

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 26 January 2012, starting at 6.30pm
Present: P Young (Balderstone PC) (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Brunskill	M Robinson
R Hargreaves	C Ross
T Hill	I Sayers
G Mirfin	R Swarbrick
R Newmark	D Taylor
E M H Ranson	

Parish Representatives:

D Bland	Aighton Bailey & Chaigley
J Porter	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
K Winstanley	Bowland Forest (Higher)
H Douglas	Chatburn
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
A Yearling	Clitheroe
J Shervey	Clitheroe
R Assheton	Downham
P Ryde	Gisburn
P Morey	Hothersall
F Priest	Longridge
D Hicks	Longridge
N C Walsh	Mellor
R Whitwell	Pendleton
T Nelson	Ramsgreave
A Mashiter	Read
J D Waterhouse	Read
A Ormand	Ribchester
M Calvert	Sabden
D Peat	Simonstone
I R Hirst	Simonstone
P Cook	Slaidburn
K Staines	Waddington
R K Jackson	Waddington
M J Highton	Whalley
J Brewer	Wilpshire
A Wright	Wiswell

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Regeneration and Housing, Head of Engineering Services, Community Development Officer and Tasma Valinakis – Help Direct.

Also in attendance: Councillor R Thompson.

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillor G Scott and from the following Parish Representatives:

B Dowles	Bolton-by-Bowland
P Entwistle	Grindleton
G Malloy	Simonstone
C Ansbro	Thornley-with-Wheatley
C Cherry	West Bradford

689 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

690 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

691 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Chipping Village Plan

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported that following this matter being discussed at the last meeting, a number of Parish Councils contacted him to discuss the possibility of developing their own village plan.

(b) Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons

The Chief Executive asked that if Parishes were planning to organise a beacon to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee they should contact the Chris Hughes, the Council's Head of Cultural and Leisure Services so that they could co-ordinate publicity. A Member also asked if Parish Councils were proposing to organise any other events celebrating the Jubilee they should inform the Borough Council who could then co-ordinate publicity for these events.

692 REVIEW OF THE PROVISION AND OPERATION OF PUBLIC TOILETS

The Head of Engineering Services referred to his report which had been considered by Community Committee. It updated Committee on the findings of the Public Conveniences Working Group and sought approval to implement the recommendations in respect of the operation of the Council's public conveniences. He reminded Committee that the Working Group had been formed to consider Officer proposals for an acceptable and sustainable solution for the provision of conveniences across the borough that were accessible to the public. He reminded Members that the intention was that the rationalisation of the provision of public conveniences could save £40,000 per annum and this had been agreed as part of the Council's recent budget review.

The Community Toilet Scheme had been launched in both Clitheroe and Longridge on the 1 December 2011 and to date a total number of number of 39 businesses had agreed to support the initiative.

Automatic locking and unlocking systems had been installed successfully in 6 locations which means that separate trips by Council staff to merely lock or unlock facilities were no longer required.

He also pointed out that the sustainability of the Borough Council's conveniences was an issue and the continued operation of all 24 sets of conveniences currently operated was not financially sustainable and although there were alternative and innovative ways to support and maintain of the facilities there was a need for facilities to be closed.

Parish Representatives from Gisburn and Waddington expressed their disappointment at the proposals to close public toilets in their areas and questioned the rationale behind the toilets being closed as low usage. The Head of Engineering Services referred to the count of usage undertaken in Autumn 2011.

Councillor Thompson, the Chairman of Community Committee, was given permission to speak and reminded Committee of the need to make these savings and pointed out that under the Community Toilet Scheme the use of toilet facilities in certain village which did not currently enjoy that facility was a welcome addition to the area.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

693 WARM HOME HEALTHY PEOPLE FUND 2011/12

The Head of Regeneration and Housing referred to a report which had been considered by Health and Housing Committee informing them of a successful bid for funding from the Department of Health. The fund was to support Local Authorities to help reduce the levels of deaths in their area and would be use of to support vulnerable people living in cold housing. The project was a partnership working with a number of local organisations operating in the community and included trained volunteers who would offer personal contacts and additional support.

The scheme had been launched today by the Ribble Valley Mayor in Clitheroe with satellite launches in Chipping and Slaidburn.

A Member raised a question of old people being 'cold called' by businesses and there was a discussion how best to protect elderly and vulnerable people from this practice.

RESOLVED: That

1. the report be noted; and
2. the Chief Executive contact the Telephone Preference Service to raise this matter with them.

694 ENFORCEMENT OF CAR PARKING IN VILLAGES

The Head of Engineering Services informed the Committee that enforcement of 'on-street' car parking in rural villages was undertaken by contractors working on

behalf of Lancashire County Council. Enforcement on weekdays between 9am and 5pm was regular, with enforcement out of office hours and at weekends more sporadic but it could be done on request. He also commented that Lancashire County Council welcomed any reports of breaches and would respond accordingly. Some enforcement had recently been carried out in one of the local villages in the Ribble Valley. The number to call to report problems was: 0800 195 2774.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

695 SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES IN THE RIBBLE VALLEY

The Community Development Officer reported that Lancashire County Council were currently consulting on revisions to the Ribble Valley subsidised bus services. The consultation period ended on the 14 February and it was felt important to send the proposals to all Parish Clerks and also to include it on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Lancashire County Council Officers had held consultation events at Clitheroe Library on Tuesday 24 and Thursday, 26 January and would also hold a further consultation event at Longridge Library on Friday, 27 January.

Broadly speaking the proposals were to merge a number of services, improve frequencies and look to extend services to some village which were currently poorly served.

Copies of relevant timetables were available for inspection by Parish Representatives. Any comments should be made direct to the Lancashire County Council or to Phil Dagnall at Ribble Valley Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

696 THREE TIER FORUM

The Chairman reported on the first meeting of the Three Tier Forum which she felt had proved useful and requested Parishes to pass on to her any items which they wished her to raise on their behalf at future meetings.

The Chief Executive and Leader of the Council also commented on the usefulness of the Forum.

The Community Development Officer reported, for information, that the Lancashire Association of Local Councils had been proposing to appoint a deputy to the Chairman as a representative on the Forum. He had subsequently had a number of conversations with officers at LALC and this item had been withdrawn from their agenda.

A number of Members asked about the content and publicity for these meetings and the Chief Executive commented that the Three Tier Forum was not classed as a public meeting in the accepted sense. It was more a meeting between Councillors to discuss issues of mutual concern.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman reported that the next meeting of this Committee would be held on Thursday, 29 March 2012, starting at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

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