

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
Wednesday 14th October 2009

PRESENT: Councillor M. Townsley in the Chair
Councillors: D. Windsor, S. Whitlock, J. Arbuckle, K. Arbuckle, G.
Kneeshaw, P. Williams and C. Cleasby.

In attendance: T. Ferry, Councillor D. Collins representing Horsforth in Bloom, Mr Shagouri and Mr Seller, both representing Friend of Hunger Hills Woods.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from Councillors L. Poad, R. Hardcastle and P. Dobson.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Councillor C. Cleasby declared an interest in item 7 on the agenda as her father who is a Ward Councillor, Councillor B. Cleasby, was contacted by Friends of Hunger Hill Woods to discuss the project.
3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
RESOLVED – That the minutes of the last meeting held on the 15th July 2009 were received and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and they were duly signed by the Chair.
4. MATERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
The Chair of Council reported that he has put his regular entry into Horsforth Life and has highlighted the Good Citizens Award and asked for nominations to be forwarded to the Town Council.
RESOLVED – That this be noted by Members.
5. COMMUNITY BUDGET UPDATE
The Town Clerk presented an update of the budget.
RESOLVED – That this item be noted.
6. GRANTS FROM THE COMMUNITY FUND
Councillor D. Collins represented Horsforth in Bloom requesting a grant of £300 to assist in next year's entry in the competition. Councillor Collins provided Members with this year's entry result and of advise Horsforth in Bloom has received form the Leeds City Council Leeds in Bloom team. Councillor Collins went on to explain that the Horforth in Bloom plan for next year is to concentrate on a smaller area around the Green, the Museum, St Margaret's Hall and the Cenotaph.
Members discussed this application and agreed to provide the full grant of £300 as requested.
RESOLVED – That £300 be granted to Horsforth in Bloom.
7. SPECIAL PROJECTS
Friends of Hunger Hills Woods have requested funding of £35,000 to create a perimeter path of approximately 625metres in Hunger Hills Woods. Mr Paul Shagouri and Mr Christopher Seller represented The Friends and provided Members with a history of the Friends of Hunger Hills Woods and of their objectives and constitution.

Mr Shagouri then reported that Leeds City Council have allocated £45,000 to improve and repair existing foot paths in Hunger Hills Woods and patch repair a public foot path on private land off Lee Lane West to comply with the Safe Routes to School Scheme.

Mr Shagouri then went on to explain the benefits of providing this additional footpath and how this helps to achieve the Safe Routes to School and also provides a perimeter path around the Woods.

Mr Shagouri highlighted the Friends thought that the Woods are the Jewel of Horsforth and outlined current activities that are carried out by the Friends and of new potential benefits that local schools could take advantage of, and of providing the same Trim feature which is in Hall Park and not least the enjoyment residents can have with extended walks in the Woods.

Councillor Whitlock asked if the footpath would comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. The response was that neither Mr Shagouri nor Mr Seller has the answer to this but did point out that the flat foot paths are capable of wheelchair access, but the steeper inclines were very difficult for able people so highly unlikely to allow access for less able people.

The fabric and materials used on existing works were discussed and it was pointed out that drainage is created then rubble and stone infill. The final outcome is an attractive aging stone effect path.

Councillor K. Arbuckle asked if it was intended to stage the proposed works or is it a one off project. The friends would rather this was a one off project but are still waiting for programme details from Leeds City Council. It was suggested by the Friends that a good start date is mid summer 2010 after bird nesting.

Mr Shagouri and Mr Seller left the meeting.

The Town Clerk advised Members that he has investigated what powers Council could use to provide this funding and has also taken advise on the matter. Council has the power to provide this under the Public Health Act 1875 which has been amended by the Local Government Act 1972 which removed 'Urban authority' and replaced it with 'Local authority'. This allows local authorities the power to support or contribute to the support of public walks or pleasure grounds by any person whomsoever.

The Town Clerk also advised Council that it would be proper to establish ownership and future maintenance of a footpath, if it was to be provided by Horsforth Town Council funding. Members agreed that the Town Clerk should seek advise on ownership and maintenance form Leeds City Council Parks and Countryside.

Members discussed the request in detail and agreed that a recommendation is to be put to F&GP and Full Council to provide the full amount of £35,000 to create the new perimeter footpath in Hunger Hills Woods.

RESOLVED

- a. That the Community Committee recommend to the F&GP and Full Council that £35,000 be allocated for providing a foot path in Hunger Hills Woods for the general use and enjoyment of the public for walking.
- b. That the Town Clerk investigate ownership and future maintenance of the proposed footpath from Leeds City Council Parks and Countryside.

8. BUDGET FOR 2010

Members discussed the Community budget for 2010/11.

RESOLVED – That the following budget was agreed:

Directory and Postage	12,000
Youth Grants	1,500
General Grants	6,000
Newsletter and Publicity	8,000
Awards Scheme	100
Civic Service	200
Special Projects	<u>2,000</u>
Total	<u>29,800</u>

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- a. Increase amount of Youth and General Grants awarded.