

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 20 June 2013, starting at 6.30pm

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	M Robinson
I Brown	I Sayers
P Dowson	G Scott
R Hargreaves	D Taylor
R Newmark	N Walsh
L Rimmer	

Parish Representatives:

P Young	Balderstone
D Blackledge	Bolton-by-Bowland
J Walmsley	Bolton-by-Bowland
B Dowles	Bolton-by-Bowland
A Carr	Bowland Forest (Higher)
T Rollinson	Bowland Forest (Lower)
H Douglas	Chatburn
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
A Yearling	Clitheroe
M Beattie	Newton-in-Bowland
A Steer	Osbaldeston
R Whitwell	Pendleton
A Mashiter	Read
A Ormand	Ribchester
R Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
J Shorter	Sabden
Mr Proctor/er	Sabden
D Peat	Simonstone
I R Hirst	Simonstone
E Scott	Slaidburn
M Faraday	Thornley-with-Wheatley
K Jackson	Waddington
C Cherry	West Bradford
J Bremner	Wilpshire
T Gaffney	Wilpshire
M Farrant	Wiswell & Barrow

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

Also in attendance:

A Ashcroft	LCC Public Real Manager (RV)
P Mayes	LCC Assistant Director Commissioning (North)
D Smith	Lancashire County Council
D Pearson	Friends of Slaidburn Country Practice
J Lawson	Friends of Slaidburn Country Practice

129 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Parish Councillor P Young from Balderstone be appointed as the Chairman of this Committee for the municipal year 2013/14.

130 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor D Taylor be appointed as Vice Chairman of this Committee for the municipal year 2013/14.

131 APOLOGIES

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

J Porter	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale
R Assheton	Downham
L Bateman	Hothersall
G Meloy	Simonstone

132 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

133 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

134 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Minute 779(c) – Satnav Problems in Sabden

The Head of Engineering Services commented that he had raised this matter at a traffic management meeting and the Public Realm Manager had agreed to look further into this particular problem.

(b) Minute 779(e) – State of the Roads

The Clerk to Bolton-by-Bowland asked about future funding for speed indicator device replacement. County Councillor Smith commented that he had no further update on this matter.

135 STATE OF THE ROADS

The Chairman introduced Peter Mayes, Assistant Director Commissioning (North) and Andy Ashcroft, Public Realm Manager (RV), who gave details of the available budgets for highways maintenance and the huge impact which two bad winters and heavy rainfall had had on the County's road network. Peter pointed out the effect which a combination of cuts in budgets and drastic reduction in

staffing levels were having on this service. He also pointed out the length of 'C' classified roads within the Ribble Valley and indeed the length of roads across the county. He therefore questioned this Committee's preference to see 'C' roads given a priority when he had to balance that with attention to other roads, street lighting and gulley cleaning.

He spelt out the very difficult balancing act which LCC officers and members had to make in relation to public expectation and available funding.

Finally he pointed out that Lancashire County Council was already £5m under-resourced by Central Government on highway maintenance and added that despite the additional contribution that LCC makes, they are still losing ground with the condition of the roads, but not as quickly as in other areas.

Members then asked a number of specific questions about maintenance issues in Low Moor, Clitheroe; the McDonalds roundabout on the A59; potholes and 20mph signage. Peter promised to take these matters back for a further look at how they could be resolved.

RESOLVED: That Peter and Andy be thanked for their presentation.

136 CLITHEROE FOOD BANK

Committee received Ruth Haldane who spoken about the work which had been undertaken in forming the Clitheroe Food Bank which would start operating on Monday, 8 July. She stated that between January and April 2013, as a pilot for the food banks operation, 250 people had been referred by agencies to receive food.

The Clitheroe Food Bank would be operated by the Trussell Trust and would work on a referral basis. It would be based in Clitheroe although future consideration would be given to operating satellite operations in both Longridge and Whalley. The number of agencies who could refer ranged from health visitors to churches and schools to social services. Tesco's had providing shelving for the warehouse and would also provide the first batch of non-perishable food. Ruth pleaded for people to volunteer for the work which the food bank would deliver; it would operate on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 11am and 1.30pm.

Members then asked about similar food banks in neighbouring towns; how many people were likely to be helped and how referrals could be made.

RESOLVED: That Ruth be thanked for her informative presentation.

137 SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Committee received a report giving an update on the introduction of superfast broadband in rural areas. A timetable was set out from which it was clear that Ribble Valley was not in the first phase of this rollout.

Whilst the main thrust of superfast broadband was primarily aimed at business, it would also help citizens with faster internet connection and students with homework studies.

It was noted that 40% of premises in Ribble Valley would receive superfast broadband via BT/Openreach commercial rollout. This was mainly through the Clitheroe and Longridge exchanges. Approximately 505 of premises would receive coverage under superfast broadband public/private partnership programme served by exchanges in Chatburn. Those would also be live in September 2013 with Mellor going live in 2014, Padiham 2014, Whalley 2014 and Wilpshire 2014. Other rural exchanges at Chipping, Dunsop Bridge and Bolton-by-Bowland would also start in that year.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

138 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

The Chief Executive introduced his report which listed Parish Council question or concerns and provided an officer response which could then be discussed at the meeting.

(a) Chatburn Parish Council – “What are Ribble Valley Borough Council Doing for Us?”

The Chatburn representative commented on two issues in relation to lack of help with legal advice and providing a price for the siting a bench. The Chief Executive explained the constraints which were placed on legal advice but undertook to go back to relevant officers with the concerns now being raised.

(b) Ribchester Parish Council – Insurances

Whilst this issue had been placed on the agenda to alert Parish Councils to the issue of insurances for volunteers who were under 10 or over 75, the Parish Clerk to Ribchester updated the meeting that since the report had been written his Parish Council had received a much more favourable quote from their insurers in relation to these issues. The matter had therefore been resolved as far as Ribchester Parish Council were concerned.

(c) Bolton-by-Bowland Parish Council – Training

The Chief Executive commented on the two aspects of this request. One was in relation to the possible re-introduction of a Parish Council reception provided by the Borough Council. He commented that the Council were more than happy to consider this reception being reintroduced.

The second related to a sum of money given to this committee by LCC which could be used to help with training new Parish Councillors on issues such as planning. The Chief Executive suggested that the two events could possibly be combined ie training and reception. He

promised that officers would look at this and see how best it could be delivered.

(d) Simonstone Parish Council – Notifications

The Chief Executive commented that Simonstone Parish Council were concerned about when changes occurred to planning applications and were not being notified to Parish Clerks. The Head of Planning Services had offered to provide some training on planning for new Parish Councillors and it was felt this could link in with the previous item on Parish Councillor training.

(e) Slaidburn Parish Council – Country Medical Practice

Committee welcomed Dorothy Pearson, the Chairman of the Slaidburn Country Medical Practice, which was being threatened with closure. She stated that in 2004 the then Government had provided a minimum practice guarantee but under recent NHS changes, this was due to be phased out. This would leave many rural areas such as the Bowland area without a medical practice leaving patients with long journey times for medical help. Over 100 such practices were being threatened countrywide. Rural communities were once again under threat.

Dorothy urged that everyone support their campaign, attend the public meeting to be held on Monday, 1 July at Newton Village Hall and lend their voices to the protest.

The Chief Executive suggested that a letter of support could be sent from this Committee. It was also suggested that the Health and Wellbeing Board should be involved with the campaign.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive write in support of the campaign to save the Slaidburn Country Medical Practice.

139 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman announced that the next meeting of this committee would be held on Thursday, 5 September 2013 at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.43pm.

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