

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 27 January 2011 starting at 7.15pm
Present: P Young (Chairman)

Councillors:

D Berryman	I Sayers
R Hargreaves	G Scott
T Hill	D Taylor
E M H Ranson	J Waddington
M Robinson	

Parish Representatives:

G H Sowter	Billington & Langho
B H Dowles	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
R Carr	Bowland Forest (Higher Division)
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
S Hopwood	Dutton
J Cowling	Grindleton
F Priest	Longridge
N C Walsh	Mellor
C Law	Read
J D Waterhouse	Read
A Howarth	Sabden
I R Hirst	Simonstone
A Duckworth	Simonstone
K Jackson	Waddington
H D Parker	Waddington
C Cherry	West Bradford
M J Highton	Whalley
J A Brown	Wiswell (Barrow Ward)

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Development Services, Legal Services Manager, Partnership Officer, District Partnership Officer from Lancashire County Council

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors S Hore and C Ross and from the following Parish Representatives:

Pauline Tyson	Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley
Tom Hoyle	Dinckley
Ralph Assheton	Downham
A Yearling	Clitheroe
Ann Hutchinson	Hothersall
Chris Parkinson	Longridge
Alan Ormand	Ribchester
Ken Stains	Waddington

641 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

642 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 507 - Stan the Van

Councillor Ranson asked about the schedule for Stan the Van over the coming months; where it was to be deployed; what times and the publicity which was to be given to it.

The Partnership Officer replied that the van would revisit the areas where it had been most popular and information was available both in these villages and on the Council's website. He stressed that if any other parishes wished to take advantage of the van they should contact him and he would make arrangements accordingly. Currently a number of campaigns were being worked on for use on the van such as road safety in villages and highlighting scams on older people.

643 THREE TIER FORUM – LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL/RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL/PARISH COUNCILS

Colin Everett the Lancashire County Council District Partnership Officer presented a report which outlined a new proposal from Lancashire County Council for integrated locality working. He highlighted that work would continue to scope and agree the most efficient and effective form of integrated local service delivery and decision making, including budgets, roles and responsibilities, capacity, technical capability, risks and liabilities. Once agreed, ongoing governance and future development would be provided by the Three Tier Forums. The concept of the forums had been discussed at a County Council Cabinet meeting in November 2010 and it had been agreed that the forums would initially be piloted in three districts Wyre, Burnley and South Ribble. The key principles of the forums were:

- the forums would be joint meetings of County District and Parish Councillors;
- the membership of each forum would be all County Councillors and an equal number of District Councillors appointed by the District Councillors and one Parish/Town Council representative nominated from the Parish Council's within the district area;
- in respect of service areas and joint working arrangements referred for consideration, the forum would reach agreement by consensus, failing which the issue would be referred to the leaders of the County Council and District Council to be resolved;
- decisions taken by the forums would be reported annually to joint leaders meetings;

- forums were not formal Committees of County, District or Parish Councils, therefore access to information provisions did not apply;
- the Chair and Deputy Chair would be appointed by each forum and would rotate annually between County Council and District Council; and
- the forums would meet on a quarterly basis to review progress against agreed priorities and agree in-year adjustments where necessary.

The intention was to introduce a roll out as soon as practicable on a district by district basis reflecting the pace of development of integrated joint working in each district. The remit of the forums would be broadened to provide political oversight of the full locality offer in each district.

The forums would not be subject to the same constitutional framework that limited Lancashire Local Committees. Their remit would vary according to the priorities for joint working agreed between the councils and they would have flexibility as to when and where meetings took place. He further commented that Ribble Valley Borough Council had, as yet, not confirmed participation in the forum and had also expressed initial concern that there would be only one Parish Representative for the whole of the Ribble Valley.

Councillors then asked a number of questions of the District Partnership Officer, in particular about the number of Parish Councillors who would have a seat on the forum and, particularly, which body best represented the views of all Parish Councils in the Ribble Valley.

There were also concerns raised about the fact that the forum was not a decision making body and was purely consultative and that the public were not invited to attend. It was suggested that more information was needed on the remit of the forums.

RESOLVED: that

1. Lancashire County Council be informed that this Committee is unhappy with three key aspects of the proposed forum:
 - (i) the suggested number of Parish Council representatives;
 - (ii) the fact that members of the public could not attend the forums;
 - (iii) the lack of any real decision making powers attached to the forums

and
2. Lancashire County Council be also informed that this Committee feels that if anybody were to nominate a Parish Council Representative it should be the Parish Councils' Liaison Committee and not the Lancashire Association of Local Councils as had been indicated.

ELECTIONS 2011

The Legal Services Manager reminded the meeting that Borough and Parish Council elections would take place on Thursday, 5 May 2011. There was also the likelihood that a referendum on proportional representation would also be held on the same day although this had yet to be confirmed.

