



Committee and Date

Gobowen Area Local Joint
Committee

Item

6

Public

NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE GOBOWEN, SELATTYN, ST MARTINS & WESTON RHYN LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE PARISH CLUSTER MEETING HELD ON 6TH APRIL 2017 AT 7.00 PM AT ST MARTINS COMMUNITY CENTRE, ST MARTINS.

7.00 p.m. – 8.15 p.m.

Responsible Officer: Corrie Davies

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Present:

Members of the Committee: Cllr Steve Davenport Cllr Robert Macey, Cllr John Stevens, Cllr Angela Bright and Cllr Huw Ellis.

9 Parish Councillors in attendance alongside representatives of the committee:

Pat McGuinness (Weston Rhyn Parish Council)

Ralph Cooper (Weston Rhyn Parish Council)

Erica Morgan (Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council)

Brian Herbert (St Martins Parish Council)

Glenn Pennington (St Martins Parish Council)

Amy Gregory (Clerk to Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council)

Steve Brown (Shropshire Council)

ACTION

1. Welcome and Introduction from the Chairman

Cllr Steve Davenport welcomed all Parish Councillors in attendance and thanked those for attending. Cllr Steve Davenport welcomed officers in attendance Steve Brown

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.** Cllr Steve Davenport passed on Cllr David G Lloyd's apologies and shared his thanks to the parishes for their support over his term in office. Cllr Sue Schofield and Edward had also sent their apologies for the meeting due to prior engagements.

3. Background to the meeting

Cllr Steve Davenport outlined the idea of the meeting and saw the opportunity for Parish Councils to work together more in partnership. Cllr Steve Davenport thanked the Parish Councils for their positive response to his invite, as Chair, and for the continued discussion.

4. Environmental Maintenance Contract and Community Asset Development

Steve Brown, provided a synopsis of information to date and a further update with a presentation. The presentation would be circulated to those in attendance at the meeting.

Steve Brown explained that they would not always take a linear approach and some areas would take time. Steve Brown provided an update on revenue and capital projections. A report had been taken to Cabinet in October 2016, outlining the approach that would be taken to asset development moving forward. The Ringway contract would be released for procurement and currently totalled 20.1 million. There are a number of areas Steve noted including Clean Neighbourhoods Act, Duty of Best Value and EU regulations that would need to be considered moving forward. The authority would have to demonstrate Best Value. The question was raised as to how Brexit would affect EU regulations and caps of 40 million. Steve Brown noted that details would need to be formalised, but there would likely be a transition period.

The discussions would exclude verges as it is felt and agreed that under Health and Safety there are obligations and risks associated with verges and highways. Cllr Steve Davenport asked for this detail to be repeated again so that it could be more fully understood. Steve noted there were grey areas around communal STAR housing green areas. Steve Brown explained that this would need to be discussed with STAR and worked out accordingly. John explained that they had received a link to interactive maps, which allowed the parish to scroll in and out of maps and associated areas. Gobowen asked for a link to this so they could have a look. Cllr Steve Davenport asked for consistency with this. Steve Brown/ Corrie to ask Nick to send a link.

Steve Brown outlined three options for Parish Councils within the presentation.

Option 1- is that the Parish Councils accept the changes and standards of provision and therefore no change.

Option 2 – Parish councils opt to top up. Town and parish councils may choose to enhance the service provided by Shropshire Council, they might also choose to enhance the provision to a higher standard. This would include the maintenance of play areas.

Option 3 - To transfer the land by legal agreement to the town and parish councils, with all of the incumbent obligations for 125 years

under leasehold or freehold. This would include grass-cutting, liability etc.

Amy raised the question as to whether they would need to submit an EOI for option 2 for Gobowen.

Steve Brown raised a number of issues that need to be noted, until they are ruled out, including TUPE, though in most cases this would not be necessary for small areas. Cllr Steve Davenport said they might fight certain areas. Glenn asked if there is any data and GPS for how areas have been looked after over the previous 2 years. John asked what if the current contractors are not currently doing as they say are the authority penalising on our behalf and who gets the money back.

John highlighted that the area would not take the land unless it is freehold. Cllr Steve Davenport noted that he has been fighting this corner. Cllr Robert Macey mentioned they had been working with the Portfolio holder. Steve Brown noted they have been listening. He explained that all obligations go with leasehold too but it would be a quicker process. Advice from property services is that with freehold, areas would need to be taken to Secretary of State for release, ensuring best value and covenants. Questions asked if leasehold would be a peppercorn fee.

Angela asked if there was any respect for the sites and noted that she is concerned about the ongoing play area maintenance.

Due diligence would be looked at and Steve noted that this meant that process with estates had been set up to look at all sites, where EOIs have been submitted. This included boundaries, deeds, Tupe etc.

Cllr Steve Davenport noted the discussion parishes had to date is whether they could procure their own support and ensure local economies of scale.

Steve Brown discussed no transfer of revenue- with the exception of section 106s balances that would be transferred over.

Amy asked if the section 106 information for the sites in the area could be sent over to Parish Council's as this would help them to make their decisions. Steve Brown said this would be picked up as part of the due diligence process.

5. General discussion

Cllr Steve Davenport asked whether it would be useful for the clerks of the three-parish area to get together to look at their current areas, quotes and when any of their current contracts expired. Amy noted Corrie had sent a list of the parishes and their current areas of existing contracts and costs associated with grass, street lighting for example. Amy agreed it would be useful to meet as a group of clerks for the three parishes before the group meet again.

Ralph Cooper asked Steve Brown if he would look into requests for road safety measures from St Johns church to the Wern – stating that they had been promised signs and rumble strips. Steve Brown said he would take this back to look into this.

6. Date of Next Meeting

A date would be confirmed for early- mid June.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....