

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 29 September 2011 starting at 7.15pm
Present: P Young (Chairman)

Councillors:

R Hargreaves	C Ross
T Hill	I Sayers
G Mirfin	G Scott
R Newmark	R Swarbrick
L Rimmer	D Taylor
M Robinson	

Parish Representatives:

D Bland	Aighton Bailey & Chaigley
J Porter	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
D Leedham	Bowland Forest (Higher)
H Douglas	Chatburn
P Hunt	Chipping
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
A Yearling	Clitheroe
P Entwistle	Grindleton
N C Walsh	Mellor
R Whitwell	Pendleton
T Nelson	Ramsgreave
A Mashiter	Read
C Pollard	Read
A Ormand	Ribchester
M Calvert	Sabden
G Molloy	Simonstone
P Cook	Slaidburn
N Breakes	Slaidburn
C Ansbro	Thornley with Wheatley
K Staines	Waddington
K Jackson	Waddington
C Cherry	West Bradford
M Highton	Whalley
J M Bremner	Wilpshire
A C Gaffney	Wilpshire
J Brown	Wiswell & Barrow

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Regeneration and Housing, Head of Engineering Services.

Also in attendance: Katy Marshall, Ribble Valley Citizens Advice Bureau for item 4; Inspector Chris Saville, Ribble Valley Police for item 5 and Stephanie Clarkson, Lauren Hall and Hannah Whittaker for item 6.

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors P Dowson and M Ranson and from the following Parish Representatives:

R Assheton	Downham
P Moorey	Hothersall
F Priest	Longridge
C Parkinson	Longridge

388 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

389 MATTERS ARISING

- a) Minute 94(a) - Three Tier Forum – The Chairman reported, for information, that she had been invited to attend the first meeting of this body which would probably take place in November.
- b) Minute 94(b) – Torchlight Procession – The Chief Executive reported that the date for the 2012 Torchlight Procession had been changed again to coincide with the August bank holiday weekend.
- c) Minute 97(a) – Waddington Double Yellow Lines in Villages – The Head of Regeneration and Housing commented that this matter would be raised by the Head of Engineering Services at the next District Engineers meeting.
- d) Minute 97(b) – Data Protection Act – The Chief Executive reported that he had written to both Kenneth Clarke, the Justice Minister and Nigel Evans MP on this matter but, to date, had received no reply. He promised to chase up a response for the next meeting.

390 RIBBLE VALLEY CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Chairman welcomed Katy Marshall, the manager of the Ribble Valley Citizens Advice Bureau. She gave details of the broad range of work which the bureau undertook ranging from debt advice to relationship breakdown and employment to housing issues.

She stated that the CAB employed 8 part time staff and 17 volunteers. The CAB also had a 13 member Board of Trustees and had 4 Ribble Valley Councillors as Trustees.

Details were given on its funding with Ribble Valley Borough Council contributing £60,000 towards the running costs and a further £40,000 coming from a variety of sources including individual donations, charities and Parish Councils.

She stressed that although the CAB was based in Clitheroe, it did cover the whole of the Ribble Valley with 44% of customers coming from outside Clitheroe. There was also an outreach facility in Longridge.

CAB also provided accommodation for staff from the mental health team, HARV domestic violence councillors and Welfare Rights. Katy then answered questions on increasing workloads and future funding issues.

RESOLVED: That Katy be thanked for her informative talk.

391 POLICING IN THE RIBBLE VALLEY

The Chairman introduced Inspector Chris Saville, the geographic police inspector for the Ribble Valley. Chris explained the two main aspects of his work which were day to day policing and special operations. He and his staff reviewed every reported crime and put measures in place to solve them quickly. Crime trends were constantly being looked at and criminal patterns of behaviour were studied.

He stressed that Ribble Valley was very low crime with few resident burglars. However, Ribble Valley did suffer from criminals travelling into the valley from surrounding areas such as Merseyside, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire specifically to commit crime on our patch.

Metal theft was becoming a big problem and this has culminated in Operation Border which was aimed at travelling criminals coming into the valley to steal lead from church roofs and metal gates, tools and bikes.

Operation Firecrest targeted rural crime and there was also an attempt to encourage farmers to set up a farm watch operation and to look at the use of smart water liquid. Poachers and power tool thefts had been detected as a result of Operation Firecrest.

Operation Defender specifically targeted the theft of Landrovers and Operation Secure was an awareness raising issue for residents urging them to make more secure their property and possessions.

Chris then answered a number of questions around the proliferation of drug taking in the Ribble Valley, the threat to Clitheroe as a booming night time economy, the uses for smart water, the question of double yellow lines in villages and the control of scrap yards receiving stolen metal. As a final point, Chris reminded people that they could best help the police to solve crime by reporting any suspicious activities immediately.

