

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 31 March 2011, starting at 7.15pm
Present: P Young (Chairman)

Councillors:

T Hill	I Sayers
E M H Ranson	G Scott
C Ross	D Taylor

Parish Representatives:

B Dowles	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
E Miller	Bowland Forest (Lower)
H Douglas	Chatburn
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
R Assheton	Downham
S Hopwood	Dutton
P Entwistle	Grindleton
F Priest	Longridge
C Parkinson	Longridge
N C Walsh	Mellor
R Whitwell	Pendleton
C Law	Read
J D Waterhouse	Read
A Ormond	Ribchester
R Newmark	Sabden
I R Hirst	Simonstone
A Duckworth	Simonstone
K Staines	Waddington
K Jackson	Waddington
M J Highton	Whalley

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Engineering Services, Head of Regeneration and Housing and the District Partnership Officer (Lancashire County Council).

In opening the meeting the Chairman asked the Committee to observe a minutes silence in memory of Parish Councillor Pauline Boardman from Ramsgreave who had died earlier this year.

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors R Hargreaves, S Hore and M Robinson and from the following Parish Representatives:

R Carr	Bowland Forest (Higher)
A Yearing	Clitheroe
A Hutchinson	Hothersall

814 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

815 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

816 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 643 – Three-Tier Forum

The Chief Executive referred to this minute and now reported the response received from Lancashire County Council which, whilst acknowledging the Committee's concerns, nevertheless was of the opinion that the Lancashire County Council wished to continue along the lines previously indicated to Committee in January.

There was some discussion around whether this Committee should make a nomination to the proposed forum immediately but the majority of Members felt that this matter should best be addressed at the June meeting of this Committee.

(b) Minute 644 – Elections

The Chief Executive reminded Parish Representatives of the deadline for submission of nomination papers for Parish Council election which was 12 noon on Monday, 4 April.

(c) Minute 647 – Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

The representative from Downham commented that the visit of the Regiment to Clitheroe had been much appreciated by people from his village.

817 CLITHEROE TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION 2012

The Chairman introduced Peter Moore, one of the organisers of Clitheroe Torchlight who gave a brief outline of the history of the event, the cost, the need for volunteers and the fact that this was not solely restricted to Clitheroe organisations but had a much broader appeal across the Ribble Valley. He particularly stressed the value of the Torchlight in bringing visitors into the area which would benefit the local economy.

Members then asked a number of questions including when the entry forms would be available, whether the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment would be invited, the possibility of a Lantern Festival as part of the celebrations, and possible other sources of funding.

RESOLVED: That Peter be thanked for his informative talk.

STREET PARTIES

The Head of Engineering Services highlighted a simple procedure to secure road closures necessary for the staging of residential street parties in support of the forthcoming Royal Wedding. This procedure is as recommended by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Ribble Valley has the authority to grant road closures for this event and the application for residents to request a closure is available from the Council's website or directly from the Communities and Local Government website.

He explained that if a street was neither a main through route or bus route, the application would be approved subject to the applicant, the resident, consulting with their neighbours and those affected by the closure in order to gain their support and also to suitably sign the road closure with any necessary alternative routes for traffic.

A supplementary pack would be provided for successful applicants with advice on reducing health and safety risks and where low cost third party insurance could be obtained from.

Committee were also advised that street parties were an opportunity for recycling as much of the food and drink tableware could potentially be recycled. A new initiative designed to maintain the quality of recycled material collected from householders was also being launched. New information stickers that detailed the goods that could be included in the residents blue recycling bins were being attached to the bins and signs detailing the potential recyclable materials would also be fixed to the side of refuse collection vehicles.

Members then discussed this matter in some detail.

RESOLVED: That the report on street parties be welcomed.

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISHES

(a) Ribchester - Parish Council Clerks and PAYE

The Parish Clerk for Ribchester alerted the Parish Councils to the recent announcement by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) that as from the 5 April 2011, Parish Clerks would no longer be treated as self employed for tax purposes and had to be employed by their Parish Council. This announcement effectively changed the guidance on the appointment status of Parish Clerks. If Parish Councils refused to heed this advice then they ran the risk of incurring a fine. Clearly this would have far reaching implications for both Parish Clerks and their respective Parish Councils.

The Chief Executive commented that many small Parish Councils would face extra work with no extra funding and other Parish Clerks were concerned about the impact this would have on their future employment. Another impact could be on any other employees such as village lengthsman.

The Chief Executive also referred to the issue of tax thresholds in relation to the Parish Clerks and their earnings.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Leader of the Council write to Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs pointing out the concerns of this Committee and Parish Clerks in the Ribble Valley; and
2. the Chief Executive circulate information regarding tax thresholds with the minutes.

(b) Simonstone - Parish and Town Council Charter

The Sabden Parish Council representative referred to a review being undertaken by Lancashire County Council in relation to the Parish and Town Councils Charter. Three questions were being asked of all Parish Councils to help with that review process.

The District Partnership Officer from Lancashire County Council also commented on this review and other Members also asked a number of questions in relation to the Charter and its usefulness to Parish Councils.

RESOLVED: That this matter be discussed in more detail at the next meeting of this Committee.

(c) De-Tabley Bridge, Ribchester

The Ward Councillor for Ribchester voiced his concerns in relation to the recent bridge closure in Ribchester and the lack of prior notice given by Lancashire County Council. He urged Parish Clerks to keep an eye on the posting of appropriate notices in relation to bridge and road closures.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

820 PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF PAYPHONE – THORNLEY-WITH-WHEATLEY

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported receipt of a 90 day notice from British Telecom of the withdrawal of a public telephone kiosk at Thornley School, Thornley-with-Wheatley, following a road traffic accident. British Telecom were proposing to remove the kiosk on safety grounds and it was not proposed to replace the kiosk due to its low usage.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

821 STAN THE VAN

The Head of Regeneration and Housing circulated leaflets and timetables covering April to June 2011 for this mobile facility. He also commented that there were a limited supply of leaflet holders for use by village halls or post offices.

These were available on a first come first served basis, those interested should contact Diane Miller in the Community Team. The vehicle had been booked for weekend events such as Longridge Field Day and Chipping Show and extra personnel were currently being trained up to enable the van to be used more at weekends. He urged that if any Parishes had any ideas for events or locations for the van, they should contact Chris Hughes the Head of Cultural and Leisure Services.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

822 HEALTHY VALLEY UPDATE

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported that the Healthy Valley Initiative had recently been awarded the Community Empowerment and Social Cohesion Award by North West Together We Can in recognition of its work in improving access to services in rural parts of the Ribble Valley.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

823 CYRIL LAW – RETIREMENT

The Chairman announced that this would be the last meeting of this Committee attended by Cyril Law from Read Parish Council. She referred to Cyril's long involvement with Read Parish Council, his Chairmanship of this Committee, his service on many Committees with Ribble Valley Borough Council and in particular she reflected on his sense of humour and his unique style of chairmanship. Finally she wished him well in his forthcoming retirement. Cyril thanked the Committee for their best wishes.

824 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman reported that although the Committee timetable had not yet been finalised, the next meeting of this Committee would be held in early June 2011.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Colin Hirst (414503).