

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 22 November 2012 starting at 6.30pm
Present: P Young (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	M Robinson
I Brown	C Ross
T Hill	I Sayers
S Hore	G Scott
G Mirfin	D Taylor
E M H Ranson	

Parish Representatives:

F Havard	Billington & Langho
J Porter	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
C Parkinson	Bowland Forest (Higher)
H Douglas	Chatburn
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
S Hopwood	Dutton
F Priest	Longridge
N C Walsh	Mellor
T Nelson	Ramsgreave
C Pollard	Read
A Ormand	Ribchester
S Rostron	Paythorne & Newsholme
M Calvert	Sabden
G Molloy	Simonstone
M Hayhurst	Thornley-with-Wheatley
H D Parker	Waddington
A Bristol	West Bradford
M J Highton	Whalley
J Bremner	Wilpshire
T Gaffney	Wilpshire
J G Strong	Wiswell

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Regeneration and Housing and the Countryside Officer (for item 4 only).

477

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors R Hargreaves, R Newmark and R Swarbrick and from the following Parish Representatives:

D Bland	Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley
E Miller	Bowland Forest (Lower Division)
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale

A Yearling	Clitheroe
P Morey	Hothersall
R Assheton	Downham
A Mashiter	Read
K Staines	Waddington
K Jackson	Waddington
C Cherry	West Bradford

478 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

479 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 105(a) – Compliance with Planning Conditions – Simonstone

The Chairman reported that she had facilitated a meeting between Simonstone Parish Council and Lancashire County Council in an attempt to bring both parties together on this issue.

The representative from Simonstone further reported that the meeting had been productive.

480 ASH DIEBACK

The Countryside Officer gave a verbal update on this disease which was threatening the Ash tree population of the UK. He informed Members that Ash dieback is a fungal, airborne virus which was probably imported into the country from young Ash trees from the continent of Europe. Potentially it could have as devastating an effect as Dutch Elm disease in the 1970s.

There were currently 80 million Ash trees in the UK and the potential effect on the landscape and on large landowners such as the National Trust and the Forestry Commission was immeasurable. In addition, dealing with dead, dying and dangerous trees will have a potentially substantial impact on county and district council resources.

The Forestry Commission had information on their website and had decided that it was not possible to eradicate the disease but rather to try to contain it. The public were asked to be vigilant and report any concerns they had immediately.

Members then asked how the disease could be recognised and whether there were any scientific diagnosis.

RESOLVED: That the Countryside Officer be thanked for his useful update.

481

CLOSURE OF ROADS BY UNITED UTILITIES

The Chairman introduced Graham Dent, the Project Co-ordinator from United Utilities who informed Members that the ongoing schedule of works to rural properties converting them to a mains water supply. In 2012 the company had carried out works in a number of Ribble Valley villages, including Hurst Green, Chipping, Longridge, West Bradford, Grindleton, Dunsop Bridge and Slaidburn.

He commented on the consultations which had been undertaken with local communities in relation to these proposed works.

He further reported that a number of works were now complete, particularly in Chipping, West Bradford and Grindleton. The work at Dunsop bridge, which had caused considerable disruption including the closure of the Trough Road, were now three weeks ahead of schedule. In addition, work was due to start at Longridge and Hurst Green in the foreseeable future.

Members then asked a number of questions around the issue of public consultation for road closures and asked that these be improved on in the light of recent experience. Graham Dent agreed to take these comments back for further consideration by the company.

RESOLVED: That Graham be thanked for his informative presentation.

482

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING AND IN THE KNOW MESSAGING SERVICE

The Chairman introduced Tony Ford and Tony Walsh from Lancashire Constabulary. Tony Ford introduced himself as the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and gave a brief history of policing and how this related to rural policing in the modern day. He stressed the need for the public to help the police in providing immediate information on anything suspicious happening in their locality. He reminded Members that the Ribble Valley was a very safe area, the majority of crimes committed in the Ribble Valley were done so by travelling criminals, who only came into the area to commit crime. He felt that the police and public needed to work closer together to help combat crime and early reporting was a vital key to this.

Tony Walsh then gave details of the Farm Watch scheme, which operated in rural areas and provided a mechanism whereby farms and rural businesses could contact the police if they spotted anything suspicious in their area. He commented that Farm Watch had grown in the past 12 months from 100 members to a current total of 350 membership with a further 50 waiting to join. He had had a presence at both Clitheroe and Gisburn Auction Mart and at the Hodder Valley show. There was also a link with Smart Water liquid which helped protect farm vehicles and equipment.

Tony Ford also stressed that the new HTK in the know messaging service was available to all residents regardless of whether they lived in an urban or rural area and he urged Members to sign up to this particular service and again help the police help rural communities.

Members then asked a number of questions including the future of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership, availability of signage, the possibility that some crime was not being reported, and cars for sale on highways.

RESOLVED: That Tony Ford and Tony Walsh be thanked for their informative and interesting talk.

483 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

a) Longridge Town Council – New Model Standing Orders

The Parish representative from Longridge queried the new model standing orders for Parish Councils, in particular the reference to the relevance/legality of any other business. He was advised to discuss this matter at Longridge Town Council.

484 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman reported that the next meeting of this Committee would be held on Thursday, 31 January 2013 starting at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.59pm.

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