RESOLVED: That Chris Saville be thanked for his informative talk.

392 LITTLE GREEN BUS

Committee received a letter from Donna Atkinson, the manager of the Little Green Bus, giving details of changes which Lancashire County Council were implementing in the way community transport organisations in Lancashire now had to charge customers for journeys and also to set up a membership scheme.

The letter stressed the financial implications of these decisions which were very onerous and a number of meetings had been held with officers from Lancashire County Council to challenge their proposals.

External grants were being explored by Little Green Bus with the assistance of officers at the Ribble Valley Borough Council as a way of them continuing to provide a service to the community. Details of the financial losses incurred by Little Green Bus in July and August were highlighted for Committee. Councillor

Sayers spoke in support of Little Green Bus and urged parishes to do whatever they could to help the organisation to continue.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted at this stage.

393 CHATBURN YOUTH FORUM

The Chairman introduced Lauren Hall and Hannah Whittaker from Chatburn Youth Forum who gave a presentation about the work which the Forum had been undertaking since it was set up four months ago. It was aimed at youth aged between 11-16 and they met once a week to discuss issues affecting the village and young people in order to help resolve some of them. So far, the youth forum had undertaken the following initiatives.

- Planted flowers in ornamental pots in the centre of the village
- Raised funds for the village school
- Talked amongst themselves about the dangers of drug taking and healthy relationships
- Held a stall at the 20/20 village cricket competition to raise funds for the forum

Future events were planned including a tea morning and organising a choir for the switch on of the village Christmas tree lights.

The forum had received help and guidance from The Grand, Young Peoples Service and Brook Agency. Their aim was to give a more positive face to youths, who are often blamed when things went wrong in the village.

Numerous representatives were very appreciative of the work which had already been done by the Youth Forum and it was commented that there was already interest being shown from other parts of the borough. Finally, they were able to report that they had been offered a home one night a week in the local village hall.

RESOLVED: That Lauren and Hannah be congratulated on their efforts to establish a youth forum in Chatburn and that Committee's best wishes be sent for their future success.

394 REVIEW OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Head of Engineering Services reported on a review of the provision and operation of public toilets in the borough and to identify a range of potential outcomes.

He stated that the Council currently operated 24 sets of public conveniences across the borough; four in Clitheroe, three in Longridge with the remainder spread across the Ribble Valley. The high number of toilets reflected both the rural nature of the area and the fact that Ribble Valley attracted many visitors to the area.

A working group of four councillors had been set up to consider officer proposals in finding an acceptable and sustainable solution. A number of options had been identified. These ranged from closure of all the facilities to revised arrangements

of selected facilities. Amongst the options investigated were urban community toilet schemes, rural community toilet schemes, local management and support of council facilities, opening and closing arrangements and new facilities to cater for new demands.

Members then discussed these proposals and asked a number of questions on signage, disabled users, using car park revenue to keep car park toilets open, the remote nature of some of the proposed public use facilities and opening hours of some public use facilities.

The Head of Engineering Services stressed that this was very much a progress report and that no decisions had been taken yet. A report would be submitted to Community Committee on 8 November 2011. He also stated that Parish Councillors would be sent a copy of the review document for their information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

395 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

The Chief Executive reminded Members of the ongoing review by the Boundary Commission for England of parliamentary constituencies. He stressed that this review was only looking at parliamentary constituencies and not at local government re-organisation.

He did point out that under the proposals the town of Longridge and the wards of Chipping and Ribchester were proposed to be transferred to the new Lancaster constituency. He commented that the Council's Policy and Finance Committee had resolved to write to the Boundary Commission stating that any Ribble Valley constituency must be based on Ribble Valley as a whole, rather than seeing some of its area moved to another constituency.

RESOLVED: That

1. the matter be noted; and
2. Parish Councils be urged to make their views known to the Boundary Commission before the end of the deadline.

396 START TIME OF MEETING

The Community Development Officer reported that, following discussions with the Chairman, it had been agreed to canvas regular attendees of this Committee on the start time of the meeting. The choice given to those canvassed was either to move to a 6.30pm start or leave it at 7.15pm as at present.

The result of the poll was as follows:

18 representatives in favour of a 6.30pm start
11 representatives in favour of a 7.15pm start

The Community Development Officer explained which representatives had been canvassed and explained why borough councillors had not been asked for their preference.

A further vote was then taken resulting in 12 representatives being in favour of the 6.30pm start with 10 preferring the 7.15pm option.

RESOLVED: That this meeting start at 6.30pm for a trial period of three meetings and a review of this new arrangement be held at the March 2012 meeting.

397 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman announced that the next meeting of this Committee was scheduled for Thursday, 24 November 2011.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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