



MINUTES

Tourism and Leisure Committee

Date:	Thursday, 10 January 2019
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Cheryl Little (Chairman) Councillor Vince Settle (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Frank Andrews, Tim Ashton, Jan Barker, Brenda Blackshaw, Roger Lloyd, Elaine Silverwood, Viv Willder
Other Members Present:	Councillors Susan Fazackerley and Roger Small
External Representatives:	Mr Tim Lince – Lowther Gardens Trust
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Paul Walker, Mark Wilde, Tim Dixon, Charlie Richards, Tara Walsh
Members of the Public:	5 members of the public were in attendance

The Chairman, Councillor Little, welcomed Councillor Elaine Silverwood to her first meeting as a member of the Tourism and Leisure Committee.

Public Platform

There were no requests to speak under the Public Platform arrangements.

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

The Chairman, Councillor Cheryl Little declared a personal interest in item 10 - Lowther Gardens Trust- Annual Report in so far as she is a trustee.

Councillor Elaine Silverwood declared a personal interest in item 10 - Lowther Gardens Trust- Annual Report in so far as her brother owns Lowther Pavilion Café.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting held on 8 November 2018 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 22(c):

Councillor Viv Willder for Councillor Richard Fradley.
Councillor Frank Andrews for Councillor Ray Thomas.

Variation of Business

At this juncture, the Chairman varied the order of the business on the agenda as set out below.

10. Lowther Gardens Trust – Annual Report

The Chairman invited Tim Dixon (Tourism and Cultural Services Manager) to introduce the report.

By way of introduction, Mr Dixon reminded members of the five-year Service Level Agreement (SLA) that the Council has in place with the operating company of Lowther Gardens Trust, Lowther Gardens (Lytham) Management Ltd, to provide services at Lowther Pavilion. Mr Dixon explained that as part of the agreement, the Trust must provide a report to the committee each year, summarising performance over the previous year.

A copy of the 2017/18 report was included as an appendix to the report.

The Chairman then invited Tim Lince of Lowther Trust to present the Trust's Annual Report. In doing so, Mr Lince provided members with a summary on the performance of the service over the previous year. In conclusion he thanked the council for its ongoing support in helping Lowther move forward.

The Chairman then went on to invite questions from the committee. Various members sought clarification on a number of areas including: the Council's annual subsidy to Lowther and the Council's long term ability to continue providing the subsidy, value for money, refurbishments and infrastructure works, legal fees, profits, audited accounts, work with local community groups and the work of the Trust generally. These were addressed in turn by Mr Lince.

A proposal was put forward by members during the discussion of this item, relating to the formation of a member working group. It was suggested that the proposed working group would look at the council's long term ability to continue providing a subsidy to Lowther, and the associated SLA. A vote was taken on this proposal and was subsequently lost.

A further suggestion was made requesting that an extended report on Lowther Trust be presented at the next meeting of the committee.

At this juncture, Councillor Roger Small, as Fylde's representative on Lowther Trust, offered to attend all further meetings of the committee with a view to updating members on his work with the Trust, and to also answer any questions members have on the matter.

Following on from the above, the Chairman suggested that any further questions on the report should be directed by way of email to herself and to Paul Walker (Director of Development Services).

Decision Items

4. Staining Chain Lane Playing Fields Community Project

The Supporters of Staining Open Space (SOSOS) have been working in partnership with Fylde and Lancashire County Council officers since 2015, on a community project to "regenerate Chain Lane Playing Fields to provide a community facility that is accessible and suitable for use by all ages and abilities".

The project has followed the ten stage process of the community parks improvement programme, which has included a comprehensive consultation exercise, the production of an agreed Masterplan and funding strategy. Officers have assisted SOSOS with a number of external funding bids, in addition to their own fundraising and a grant from Staining Parish Council. At the Council meeting on the 5 March 2018, Council approved a capital contribution of £50,000 to the Staining Playing Fields Development Project in 2018/19, to be funded from the Councils Capital Investment Reserve.

The report described the funding strategy and summarised the context and details the receipt of tenders, tender assessment following the procurement process for a new field drainage system and associated improvement works at Chain Lane Playing Fields, Staining.

The Committee RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval that the Council may act as the accountable body for the Staining Playing Fields Development Project in the total sum of £280,842;

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2. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval to a fully-funded increase in the sum of £230,842 in respect of the Staining Playing Fields Development scheme within the approved Capital Programme (£101,512 in 2018/19 and £129,330 in 2019/20) to be met from the various external grants and Section 106 contributions as detailed in the report, noting that the approved Capital Programme for 2018/19 currently includes funding in respect of this scheme in the sum of £50,000; and
 3. Subject to approval of the above, to approve the letting of the contract for the Staining Chain Lane Playing Fields drainage scheme (Phase 1) to STRI Ltd in the sum of £101,512.
5. Budget Setting – Fees and Charges 2019/20

Paul Walker (Director of Development Services) introduced the report. In doing so he advised that each year, as part of the budget-setting process, the schedule of fees and charges for the coming year are reviewed by budget-holders prior to the schedule being considered by the relevant Programme Committee before being approved at the March Budget Council meeting.

The schedule of fees and charges for those activities within the remit of the Tourism and Leisure committee were considered and the Committee RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to Council the proposed schedule of fees and charges applicable for 2019/20; and
2. To note that the final fees and charges for 2019/20 would be approved by the Budget Council in March 2019.

Information Items

6. Budget Setting - Revenue Budget 2019/20 – First Draft

The Committee were advised that the first draft of the Revenue Budget for 2019/20 was now available for members to view. Committee members were encouraged to contact the Chief Financial Officer, Senior Officers or budget holders with any specific questions.

7. Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2018/19 – Position as at 30th November 2018

The Committee were provided with an up to date position of the General Fund Revenue Budget as at 30th November 2018.

8. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2018/19 – Position as at 30th November 2018

The Committee were provided with an up to date position of the Capital Programme as at 30th November 2018.

The Chairman invited members to contact Tim Dixon (Tourism and Cultural Services Manager) to arrange a visit to the Town Hall Arts Store and improved storage facilities.

9. Mid-Year Performance 2018/19

Details of the key performance outcomes for April 2018 to September 2018 were provided to the Committee.

11. Annual Tourism Statistics

The Committee were provided with an update on the latest official tourism statistic for Fylde covering the period between January to December 2017.

12. Fairhaven Heritage Lottery Project Update

Members were informed that the Fairhaven HLF second round application had been successful.

Details on the grant funding and the next stages of the project were provided to the Committee.

The Chairman, Councillor Cheryl Little, took the opportunity to provide her thanks and recognition to officers Charlie Richards, Mark Wilde and Julie Vale on their hard work and contribution to the success of the scheme.

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