



MINUTES

Tourism and Leisure Committee

Date:	Thursday, 7 September 2017
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Cheryl Little (Chairman) Councillor Vince Settle (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Christine Akeroyd, Jan Barker, Brenda Blackshaw, Karen Buckley, Julie Brickles, Maxine Chew, Susan Fazackerley, Paul Hodgson, Sandra Pitman, Raymond Thomas.
Other Councillors Present:	Councillor Roger Lloyd
Officers Present:	Allan Oldfield, Paul Walker, Tim Dixon, Mark Wilde, Charlie Richards, Lyndsey Lacey-Simone
Other Attendees:	Tim Lince - Lowther Gardens (Lytham) Trust Rosie Withers - Lowther Gardens (Lytham) Trust Tony Wood - Representative - Bryning- with- Warton Parish Council Peter Ball – Representative – Medlar – with- Wesham Town Council Ian Willoughby (Chartered Surveyor)
Members of the Public:	Approx 22 other members of the public were in attendance.

Public Platform

Under the Public Platform arrangements, Mrs Marion Coupe, Mr John Hornyak, Mr Reg Jose and Mr John Turner addressed the committee on matters associated with the Lytham Hall Restoration Project (agenda item 4 refers). The matters raised were addressed during the course of the presentation.

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 9 relating to Lowther Gardens Trust- Annual Report in so far as she is a trustee of Lowther.

Councillor Sandra Pitman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 14 relating to the Island Regeneration and withdrew from the meeting during consideration and voting on the matter.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting held on 22 June 2017 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 24(c):

Councillor Susan Fazackerley for Councillor Tim Ashton.

Councillor Karen Buckley for Councillor Richard Fradley.

Decision Items

4. Lytham Hall Restoration Project - Progress Report

In the absence of Councillor Richard Fradley, the Chairman invited the Chief Executive, Allan Oldfield to the table to present the report.

By way of introduction, Mr Oldfield expressed Councillor Fradley's apologies for not being able to attend the meeting in person. He then went on to remind members that at the last meeting of the Tourism and Leisure Committee, Councillor Richard Fradley was appointed to investigate and monitor progress on the commitments made by Heritage Trust North West (HTNW) to rebuild the Lytham Hall restoration project in accordance with the agreed recommendations.

In brief, Mr Oldfield took members through the progress report which included details (since the last meeting of the committee in June 2017) of the various meetings that had taken place with key stakeholders including Heritage Trust North West (HTNW), Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the Lytham Hall volunteers and Lytham Town Trust (LTT) on the actions agreed to rebuild the Lytham Hall Restoration Project and prepare for a new lottery bid. Members were advised that Councillor Fradley had been supported by the Chief Executive and the report included feedback, comments, views, opinions and conclusions based on the conversations held and any supporting evidence provided.

The report suggested that in the nine week period since 22 June and the compilation of the progress report, there had been no evidence of any actions taken, changes put in place or plans progressed. In addition, no evidence had been provided of a new team being established, names provided, recruitment started or any evidence of a bid being put together to the HLF Resilience Fund.

The report also made reference to a separate meeting (on 28 September) that had been arranged for Councillor Fradley and the Deputy Section 151 Officer from Fylde to review the accounts in an attempt to identify expenditure against the £300,000 contribution made by the Council.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 17 of the report which detailed Councillor Fradley's statement/findings on the matter and associated recommendations.

At the conclusion of Mr Oldfield's presentation, the Chairman invited comments and questions from members of the committee. Various members commented on key aspects of the presentation including: on-going issues regarding the management and operation/day to day running of Lytham Hall; disappointment at the lack of progress made since the last meeting of the committee; current state of the fabric and deterioration of the Lytham Hall building; opportunities for future bids to the Heritage Lottery Fund; lease/tenancy arrangements; concerns relating to the inaction of the recommendations arising from the More Stephens report; challenges generally relating to HTNW; confidence/trust/transparency issues; the work of the volunteers and matters associated with the evidence regarding the non-compliance of various clauses of the Capital Grant Agreement. These questions were addressed in turn by Mr Oldfield.

In summing up, the Chairman acknowledged the concerns of members and made reference to the recommendations outlined in Councillor Fradley's report.

Following detailed consideration of this matter and based on the contents of the progress report, the comments from Councillor Fradley and the evidence, or lack of, provided to support the progress made to address the concerns identified with the Lytham Hall Restoration Project that the committee RESOLVED:

1. To advise the Heritage Trust North West that the committee has no confidence that it can establish, lead or be involved in a new project team that will deliver a successful Heritage Lottery Bid for the restoration of Lytham Hall.
2. To investigate the option of making a bid with partners to the HLF Resilience Fund and also investigate the feasibility of establishing an appropriate accountable body or structure e.g. a Community Interest Company to make the full bid for the restoration of the Hall.
3. To support Fylde Council acting as the 'Accountable Body' for any future HLF bids
4. To require HTNW to be more transparent about their financial matters with regard to Lytham Hall and act on the findings of the Moore Stephens report.
5. To reserve the right to undertake further investigation and/or seek to legal advice to reclaim all or part of the £300,000 capital grant.
6. To reserve the right to report the matter to the Charity Commission if deemed necessary.
7. To make appropriate arrangements for a progress/standing report relating to the Lytham Hall Restoration Project to be included on the agenda at each meeting of the committee.

