Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Culture, Leisure & Tourism
Date	23 September 2016
Present	Councillor Ayre (Executive Member)
In Attendance	Councillor Fenton

12. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Member was asked to declare if he had any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests not included on the Register of Interests that he might have in respect of business on the agenda. He did not declare any interests.

13. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the decision session held on 22 July 2016 be approved and then signed by the Executive Member as a correct record.

14. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme. However the Executive Member reported that he had received a written submission from Councillor Reid on behalf of all three Ward Councillors for Dringhouses and Woodthorpe which he read out.

The submission stated that all the Councillors were very supportive of this proposal and advised that the reinvigorated Friends Group were now managing the pond well, had addressed some long standing issues and it had now become a very pleasant place to visit and spend time at and it looked well cared for. This had helped to discourage some of the anti social behaviour and vandalism that had happened in the past. Councillor Reid expressed the view that granting the lease would help the Group pursue its programme to improve the area and manage the fishing more effectively. Representatives of the Friends Group attended Ward Team meetings, were part of the community and were very supportive of other community groups and she urged the Executive Member to grant the lease.

15. Review of the Management of Chapman's Pond

The Executive Member considered a report which proposed transferring the management of the Chapman's Pond site to the Friends of Chapman's Pond on a trial basis to improve the long-term care of the site.

The Operations Manager- Public Realm, informed the Executive Member that the site had two principal uses: as a general recreation and dog walking area; and as a fishing pond. The community had been divided among those two interests and in the past had not really cooperated with each other as much as they could have done. There was as core group of anglers who fished to a high standard but unfortunately there was a small number who had had caused some anti social behaviour in the past including late night use, noise and occasional bonfires. He explained that over the last couple of years, officers had worked with both the Friends of Chapman's Pond and the anglers to bring them closer together and more recently an angling bailiff service had been created to oversee the fishing including when people fished and how they were fishing.

He stated that in order to move forward and recognise the work of both groups, they were recommending that a lease be offered to the Friends of Chapman's Pond for three years on a trial basis and to allow a small income to be generated from fishing which would be put back into the care of the site. He explained that charging for fishing would bring it in line with two other council ponds which were also managed by the community, nearby Mayfields on Tadcaster Road and Rawcliffe Lake.

The Executive Member acknowledged that a change in financial resources and raised interest from local communities had lead to increased involvement and commitment from local communities in taking charge of council sites in their areas. He commended the work of officers in bringing the two groups together, and the work of the fishermen and Friends of Chapman's Pond and the assistance of Ward Councillors.

Resolved: That the Friends of Chapman's Pond be granted a three year lease to manage the site.

Reason: To ensure that site continues to improve as a desirable place for recreation and its management remains sustainable.

Cllr N Ayre, Executive Member, Culture, Leisure & Tourism
[The meeting started at 3.30 pm and finished at 3.35 pm].