

## Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 11 September 2014 starting at 6.30pm  
Present: P Young (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	L Rimmer
P Dowson	M Robinson
R Hargreaves	R Swarbrick
R Newmark	N C Walsh

Parish Representatives:

P Tyson	Aighton Bailey & Chaigley
F Havard	Billington & Langho
J Porter	Bolton-by-Bowland
J Blackett	Bowland Forest (Higher)
H Douglas	Chatburn
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale
A Yearling	Clitheroe
S Hopwood	Dutton
P Entwistle	Grindleton
S Rosthron	Paythorne & Newsholme
A Davies	Read
R Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
J Shorter	Sabden
A Haworth	Sabden
R K Jackson	Waddington
H D Parker	Waddington
A Bristol	West Bradford
M J Highton	Whalley
J Bremner	Wilpshire
J Brown	Wiswell

In attendance: Chief Executive and Head of Regeneration and Housing.

Also in attendance: County Councillor Cynthia Dereli.

276

### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors I Brown, C Ross, G Scott and D Taylor and from the following Parish Representatives:

T Hoyle	Dinckley
R Assheton	Downham
K Hutton	Grindleton

A Hutchinson	Hothersall
B Dixon	Newton-in-Bowland
A Steer	Osbaldeston
A Ormond	Ribchester
E Law-Riding	Ribchester
D Peat	Simonstone
I R Hirst	Simonstone
J Brown	Whalley

277 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2014 were approved as a correct record with the following names being added to the attendance list:

Councillors:

I Brown

Parish Representatives:

A Davies	Read
S Bridge	Read
A Ormond	Ribchester
E Law-Riding	Ribchester

The corrected minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

278 MATTERS ARISING

A) Minute 104(c) – Community Strategy

A Parish Representative asked for an update on this issue. The Head of Regeneration and Housing stated that a number of discussions had taken place with Parish Councils and individual communities around the Ribble Valley. The intention was to produce a draft document which would then be circulated for comments. A final document would then be agreed and launched.

279 OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Community Development Officer presented a report on a recently published guide for the press and public about attending and reporting local government meetings. In particular, Parish Councils' attention was drawn to section 4 of the guide which related specifically to Parish Councils and their meetings.

The guide was split into five parts each with a different focus. Part 1 was about the use of different communication tools for reporting the proceedings of any meetings. Part 2 explained how the public could gain access to meetings of a Council Executive, its committees and sub-committees and records of executive decisions taken by Members and officers. Part 3 explained how the public could

access all other meetings of a local government body other than Parish and Town Councils. Part 4 specifically explains how the public could access meetings of Parish and Town Council and their records and Part 5 focused on other rights that the public had to access to information.

These new national regulations had increased the right to film, audio record, take photographs and use media such as Tweeting and blogging to report meetings. Prior permission for all these activities was no longer required but members of the public were advised that they should contact their local council where filming was being proposed.

Members then discussed elements of this report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### 280 CONCURRENT FUNCTIONS

The Chief Executive circulated details of a report which had been discussed at Policy and Finance Committee which indicated those Parish Councils which had currently applied for a grant under the Council's concurrent functions grant scheme. The scheme allowed Parish Councils to claim 25% for a number of functions such as burial grounds, footpaths, litter collection and dog waste bins.

He urged those Parish Councils which had not already applied to do so.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### 281 COUNTY COUNCILLOR CYNTHIA DERELI – PARISH COUNCIL CHAMPION

The Chairman introduced County Councillor Dereli, the Lancashire County Council Parish Council Champion. She spoke about her role which she had taken up in 2013. As the Parish Council Champion, she had a budget of £10,000 which she invited Parish Councils to apply for, for small projects. Her primary focus was health and wellbeing and improving people's lives.

She produced a newsletter which have more information about her role and the funding that came with it. She commented that whilst it was very much central government policy to ensure people applied on line for any number of issues, many people simply could not do this because they did not have their own computer. Help was available from LCC officers and there was another County Council fund, the digital inclusion fund, which would also be applied for.

She also commented on the County Council's annual meeting with Parish Councils which this year would not be held in October but would be held next March and would be held in Burnley to enable east Lancashire districts to access the event.

Discussion then focused on rural broadband and the slow rollout in Ribble Valley. Many Members commented on their particular experience and it was felt that someone from British Telecom should be invited to a future meeting of this

Committee to explain how the process was going and what the current problems were. The representative from Rimington and Gisburn informed Committee that they had a public meeting arranged to which all Members would be invited on Thursday, 25 September 2014 at 7pm.

RESOLVED: That

1. County Councillor Dereli be thanked for her informative presentation;
2. the Chief Executive invite Hannah Wignall from British Telecom to attend the next meeting of this Committee to explain the problems with rural broadband rollout; and
3. County Councillor Dereli's details and newsletter be circulated to all Parish Council clerks.

282

#### MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

- a) Sabden – lack of telephone lines

A Parish representative from Sabden informed Committee that there were no more telephone lines available in the Sabden area. This matter would be taken up with the representative from British Telecom.

- b) Potholes in Grindleton

A Parish representative from Grindleton commented on the state of roads in his Parish which had deteriorated over recent years, mainly due to through traffic to Bowland High School, construction traffic at that site and large farm vehicles.

The Chief Executive commented that he had raised this matter with the Council's Head of Engineering Services who was meeting with the Public Realm Manager for Lancashire County Council next Monday in Grindleton to show him what the problem was.

Other Parish representatives commented on the state of roads in their particular villages.

RESOLVED: That

1. the comments of Grindleton Parish Council and others be passed on to the Lancashire County Council's Public Realm Manager at the site meeting; and
2. the Chief Executive invite the Public Realm Manager to attend the next meeting of this Committee to explain how his budget was being spent and would be spent in the future.

c) Solar Panels on roof Tops

A Parish representative raised this issue and sought guidance on the Borough Council's policy. The Head of Regeneration and Housing commented that whilst there was no specific policy it did rather depend on where the application was located, whether permitted development rights applied and other factors.

The meeting closed at 7.52pm.

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