(Councillor Julie Brickles requested that her name be recorded as having abstained from voting on this matter)

At this juncture, the Chairman brought forward the information item relating to Lowther and varied other items of business on the agenda as detailed below.

Information Item

5. Lowther Gardens Trust – Annual Report

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

By way of introduction, Mr Dixon reminded members of the five-year Service Level Agreement 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 2016/17 report was included as an appendix to the report.

The Chairman then invited Time Lince and Rosie Withers of Lowther Trust to the table to present the Trust's Annual Report.

As part of his presentation, Mr Lince further explained the content of the report circulated and played a short video on redevelopment of Lowther. He also extended an invitation to members of the committee to attend Lowther on 3 October at 19:00 to learn more about recent developments/proposed developments at Lowther. 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 a number of areas including: matters associated with the Titanic Exhibition; value for money; the signage/heritage of Lowther Gardens; timescale of future works; work with local community groups/drama groups; proposed amateur theatre taster day and the work of Trust generally. These were addressed in turn by Mr Lince and Ms Withers.

Decision Items

6. Development of Play Area – Bridges Playing Field, Warton

Mark Wilde, Head (Head of Parks, Leisure and Culture) and Tony Wood (representative of Bryning- with- Warton Parish Council) were invited to introduce the report.

Mr Wilde indicated that at Budget Council meeting of March 2016, Council approved a capital growth item in the sum of £50,000 as match funding for a parks development project at Bridges Playing Field, Warton, to be fully-funded from the Capital Investment Reserve, on condition that the project follow the ten stage Community Parks Improvement Programme.

It was further reported that due to difficulties in retaining community support for the project, Bryning-with-Warton Parish Council had made the decision to proceed with a phased approach to the project and not to pursue the £50,000 match funding from the Capital Programme.

The report provided details of a reduced scheme at Bridges Playing Field, and requests that section 106 contributions of £106,500 are used for the provision of new children's play facilities at Bridges Playing Field as detailed in the report.

Attached to the report was a copy of the play area design proposal and a copy of itemised project costs.

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully-funded addition to the Capital Programme for 2017/18 in the sum of £106,500 fully-funded from the S106 developer contributions relating to the Riversleigh Farm, Tennyson Avenue and Eden Farm, Bryning Lane developments in Warton for the same amount;
2. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a reduction to the Capital Programme for 2017/18 in the sum of £50,000 in respect of the open space improvement scheme at Bridges Playing Field, Warton, which is now not to proceed as originally intended;
3. Subject to the approval of 1 above, to agree to allocate the sum of £106,500 to Bryning-with-Warton Parish Council to carry out open space improvements at Bridges Playing Field, Warton as detailed in this report on condition that the Parish Council be required to enter into an agreement with Fylde Council, prior to release of funds, and to provide details of how the funds have been used within 12 months of the allocation.

At this juncture Councillor Brickles left the meeting.

7. Release of S106 Monies – Fleetwood Road Playing Fields, Wesham

Mark Wilde, Head (Head of Parks, Leisure and Culture) and Peter Ball – (representative – Medlar – with- Wesham Town Council) introduced the report. The report detailed an open space improvement scheme at Fleetwood Road Playing Fields, Wesham proposed by Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council.

The Committee was requested to agree to allocate S106 contributions of £25,000 to Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council for public open space improvement at Fleetwood Road Playing Fields, Wesham as detailed in the report, dependent upon the approval of a fully-funded addition to the Capital Programme in 2017/18 of £25,000, funded by the S106 developer contribution by the Finance & Democracy Committee.

A copy of the proposed project details and costs was included as an appendix to the report.

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully-funded addition to the Capital Programme in 2017/18 in the sum of £25,000 fully funded from the S106 developer contribution relating to The Pastures development, Wesham for the same amount;
2. Subject to the approval of 1 above, to agree to allocate the sum of £25,000 to Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council to carry out open space improvements at Fleetwood Road Playing Fields, Wesham as detailed in the report on condition that the Town Council be required to enter into an agreement with Fylde Council, prior to release of funds, and to provide details of how the funds have been used within 12 months of the allocation.

