

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 26 March 2015, starting at 6.30pm.
Present: P Young (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	I Sayers
I Brown	G Scott
R Hargreaves	R Swarbrick
M Robinson	D Taylor
C Ross	N C Walsh

Also in attendance: Councillors R Sherras and R Thompson.

Parish Representatives:

C Holmes	Gisburn/Bolton-by-Bowland
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale
A Yearing	Clitheroe
S Hopwood	Dutton
T Falshaw	Gisburn
C Astin	Forest of Bowland (Higher Division)
I Forrester	Hothersall
F Priest	Longridge
S Rawsthorne	Paythorne & Newsholme
R Whitwell	Pendleton
S Bridge	Read
E Law-Riding	Ribchester
R Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
J Shorter	Sabden
A Haworth	Sabden
H D Parker	Waddington
R K Jackson	Waddington
M J Highton	Whalley
J Brown	Whalley
J Bremner	Wilpshire
J G Strong	Wiswell

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Regeneration and Housing, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Culture and Leisure Services, Countryside Officer, Temporary Enforcement Officer.

Also in attendance: Kathy Hopley, Development and Funding Officer - Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

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APOLOGIES

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

D Bland	Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley
P Tyson	Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley
R Assheton	Downham
D Peat	Simonstone
I R Hirst	Simonstone

700 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

701 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

702 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Events on the Highway

The Chief Executive reported that he had received a reply from the Chief Constable in Lancashire in relation to Police assistance with local events which involved road closures. Whilst the reply had not been particularly helpful the Chief Executive had received assurances from the Divisional Commander that the Police would help with certain types of events where that was practicable.

703 PENDLE HILL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman introduced David Hewitt, Ribble Valley Borough Council Countryside Officer and Kathy Hopley from the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

David informed Committee that this partnership would focus on the conservation and heritage assets of the Pendle Hill area and would bring together two communities Pendle and Ribble Valley in a working partnership. The bid was currently in preparation for heritage lottery funding which would be submitted in May 2015. If successful this could fund the following:

- Environmental projects such as repairing of stone walls and restoration of hedgerows, surveying and management of wildlife sites and interpreting the areas geology and its contribution to the area and the economy. Economy projects which could also benefit were developing visitor hubs, improving access in order to reduce pressure on key routes and working to establish more sustainable tourism.

Amongst the outputs which the Partnership anticipated were:

- 5 full-time equivalent jobs;
- 20 apprenticeships;

- bringing 10 biological heritage sites into future management;
- improving or upgrading public rights of way and attracting £2m of investment.

Kathy Hopley explained which Parishes would be covered by the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership and indicated that Parish Councils would be encouraged to take a seat on the Partnership Board. Councillor Robert Thompson was already a member of this Board.

RESOLVED: That

1. Committee thank David and Kathy for their informative presentation;
2. the question of Parish Council representation on the Pendle Landscape Partnership be discussed at the next meeting of this Committee in June; and
3. a letter be sent on behalf of the Committee offering support for the partnership.

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ENFORCEMENT ISSUES AT RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Stephen Barker, temporary Enforcement Officer, gave a resume of his work on both licencing and planning enforcement.

He outlined his involvement with licensing matters and referred to the four criteria which all licensing matters were considered against:

- Protection of children.
- Public safety.
- Crime and disorder.
- Public nuisance.

His role was to investigate complaints about premises, gather evidence, interview complainants and those being complained against and make a decision on the merits of each case.

By far the majority of his time was spent on planning enforcement. This was governed in the main by the Enforcement Plan which had been approved by Planning and Development Committee in August 2014. He followed up complaints where planning conditions were allegedly not being adhered to. However, he pointed out that because of the number of planning developments and the size of the area, this process was inevitably a reactive one. The more complaints he received meant that the more cases he had looked into; here again he was governed by two guiding principles:

- Whether serious harm was being caused to the locality.
- Whether it was expedient to take enforcement action.

He gave details of how the enforcement process worked pointing out that the ultimate sanction was that of an Enforcement Notice being served.

Members then asked a number of questions in relation to the enforcement process.

RESOLVED: That Stephen be thanked for his presentation.

705 TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE RACE

The Head of Cultural and Leisure Services made a presentation on the arrangements which were being made to host stage 2 of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race 2015 which would run from Clitheroe to Colne on Monday, 7 September 2015.

He gave details of the route, the road closures which would be necessary including a system of rolling road closures which would hopefully help keep some vital traffic flowing.

He pointed out the massive potential this would have for tourism and attracting visitors to the area but also the logistical problems which staging the event provided. Dialogue was ongoing with local businesses, schools and residents about the likely impact on the day.

Members then asked a number of questions including consultations and publicity for road closures, how road closures would affect more rural areas, when route maps would be available, the likelihood of pothole repairs as a result of the tour coming into our area and specific questions in relation to particular locations on the route.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Head of Cultural and Leisure Services be thanked for his informative presentation; and
2. Parish Councils be kept informed of all relevant aspects of the tour and how it would impact on them and their local communities.

706 COMMUNITY ROADWATCH

The Head of Regeneration and Housing informed Members that the Police were keen to recruit volunteers to help them with their Community Roadwatch Scheme. They were seeking to recruit volunteers who would be trained to use speed guns and help with local intelligence on speeding, use of mobile phones and seatbelts. If any Parish wished to find out more about the scheme required relevant information could be sent to all Parish Clerks.

RESOLVED: That

1. the report be noted; and

2. details of the scheme including contact details would be sent to all Parish Councils.

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MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

a) Dog Fouling

A representative from Sabden questioned why Ribble Valley Borough Council did not “name and shame” dog owners who were guilty of permitting their dogs to foul in public places. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services explained that most offenders who were caught were dealt with by way of a fixed penalty notice. However it was pointed out that two neighbouring Councils did “name and shame” offenders.

The Chief Executive suggested that the Head of Environmental Services could be invited to attend the next meeting of this Committee to explain the work of Dog Wardens and how they could work more closely with local communities in tackling dog fouling issues. The issue had been further exacerbated by the introduction recently of Dog Control Orders.

RESOLVED: That

1. the matter be noted; and
2. the Head of Environmental Services be invited to attend the meeting of this Committee to explain the work of Dog Wardens, prosecutions, fixed penalty notices and Dog Control Orders.

b) Recycling

A representative from Sabden questioned Ribble Valley Borough Council’s recycling policy in relation to plastic containers.

RESOLVED: That the Waste Management Officer be invited to attend a future meeting of this Committee to explain how the Council’s recycling process operates.

c) Neighbourhood Policing

A representative from Sabden expressed his concern at the diminishing number of Police Officers being deployed locally on neighbourhood policing.

RESOLVED: That the new geographic Inspector for the Ribble Valley be invited to attend a future meeting of this Committee to explain how neighbourhood policing was operating in the area.

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RETIREMENTS

The Chairman announced that it would be the last meeting for Councillor Frank Priest from Longridge who had been a member of this Committee for 38 years. It was also the last meeting for Bill Alker, Committee Clerk for this Committee. Members then showed their appreciation for both individuals.

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman explained that the timetable for next year's meetings would be agreed at the Annual Council meeting therefore she could not announce what that date would be at this stage.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive inform all Members of the date of the next Committee once it had been agreed at the annual meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.08pm.

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