

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 30 October 2014, starting at 6.30pm
Present: P Young (Chairman)

Councillors:

I Brown	R Swarbrick
P Dowson	D Taylor
I Sayers	N C Walsh
G Scott	

Parish Representatives:

D Bland	Aighton Bailey & Chaigley
J Porter	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
H Douglas	Chatburn
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale
S Hopwood	Dutton
P Entwistle	Grindleton
F Priest	Longridge
S Rawsthorne	Paythorne & Newsholme
B Dixon	Newton-in-Bowland
A Steer	Osbaldeston
C Pollard	Read
R Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
A Haworth	Sabden
J Shorter	Sabden
G Meloy	Simonstone
IR Hirst	Simonstone
R K Jackson	Waddington
D Parker	Waddington
H Best	West Bradford
M J Highton	Whalley
T Gaffney	Wilpshire
J Bremner	Wilpshire
M Farrant	Wiswell & Barrow

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Engineering Services.

Also in attendance: Peter Mayes, Oliver Starkey and Lynne Johnston from Lancashire County Council and Hannah Wignall from BT.

403

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors P Ainsworth, R Hargreaves, R Newmark, L Rimmer and M Robinson and from the following Parish Representatives:

A Yearling	Clitheroe
K Hutton	Grindleton

T Hoyle	Dinckley
I Forrester	Hothersall
A Davies	Read
D Peat	Simonstone
E Law-Riding	Ribchester
A Ormand	Ribchester
C Ansbro	Thornley with Wheatley

404 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

405 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

406 THE CONSERVATION REPAIR AND MANAGEMENT OF WAR MEMORIALS

Committee received guidance from English Heritage which had been sent to persons interested in or responsible for the care of War Memorials. The guidance provided much needed information on the assessment, planning and implementation of conservation work to War Memorials. It also gave comprehensive advice on maintenance and protection and outlined the legal framework and statutory duties that related to the ownership and care of War Memorials.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

407 CARE, REPAIR AND UPGRADING OF TRADITIONAL WINDOWS

Committee also received guidance on the care, repair and upgrading of traditional windows which was available to download from the English Heritage website. This new guidance covered both timber and metal windows, builds onto the research and was aimed at building professionals and property owners. It set out to challenge many of the common perceptions about older windows and charted their history over centuries of technical development and fashion. Detailed technical advice was then provided on their maintenance, repair and thermal upgrading as well as on restoration.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

408 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS – SIMONSTONE PARISH COUNCIL – RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL POLICY ON FRACKING

A Parish Representative from Simonstone referred to the debate and growing concerns over the development of fracking in Lancashire and its impact on the environment and local communities.

The Chief Executive commented that whilst the Borough Council had no formal policy on fracking they would keep an eye on developments locally. He

understood that any application for fracking would need to be considered by Lancashire County Council with the Borough Council acting only as a consultee.

Other Members also commented on this issue.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

409 POLICING OF EVENTS ON THE HIGHWAY

The Head of Engineering Services reported that Ribble Valley Borough Council were working with Lancashire County Council to ensure that local events in towns and villages which required staffing resources and road closures could do so in the light of recent decisions taken by Lancashire Constabulary not to provide Police resources to closed roads or provide manpower for these events with effect from 1 April 2015.

The aim was to develop the capacity of local communities to help them organise and run their own events including training for individuals. Any legal notices affecting road closures would be dealt with by Ribble Valley Borough Council. This would help local event organisers to run their events safely, within the law whilst keeping costs down to a bar minimum.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

410 POTHoles IN VILLAGES

The Chairman introduced Peter Mayes and Oliver Starkey from Lancashire County Council. Peter gave a presentation on the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) which was Lancashire County Council's answer to the continuing problem of road maintenance costs and ever-increasing demands and expectations on diminishing resources.

He outlined the level of finance which was required to maintain Lancashire's road £35,000,000 per annum and the level of available budgets (£25,000,000 per annum). The plan basically looked at all areas of spend on highways and sought to prioritise so that every area in Lancashire received some funding. The priorities would be on A, B and C class roads and footway maintenance. It was hoped that this approach would address the most serious road maintenance issues and prevent maintenance problems going from bad to worse with no resources directed at them.

Members then asked a number of questions including treatment of weeds on footways, poor pothole repairs, the retrospective nature of funding and why the Ribble Valley was at the top of the league for roads maintenance problems.

Peter commented that once the County Council had been informed what their Government grant allocation for 2015/16 was, a list of proposed schemes would be taken to the local Three Tier Forum for their consideration. Oliver commented that the maintenance work identified by Grindleton Parish Council would be carried out starting in 2015/16.

RESOLVED: That Peter and Oliver be thanked for their helpful presentation.

411 RURAL BROADBAND

The Chairman introduced Lynn(e) Johnston from Lancashire County Council and Hannah Wignall from British Telecom who gave Members a brief overview of how the rollout of rural broadband was progressing across Lancashire. Hannah stated that there was currently 97% coverage in Lancashire with 85% of all users able to access up to 30 megabites. 147,000 premises were now covered by rural broadband. The 3% gap was being actively pursued by Lancashire County Council who were keen to identify areas and individuals who were not currently accessing broadband to explain its wider benefits.

Members expressed some concern with their own experience of broadband in their particular area. Both Hannah and Lynn(e) urged anyone who had a broadband problem to contact them to see if the problem could be rectified.

RESOLVED: That Hannah and Lynn(e) be thanked for their presentation.

412 PAPER AND CARD COLLECTION

The Head of Engineering Services provided information on the revised waste paper and card collections in the Ribble Valley which coincided with green and blue bin collection days. These depended on which geographical area people were resident in. White sacks were also available for Parish Representatives to take away with them.

413 MAYORAL RECEPTION FOR PARISH COUNCILS

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that a Mayoral Reception for Parish Councils would take place early in 2015. A suggested topic for discussion at the reception was elections, both how they were going to be run and also to try to encourage more people to become Parish Councillors.

414 RETIREMENT OF HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that Terry Longden, the current Head of Engineering Services would be retiring in December 2014. Members showed their appreciation of his service to the Ribble Valley.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

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