

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 19 November 2009 starting at 7.15pm
Present: P Young (Chairman)

Councillors:

T Hill	G Scott
B Hilton	D Taylor
C Ross	J Waddington
I Sayers	

Parish Representatives:

G Sowter	Billington & Langho
D Spencer	Bowland Forest (Higher)
H Douglas	Chatburn
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
R N Connor	Clitheroe
M Robinson	Clitheroe
A Yearling	Clitheroe
S Hopwood	Dutton
J Cowling	Grindleton
N C Walsh	Mellor
S Rosthorn	Newsholme and Paythorne
C Law	Read
J D Waterhouse	Read
A Ormand	Ribchester
R A Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
A Howarth	Sabden
I R Hirst	Simonstone
N Breaks	Slaidburn
K Jackson	Waddington
C Cherry	West Bradford

In attendance: Director of Development Services. James Russell, Environmental Health Manager and Colin Everett, District Partnership Officer – LCC.

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors D Berryman, R Hargreaves, S Hore and M Ranson and from the following County Councillor Mike Otter LCC Parish Champion and from the following Parish Representatives:

R Carr	Bowland Forest Higher Division
E Miller	Bowland Forest Lower Division
M Birch	Chatburn
R Assheton	Downham
D Hicks	Longridge

F Priest	Longridge
A Dales	Mellor
P Jelly	Simonstone
K Staines	Waddington
M Highton	Whalley

In addition the Community Development Officer commented that Councillor Cherry from West Bradford had submitted her apologies for the meetings in both June and July meetings and these had not been recorded. This error had now been corrected.

580 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2009 were approved as a correct record with those amendments and signed by the Chairman.

581 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 442 – Give it a Go.

The District Partnership Officer reported that information packs were now available in both hard copy and on line. He also stated that the Helping Hand Partnership had been drafted in to help with anyone wishing to take part in the competition.

Minute 445(b)

Councillor Sayers thanked those Parish Councillors who had already sent in their Traffic Calming Questionnaires and urged those Parishes who had not already done so to reply by the end of November. He also commented that good contact had been made with officers at Lancashire County Council in relation to this matter.

582 HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Committee received Christine Fish, the Chief Officer from Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS who traced the history of the organisation and explained about the many areas which CVS worked in. She commented that there were 300 voluntary groups currently operating in Ribble Valley. She highlighted four main themes of the works of CVS:

- information and advice;
- development;
- liaison and representation;
- support.

She explained in detail her work in these four areas. She also referred to the situation of the Ribble Valley Branch whose office had been temporarily closed owing to the recent fire at the Swan and Royal Hotel. The office had been temporarily housed at Carer's Link on Whalley Road, Clitheroe. However,

funding prospects for the Ribble Valley arm of the operation were gloomy and there was no certainty that this would continue without an injection of funding after March 2010.

Examples were then given of the type of work done by CVS which included the Positive Steps Programme, LEAF, Families First and Shop Mobility. Details were also given of the work of Christine as part of the People and Communities Theme Group of the Local Strategic Partnership. Questions were answered about the CVS's work plan for 2010, its future base in Ribble Valley and whether all programmes could continue to be delivered in an economic downturn.

RESOLVED: That Christine be thanked for her informative presentation.

583 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Committee received James Russell the Council's Environmental Health Manager who spoke to Committee on three main topics:

- (a) the work of the Environmental Health Section;
- (b) pandemic flu;
- (c) provision of dog bins.

He described in some detail the work of his section which covered the following disciplines:

- food safety;
- health and safety;
- nuisance;
- pollution control;
- animal welfare;
- abandoned vehicles;
- pest control;
- dog warden;
- water supplies;
- drainage;
- emergency planning;
- Clitheroe Market;
- licensing enforcement; and
- Clitheroe Cemetery.

Members asked questions about the type of infectious diseases dealt with by the Environmental Health Section, why Clitheroe Market came under Environmental Health and also the recent flooding incidents in Ribble Valley.

The Environmental Health Manager also gave an update on the pandemic flu outbreak, including rates of infection, number of deaths, controls and recent developments.

He confirmed the current policy of dog bin provision by the Council, the numbers currently provided and statutory implications in relation to provision. Consideration was given to other options and why specific bins are provided. An explanation of cost of provision, emptying and maintenance and the need to be careful with a further provision.

Members were advised of the Council's recent decision to provide a further 20 dog bins and 10 more for the next 4 years subject to funding being available. As previously members were assured they would be consulted fully in relation to future provision.

Members expressed concern over the limited time available to debate this issue and influence the Council's Policy and asked for the matter to be considered further at the next meeting as a specific item.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Environmental Health Manager be thanked for his informative presentation; and
2. the issue of dog waste bin provision be considered at the next meeting of this Committee.

584 PUBLIC REALM INTEGRATION PROJECT

The District Partnership Officer from Lancashire County Council presented a report which had been considered by both the County Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council's Community Committee on the "Public Realm" which is a fence to fence service covering highways, footpaths, grass verges, trees and shrubs, street lights, signs, street furniture and litter. Clearly there were different and sometimes conflicting views on how best the highway network was maintained and how roads and streets attract visitors, tourists and retailers and give towns and villages a sense of identity.

There was strong evidence from surveys, comments and complaints that many people, including the public, elected members and council officers, wanted a more integrated approach to public realm works. This was an approach clearly welcomed in the Ribble Valley.

A Public Realm Strategy would be produced by Lancashire County Council during Phase 1 of the Project and would adopt a 'one team' approach encompassing service delivery by County, District, Parishes and external providers. The Project would be divided into four phases:

- Phase 1 Service Delivery – Clean and Green
- Phase 2 Service Delivery – Wider Aspects of Priority Integration
- Phase 3 Operational Management – Integrated Work with Communities
- Phase 4 Strategic Management and Policy Decisions.

Ribble Valley Borough Council would be in the first phase of the roll out of this project.

Details about finance, resources, priorities and delivery mechanisms had still to be agreed. There was the potential for transfer of services, budgets and resources between County and Districts in both directions but until reviews on each phase of the project was complete the most efficient and effective methods of service integration would not be known. There was a real need for regular engagement with elected Members at all three levels through a variety of formal reporting, one to one collective meetings and other links such as Lancashire Locals.

Members discussed this matter in some detail. Concerns were raised over the willingness and capacity of many Parish Councils to take on this work. It was also noted that the Parish Councils in the Hodder Valley had called a meeting with both the Lancashire County Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council Officers to discuss this matter further.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

585 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman announced that the next meeting of this Committee would be held on Thursday, 28 January 2010 (please is not the date that was stated at the meeting).

The meeting closed at 9.22pm

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Stewart Bailey (414491).

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