8. Fairhaven Heritage Lottery Project Board Nomination

Mark Wilde (Head of Parks, Leisure and Cultural Services) was invited to present a progress report on the Fairhaven Lake and Gardens Restoration Project. In doing so, Mr Wilde introduced to the committee Charlie Richards, the newly appointed Fairhaven Project Officer. He also made reference to the newly appointed Activity Development Officer, Julie Vale who could not be in attendance at the committee.

Members were reminded that the project was being funded by the Heritage Lottery and proposed the establishment of a Project Board to include a representative from the Tourism and Leisure Committee, to be nominated at the meeting.

In summary, the report provided a progress update to the Committee including the delivery of the 'approved purposes' required by the HLF including the recent appointments of the two project officers referred to above and appointment of the Lead Consultant and an independent quantity surveyor. The report also detailed the tender procurement/evaluation exercise recently undertaken including details of the successful bidder for the project and information on the proposed membership of the Fairhaven Project Board.

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To note progress with the Fairhaven Lake and Gardens Restoration Project;
2. To agree to the creation of a Fairhaven Project Board as required by the Heritage Lottery Fund and agree that membership of the Project Board be extended to include a representative from the Tourism and Leisure Committee.
3. To appoint the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Little to the Fairhaven Lake and Gardens Restoration Project Board and that this appointment be in accordance with the Council's Protocol for members on Outside Bodies.
4. Due to the importance attached to this scheme, appropriate arrangements be made for this topic to be included on future agendas as a standing item.

9. Promenade Gardens Water Play Facility Project

The Chairman invited Mark Wilde (Head of Parks, Leisure and Culture) to introduce the report. Members were reminded that at the Budget Council meeting of March 2016, approval was confirmed for a capital growth item in the sum of £100,000 in respect of a new water play facility on the Promenade Gardens. The total scheme cost was estimated at that time as £200,000, with the remainder of the funding to be sourced through external funding bids and the use of s106 planning agreement monies.

It was reported that a comprehensive consultation exercise had been undertaken, in addition to detailed technical research to provide this type of facility, and the expected capital cost to deliver a scheme of this nature was estimated at £250,000.

Mr Wilde advised that the project team are continuing to seek external funding opportunities and are awaiting decisions on various external grants.

This report presented an update on the progress to date on the water play project scheme, including potential project options, scheme details and current funding position/estimated timescales. It also outlined 3 options for members to consider regarding the financing of the scheme which were set out in the report.

A copy of the proposed masterplan was attached to the report.

Members sought clarification on a number of matters including: links to the existing boating lake; maintenance costs of the project; re-circulatory system/recycling of the water; cleanliness of the water/treatment arrangements; toilet facilities in the locality and options for external funding opportunities. Mr Wilde addressed each question in turn.

Following consideration of this matter the committee RESOLVED:

1. To note the current position with regard to the water play project;
2. To support the re-circulatory system of recirculating the water of the new water play facility as set out in the report.

3. To agree Option 3 as set out in the report which recommends to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded budget increase for the scheme within the Capital Programme for 2017/18 in the sum of £50,000 to achieve the project budget of £250,000 with the additional £50,000 to be met from the Capital Investment Reserve.

Information Items

The following information items were received by the committee.

10. General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2017/18 – Position as at 31 July 2017

This information report provided an update on the General Fund (GF) Revenue Budget of the Council as at 31st July 2017 with specific reference to those areas under the remit of the Committee.

11. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2017/18 – Position as at 31 July 2017

This information report provided an update on the approved Capital Programme of the Council as at 31st July 2017 with specific reference to those schemes under the remit of the Committee.

12. Outside Bodies

In accordance with the Protocol for Members on Outside Bodies, reports from members representing the council on the various outside bodies (within the remit of the committee) were circulated with the agenda for information purposes.

Councillor Buckley commented on the report prepared by Councillor Sandra Pitman relating to the YMCA swimming pool and suggested that it might be appropriate for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman together with appropriate officers to meet with Councillor Pitman to further look at this matter.

Councillor Thomas also commented that the Arts Partnership for Lytham was no longer existence. He added that this had been replaced by the Arts Partnership for Fylde. It was suggested that it would be helpful to clarify the position of the Outside Body concerned.

The Chairman undertook to further discuss both matters at her next briefing meeting.

Decision Items

13. Exclusion of the Public

IT WAS 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 Schedule 12A of the Act.

14. Exempt Item - The Island Regeneration

Paul Walker (Director of Development Services) was invited to introduce the report on the above. In doing so, he invited Ian Willoughby (Chartered Surveyor) to further present the report and outline the key objectives.

This report presented the recommendations of The Island Regeneration Working Group in assessing the interest received following the marketing process undertaken for The Island site.

Following detailed consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED:

1. To support the recommendations of The Island Regeneration working group to pursue Option 5, as set out in the report; and
2. To request that The Island Regeneration Working Group provide a progress report to this committee before the end of the financial year to agree any subsequent letting proposals which might emerge.

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