

Plymstock Area Committee

Monday 18 January, 2010

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs. Pengelly, in the Chair.
Councillor Michael Leaves, Vice-Chair.
Councillor Viney.

Co-opted Representatives: Dr. Cooper and Mr. Johnson.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Mrs. Foster, K. Foster and Wigans.

The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.05 p.m.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

41. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November, 2009, be confirmed as a correct record.

42. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

43. POLICING ISSUES

Sergeant Gordon was in attendance to report on local policing issues. The Committee was advised that –

- (i) there had been a major incident in Colebrook, Plympton, following a fire at the local garage. It had been necessary to evacuate some residents and much of Colebrook had been closed off for the day. Investigations into the cause of the fire were continuing;
- (ii) there had been a year-on-year downward trend in respect of general crime and this was continuing. Whilst anti-social behaviour had been a regular PACT priority over recent years, statistics and anecdotal evidence now suggested that this no longer need be the case;
- (iii) following the success of the multi-agency Days of Action in 2009, two further events would be held in April and October of this year – dates for which should be available to report to the next meeting;
- (iv) the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary were running courses to aid 'silver surfers' negotiate their website. A course in Plympton had been particularly successful and a similar one was to be arranged for Plymstock residents. Councillors and members of the public were encouraged to take a look at the website which held a lot of useful local information.
www.devon-cornwall.police.uk

In addition to the Police report, the Committee heard –

- (v) of a scam being operated by an individual claiming to recently have been bereaved and trying to raise money for a train fare to Scotland;
- (vi) concerns from a local resident at the lack of action taken by either the Police or the City Council over the creation of an unofficial mountain bike circuit in Buddle Wood. It was further reported that the wood was protected by a byelaw and that significant damage had been caused to trees and the general appearance of the wood.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Gordon for his report and attendance.

Resolved that Councillors Michael Leaves and Viney investigate the creation of a mountain bike circuit with the Parks' Department and the Police.

44. **PLYM YOUTH FORUM**

The Chair reported that this item was being deferred in order to allow the students more time to concentrate on their 'A' level studies. It was hoped that the presentation would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

45. **RADFORD HIDE UPDATE**

Further to minute 29, Councillor Michael Leaves reported that no further problems had been reported since the last meeting. The gate to Radford Woods continued to be locked at night and opened in the morning, but this had not meant to be a long-term solution and was proving to be costly. As an interim measure, Services for Children and Young People had agreed to help with the cost of locking and opening the gate as the Hide was an educational facility.

Resolved that finding a long-term solution to locking and unlocking the gate at Radford Woods be delegated to the Parks' Manager, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

46. **LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FUND**

The Local Environment Fund Project Manager submitted a report advising Committee –

- (i) of new funds which had recently been made available in the sum of £773;
- (ii) that there would be no carry forward of funds not spent by 31 March, 2010.

Councillor Leaves confirmed that he and his Radford Ward colleagues were committed to the removal of the disused pipes on Mount Batten beach, however, this would be subject to the consent of South West Water.

Resolved that –

- (1) details of projects and expenditure incurred during 2009/2010 be presented to the next meeting;
- (2) any new proposals be forwarded to the Democratic Support Officer for submission to the next meeting.

47. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Resolved that the following issues be included on the agenda for consideration at a future meeting –

- Progress with road markings at Stamford Lane / Tapson Drive
- Street Pastor work

48. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Committee considered questions from members of the public on the following matters –

- (i) lack of assistance at compost disposal site due to staff all being on-break together;
- (ii) Broadway Car Park –
 - speeding
 - use as a short cut
 - pedestrian safety
 - signage
- (iii) PCC surveillance techniques;
- (iv) South West Regional Assembly (SWRA);
- (v) future of area committees;
- (vi) Plymstock Swimming Pool;
- (vii) safety of wind turbines at Coombe Dean School;
- (viii) community facilities for those with learning / mental disabilities;
- (ix) lighting at the golf driving range on Haye Road.

Responses were provided as follows –

- (a) with regard to (i) above, Councillor Leaves would investigate as Cabinet Member with responsibility for Waste;
- (b) with regard to (ii) above, Councillors Mrs. Pengelly and Viney would raise the concerns with the Cabinet Member for Transport possibly with a view to giving consideration to creation of a Traffic Regulation Order;
- (c) with regard to (iii) above, a written response would be sought from the relevant department;
- (d) with regard to (iv) above, the SWRA had cost in the order of £6m per annum and had now been replaced by South West Councils. The City Council's appointed representatives were Councillors Martin Leaves and Fry. Councillor Mrs. Pengelly would find out whether reports or minutes from the meetings were publicly available and pass to the elector concerned;
- (e) with regard to (v) above, consideration was being given to Locality Working (a report on which had been submitted to the 21 September meeting). This would involve joint meetings with not only the Police but health and adult social care, education and the third sector;
- (f) with regard to (vi) above, a written response would be sought from the relevant department;
- (g) with regard to (vii) above, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People would be recommended to arrange for a health and safety visit to be undertaken at the school to assess the risk;
- (h) with regard to (viii) above, various facilities were available in the City. A relevant point of contact would be provided direct to the elector concerned;
- (i) with regard to (ix) above, Councillor Viney reported that the matter had been investigated and the angle of the lighting had been lowered. As a result he believed that no further action was necessary. Sergeant Gordon added that he regularly drove

through Stagg Lodge in the evenings and did not consider the lighting to be hazardous to drivers. Councillor Viney stated that he would check to see whether any further action was outstanding in this regard.

49. **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held at 6.00 p.m. on Monday 15 March, 2010, at Elburton Methodist Church, Springfield Road, Elburton, Plymouth.

50. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.