She urged Parish Councils to be aware that a variety of posters and forms would be arriving over the next few weeks. Green posters and forms for Parish Council elections, white for Borough and grey for the referendum.

She gave contact details of officers dealing with the elections and also stated that information would be placed on the Borough Councils website.

The first notice which would be published was the Notice of Election which would be published around the 25 March 2011. She highlighted the very short timescale between that Notice being published and the closure of nominations in early April. All parish clerks would be sent relevant paper work for elections in February and she urged parish clerks to be as pro active as possible in securing nominations. She reminded parish clerks that no elector could subscribe to more nomination papers than there were vacancies on the Parish Council.

The next notice which parish clerks would receive would be the Statement of Persons Nominated, followed closely by a Notice of Poll if there were more candidates than vacancies.

If any Parish Council did not receive enough nominations to fill all vacant seats parish clerks were reminded that co option could only happen if the Parish Council was quorate.

Members then asked a number of questions, in particular whether those who had applied for a postal vote would need to complete a new application (awaiting clarification regarding referendum. For other elections this depends on duration requested in application. If requested for all elections then this includes Parish) and the last date for registration was 14 April according to Election Commission Calendar. The Chief Executive urged all parish clerks to try to ensure there was sufficient nominations for all vacant seats. He suggested that use could be made of Stan the Van for publicity purposes.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

OLDER PEOPLE'S NEEDS SURVEY

The Partnership Officer gave a presentation in relation to an over 50s Needs Survey which had been completed in November 2010. He highlighted that the aim of the survey was to find out what older people needed now and in the future, those findings would influence projects and policy. Eight villages had been selected for the survey.

In terms of overall findings these were divided into five sections:

- health and well being;
- the local area and amenities;
- you and your household;
- volunteering;
- supporting those in need.

In relation to health and well being, 72% of residents rated good or very good, yet 17% had some form of long term illness or disability; 79% chatted with family and neighbours 2 to 3 times a week; 22% had occasionally felt lonely and 34% did not have someone to turn to for advice.

In terms of local area and amenities, 96% of residents were satisfied with their local area; with post office, GP and chemist the most important local services but, on the downside, Ribble Valley was in the worse 10% in the country for access to services.

In relation to you and your household, the majority of household were either single or double occupancy with most children having left home. There is a lack of affordable housing which meant that family had moved large distances. Residents needed independence and social contact in the future and needed help with shopping, gardening, house maintenance and transport.

In relation to volunteering, 30% had experience of working with vulnerable people which would fill the gap left by cuts in social services whilst 45% had good administration and people skills which were ideal for community enterprises.

Finally, in relation to supporting those in need, only 9% received care whilst 17% suffered from some long term illness or disability. Would the remainder be in a better position if they could access service. Only 14% take up pension credit and other benefits compared to 23% in adjoining areas.

Transport and social services were identified as essential needs for the future.

In terms of next steps, it was important to keep the momentum going and to utilise peoples' willingness to get involved in 'not for profit' community shops, village hall coffee mornings and care and share befriending schemes. It was also important to look into areas of potential concern.

Members discussed isolation, transport and the use of village halls in some detail.

RESOLVED: That the survey be noted.

646 TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION 2012

The clerk to Bolton-by-Bowland Parish Council referred to the likelihood of there being a torchlight procession in 2012 to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the staging of the Olympic Games in London. He felt that the event should have a more borough wide feel to it and urged that Parish Councils should get more involved.

Councillor Robinson informed Committee that there was to be a meeting of all interested parties next week, hosted by Clitheroe Town Council and that already a large number of people had indicated they wished to be involved. She felt that Parish Councils had always been involved in previous torchlight events and saw no reason why the next one should be any different.

The Chief Executive also commented that he had been having preliminary discussions with the organisers and the Town Council and confirmed that Ribble Valley Borough Council would help wherever it could.

The clerk to Bolton-by-Bowland suggest that Peter Moore, one of the main organisers, be invited to attend the next meeting of this Committee to update members about what was planned and to seek Parish Council involvement.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive invite Peter Moore to attend the next meeting of this Committee to discuss the arrangements for the Torchlight Procession 2012.

647 DUKE OF LANCASTER'S REGIMENT – FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

The Chief Executive informed Committee that the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment would formally receive the Freedom of the Borough on 10 March 2011 and would march through the streets of Clitheroe in celebration. He urged as many people as possible to attend.

648 RETIREMENT OF DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Chairman referred to the forthcoming retirement of the Stewart Bailey, the Director of Development Services, and thanked him on behalf of Committee for all his hard work over the years, particularly his input into this Committee.

649 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman announced that the next meeting of this Committee would be held on 31 March 2011 starting at 7-15pm.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm.

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