

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 10 June 2010 starting at 7.15pm

Councillors:

R Hargreaves	I Sayers
S Hore	G Scott
E M H Ranson	D Taylor
C Ross	

Parish Representatives:

M Cartwright	Aighton Bailey & Chaigley
P Young	Balderstone
G Sowter	Billington & Langho
B Dowles	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest and Sawley
R Connor	Clitheroe
P Entwistle	Grindleton
F Priest	Longridge
A Dales	Mellor
N C Walsh	Mellor
S Rosthorne	Paythorne and Newsholme
W R Whitwell	Pendleton
C Law	Read
J D Waterhouse	Read
A Ormand	Ribchester
I R Hirst	Simonstone
C Cherry	West Bradford
M Highton	Whalley
J H Strong	Wiswell

In attendance: Chief Executive, Forward Planning Manager, LCC District Partnership Officer and Deborah Clark and Mandy Newlove from Help Direct for item 6 only.

104 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Pat Young (Balderstone) be appointed as Chairman of this Committee for the municipal year 2010/2011.

105 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Borough Councillor Doreen Taylor be appointed as Vice Chairman of this Committee for the municipal year 2010/11.

106 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors D Berryman and M Robinson and on behalf the following Parish Representatives:

E Miller	Bowland Forest Low
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
H Douglas	Clitheroe
A Yearling	Clitheroe
J Cowling	Grindleton
A Hutchinson	Hothersall
C Parkinson	Longridge
A Haworth	Sabden
P Jelly	Simonstone
K Jackson	Waddington
K Staines	Waddington

107 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

108 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 945 - Provision of Dog Bins

The Clerk to Bolton-by-Bowland Parish Council sought clarification on the position with the provision of dog bins for parishes. The Chief Executive explained that Ribble Valley Borough Council would be providing a limited number of extra bins in parishes where the Council already provided such bins. If, however, a Parish Council provided their own bins and wanted extra bins then they would have to find the cost for those extra bins.

Minute 946 – Closure of Petre Arms Household Waste Disposal Centre

Members asked for clarification of the savings and rationale behind the decision to close the Petre Arms household waste disposal centre. A figure of £230,000 had been quoted in the local press. It had also been claimed that the public had not objected in sufficient numbers to influence the decision against closure.

Councillor Ranson reminded Committee that this was a County Council decision and that the threat of closure had been around for three years and all the relevant figures and costing were available on the County Council's website. Unless the decision to close was called in at a very late state that decision would be ratified by the relevant Cabinet Member at Lancashire County Council. He also reiterated Ribble Valley Borough Council's concern about the impact this closure could have on fly tipping and special collections which were currently a free service provided by the Borough Council. There was also concern that the savings were relatively modest in a budget of £40m and other concerns were also raised about the site security after closure.

109 HELP DIRECT – DEBORAH CLARK

The Chairman introduced Deborah Clark, from Help Direct, who explained how the organisation operated. It provided a wide range of advice and signposting for low level problems ranging from health, social care and housing. They operated a "Safe Trader" scheme for vulnerable people. Their aim is to minimise the

public's bad experiences with officialdom and they work closely with organisations such as Citizen's Advice Bureau, the Police and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services. They could access small pots of community funding for small projects.

The local commissioning office was Age Concern in Clitheroe and they operated Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. All libraries also had ample supplies of Help Direct literature.

Members then asked a number of questions around how they interacted with the Citizen's Advice Bureau who commissioned and funded the service and how they could best help local rural communities.

RESOLVED: That Deborah be thanked for her useful and informative presentation.

110 COLIN HIRST – FORWARD PLANNING MANAGER

The Chairman introduced Colin Hirst the Council's Forward Planning Manager who gave a brief overview of his section, ranging from planning and land use, economic policy, countryside management, Local Strategic Partnership, regeneration and strategic transport. He highlighted two particular issues which he felt would be of interest to parishes. One was the imminent availability of village amenity grants which the Partnership Officer would be writing to all Parish Clerks about inviting them to bid for. The second issue was connected with an allotment project. He informed Committee that the Strategic Partnership Board wished to ask the Committee to consider setting up a small Task and Finish sub group comprising of Parish Councillors to consider and contribute to the appraisal of projects. He proposed to bring a report to the September meeting of this Committee.

There was a lengthy debate about the problems which some parishes were experiencing with allotment provision, the legal position and current demand for allotment land, the possibility for councils acquiring land by compulsory purchase and a number of other related issues. It was also felt that it would be useful to have a presentation by relevant officers at the September meeting on the issues around provision and acquisition of land for allotments.

RESOLVED: That

1. Colin be thanked for his informative presentation;
2. Committee consider the membership of the Task and Finish Group for Allotments at its September meeting; and
3. relevant officers be invited to attend the September meeting to discuss the issues raised by parishes regarding allotments.

111 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The District Partnership Officer informed Committee of two matters which she was currently involved with:

1. Ribble Valley Locality Plan; and
2. Locality Working Review.

The Ribble Valley Locality Plan was a joint piece of work which highlighted how the Lancashire County Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council were working together on a series of projects. The plan was split into three themes:

People – Places – Prosperity.

Areas where joint working were encouraged were future winter maintenance, promoting and developing civic pride in schools, promoting volunteer activity and culture, arts and leisure.

The Locality Working Review was aimed at replacing Lancashire Locals to better reflect local delivery.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

112 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

- (a) Road Fatalities A59 (Bolton-by-Bowland)

The Parish Clerk of Bolton-by-Bowland informed Committee that a traffic safety scheme had originally been earmarked for consideration by the County Council but had been put on hold pending the announcements of the emergency national budget due to be made later this month. All Lancashire County Council schemes were similarly affected and he commented that he saw little likelihood of this particular scheme going ahead in spite of accident statistics on the stretch of road from Smithy's Bridge up to the Sawley turnoff.

- (b) Consultation Strategy

The Chief Executive commented that he had promised to bring a report on progress with the Council's Consultation Strategy to this meeting. He explained that currently the Council's Corporate Communications Officer was working on an updated consultation strategy for the Council. He also informed Committee that the Council were developing a community engagement website which would be presented to Committee at their September meeting.

113 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman announced that the next meeting of this Committee would be held on Thursday, 23 September 2010 starting at 7.15pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (414400).

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