee received a report from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, item 6 in the Minute Book.

It was noted that this was separate from the on going consultation process for which decisions would be taken by the Executive Member later in the year. The long term requirement to develop a sustainable future direction for the Library Service. The review that was proposed was to give the Select Committee the opportunity the fully participate in the development of this future vision.

It was agreed that the review should be wide ranging and include consideration of best practice elsewhere, with the objective of being able to contribute to the design of a future strategy for Hampshire. It was anticipated that the review would conclude by February 2014.

In consideration of the proposed Terms of Reference, it was explained that as the Task and Finish Group was informal, it was possible, but not necessary that it be formed on a proportional basis. It was proposed and agreed that the Terms of Reference be amended in order that this be on a “cross Party basis” in order that all four political Groups represented on the Select Committee be included. In order to align the proposed Group with the County Council’s Constitution, it was also proposed and agreed that it be known as a “Task and Finish Working Group” (TFWG).

It was proposed and agreed that the TFWG consist of six Members, comprising: three Conservatives, one Liberal Democrat, one UKIP and one Labour Member. It was clarified that non Committee Members could be appointed to fill these positions by the Committee, in a non-voting capacity.

RESOLVED:

The Culture and Communities Select Committee set up a Task and Finish Working Group, comprising Cllrs Still, Stallard, Rice, Chegwyn, Wood and Connor (co-opted to represent the Labour Group), to meet its objectives by February 2015.

The Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 1 be agreed subject to the minor amendments agreed above.

That the Chairman of the Task and Finish Working Group give a brief update to the full Committee at each meeting and that this be added as a standing item to the agenda.

Add to
future
agendas

50. **SCRUTINY ITEM:**
COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS STRATEGY – TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Committee received a report and presentation from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, regarding the Countryside Access Strategy, item 7 in the Minute Book.

The importance and relevance of the Strategy was highlighted and demonstrated through the presentation. This explained the importance of access to the countryside and the economic, health and social benefits it supports. The scale and breadth of infrastructure involved was highlighted together with the resource constraints on maintenance and development. It was noted that Hampshire's existing Countryside Access Plans incorporated and exceeded the basic requirement to have a Right of Way Improvement Plan and that this was in line with the approach of striving to best meet the needs of the people of Hampshire.

It was explained to the Committee that the work that had been done to develop Countryside Access Plans had resulted in a number of positive outcomes including very strong local inputs to work priorities. It was anticipated that development of a proposed strategy would build upon and strengthen this approach. The proposed Task and Finish Group would facilitate the input of the Select Committee into the consultation process and into the design and development of the Strategy for the future.

In consideration of the proposed terms of reference, it was noted that the same points applied as they had to the TFWG for the Library Strategy (Minute 49 refers) and therefore the same minor amendments were proposed and agreed.

It was proposed and agreed that the Countryside Access TFWG consist of five Members, comprising: two Conservatives, one Liberal Democrat, one UKIP and one Labour Member.

RESOLVED:

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee set up a Task and Finish Working Group, comprising Cllrs pearce,

Kemp-Gee, Gurden, Rolt and Connor (co-opted to represent the Labour Group) to meet its objectives by the end of 2014

The Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 1 be agreed subject to the minor amendments agreed above.

That the Chairman of the Task and Finish Working Group give a brief update to the full Committee at each meeting and that this be added as a standing item to the agenda.

Add to future agendas

51. **INFORMATION ITEM:**
OLYMPIC LEGACY PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services, regarding the Olympic Legacy Programme, see Item 8 in the Minute Book.

The strength and success of the Legacy Programme in Hampshire was demonstrated to the Committee through the presentation. Particular ongoing success, such as “Park Run” the introduction of ping pong to care homes, the Hamble Games and the Hampshire Athletic Grand Prix was highlighted, as was the ambition of developing a Hampshire Institute of Sport in conjunction with partners. Importantly, through these schemes, the Programme was supporting competitive athletes as well as seeking to raise activity levels amongst the wider population. Therefore there was special focus on inspiring school children to access sport through a range of methods.

The Committee welcomed the presentation and raised a number of points relating to the use of school sports facilities, the difficulty of supporting those on low income, the capacity restrictions on further expanding the Programme and the timescale for the development of the Institute.

RESOLVED:

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee note the presentation and the positive progress of the Olympic Legacy Programme.

That a further update be received in a year’s time and that this be added to the Work Programme.

Add to work Programme

52. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Corporate Services (Item 9 in the Minute Book) which set out the Committee’s work programme.

An update to the published work programme was tabled and it was explained that this had been refreshed to reflect the areas of work that were now complete and to identify those going

forward.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee's Work Programme be approved as set out.

Chairman