

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES
HELD IN THE
BOURGES & VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH
ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Present: Councillors: Harrington (Chairman), Murphy (Vice-Chairman), Stokes, Brown, Rush, Okonkowski and J R Fox.

Also Present: Henry Clark Independent Co-opted Member
Keith Lievesley Independent Co-opted Member

Officers in

Attendance: Adrian Chapman Service Director for Adult Services and Communities
Cate Harding Community Capacity Manager
Matt Oliver Youth in Localities Team Manager
Dania Castagliuolo Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Independent Co-opted Members, Joe Dobson and Philip Nuttall. Councillor Brown had advised the Democratic Services Officer that he would be arriving late for the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interest and Whipping Declarations

There were no declarations of interest or whipping declarations.

3. Minutes of Meeting Held on 13 July 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2015 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Developing a Rural Vision and Parish Charter for Peterborough

The report was introduced to the Commission by Co-opted Member Henry Clark, which contained results of the consultation carried out with Parish Councils on the Rural Vision and Parish Charter document. The report also contained the amended version of the Rural Vision and Parish Charter.

The Commission was asked to approve the Rural Vision and Parish Charter for Submission to Cabinet where Cabinet would be asked to subsequently adopt the Rural Vision and Parish Charter for implementation.

Questions and comments were raised around the following areas:

- Members commented that the Council should ensure that work carried out as a result of the Rural Vision and Parish Charter document be properly resourced and this should be added as an action point within the action plan.
- Members commented that it was not yet clear in the document who was responsible for the different actions and how these were going to be resourced and commented that this needed clarifying to the public. *The Community Capacity Manager responded that a Parish Conference was due to be held on 18 November 2015, which would focus on evolved services and which parishes chose to take on actions. All Members would receive an invite to the Conference.*

- *The Service Director for Adult Services and Communities commented that to enable the projects contained within the action plan to work efficiently, they required investment. Work had been carried out to prepare the Council to fund Parish Councils to deliver services.*

ACTION AGREED

The Commission noted the report and agreed for the Service Director for Adult Services and Communities to obtain information on who would lead on local planning issues for rural communities as it would need to be a non-planning committee member.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission endorsed the Rural Vision and Parish Charter and recommend the document to Cabinet for approval.

5. Enabling Youth Work in Rural Communities

The Youth in Localities Team Manager introduced the report which contained information on the different types of Youth Work, the rationale for the placement of Targeted Youth Work across Peterborough and recommendations for rural areas to consider when thinking about youth engagement and participation in decision making.

The Commission was asked to scrutinise the content of the report and consider the models proposed as a way of securing universal youth work in rural areas.

Questions and comments were raised around the following areas:

- Members commented that youth clubs should be brought back to enable young people to have a place where they could meet and be involved in different activities. *The Youth in Localities Team Manager commented that it was a struggle to engage young people with youth clubs as there were activities for them to do at home and more disposable income available. The Council would want to engage more with vulnerable young people.*
- Members queried if there was any demand on youth services from rural communities and how these demands were responded to. *Members were advised that when issues occurred in rural areas, the Council aimed to work in partnership with Parishes and local communities, who could enable them to work closely with groups which had already been set up in the area.*

At this point Councillor Brown joined the meeting.

- Members queried whether the Youth Services offered training. *Members were informed that training would be offered in future as there were currently three youth workers who had been funded to become trainers this year. They would be able to teach up to level 2.*
- Members queried whether any outreach work was carried out in rural communities. *Members were informed that outreach work was regularly carried out and recent work had taken place in Werrington.*
- Members commented that there was a potential asset to be recognised with the number of village halls and community centres available in rural communities.
- Members commented that the issue in rural areas was that the youth workers were not known to the community. Parishes knew their communities best and could engage with youth workers.
- A Co-opted Member commented that youth issues in rural communities came in waves and it would be helpful if the Youth Service team could assist rural communities in anticipating issues and dealing with them.

ACTION AGREED

The Commission noted the report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission recommended to the Service Director for Adult Services and Communities that an implementation plan was produced based on the two models proposed within the report, relating to targeted youth work in rural communities, along with various part funded pilot projects which were to be agreed by the Commission at the meeting on 3 November 2015 for implementation.

6. Forward Plan of Executive Decisions

The Commission received the latest version of the Council's Forward Plan of Executive Decisions, which contained key decisions that the Leader of the Council anticipated the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would make during the course of the forthcoming month. Members were invited to comment on the Plan and, where appropriate, identify any relevant areas for inclusion in the Commission's work programme.

ACTION AGREED

The Commission noted the latest version of the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decision and requested further information on the following decisions:

- Future of America Farm Solar and Wind Project
- Real Time Passenger Information
- Subsidised Passenger Transport Service Provision
- Peterborough Local Plan (Preliminary Draft Version)
- Draft Housing Strategy

6. Work Programme

Members considered the Commission's Work Programme for 2015/16 and discussed possible items for inclusion.

AGREED ACTION

The Commission noted and agreed the 2015/2016 work programme subject to the inclusion of an item on 'Overview of the Budget'.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair advised the Commission that the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, 3 November 2015.

The meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 8.02pm

CHAIRMAN

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