

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 29 October 2015 starting at 6.30pm
Present: David Peat (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	G Scott
A Brown	R Sherras
L Graves	D Smith
T Hill	D Taylor
I Sayers	N C Walsh

Parish Representatives:

P Street	Barrow
H Fortune	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
H Douglas	Chatburn
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale
P Brown	Chipping
M Fenton	Clitheroe
P Robinson	Clitheroe
R Assheton	Downham
S Hopwood	Dutton
D Waters	Gisburn
T Austin	Langho & Billington
R Thornber	Newton-in-Bowland
A Steer	Osbaldeston
R Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
A Haworth	Sabden
J Shorter	Sabden
D Ashe	Salesbury
P Boyes	Salesbury
G Meloy	Simonstone
H D Parker	Waddington
T Perry	West Bradford
J Brown	Whalley
M Highton	Whalley
J Bremner	Wilpshire
T Gaffney	Wilpshire
M Robinson	Wiswell
R Thompson	Wiswell

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

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APOLOGIES

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

C Astin	Bowland Forest High
T Hoyle	Dinckley
S Rosthorn	Paythorne & Newsholme
E Law-Riding	Ribchester
A Ormand	Ribchester
J Lawson	Slaidburn
E Scott	Slaidburn

405 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

406 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

407 NORTH WEST AMBULANCE SERVICE – DEFIBRILLATORS

The Chairman introduced Matt Dugdale and Cheryl Pickstock from the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) who gave a presentation on the support that they provide for provision of defibrillators and their use in the North West. The NWAS can provide information to enable parishes and communities to make an informed decision regarding the acquisition and location of defibrillators. The NWAS's links with suppliers can also offer considerable reductions in purchase cost, and they are also involved in approval of applications for funding submitted to the British Heart Foundation (this source of funding is available until March 2016).

NWAS have been working with Dilys Day as their co-ordination point in Ribble Valley Borough Council, and parishes can approach her for support. Other sources of funding than British Heart Foundation could be available for cabinets and other items than the defibrillators, and this funding can be accessed through NWAS.

Deployment of the defibrillators is arranged through the NWAS call centre, and parishes raised issues about difficulties in a phone deadspot, or where a defibrillator was identified that was not the closest to the emergency.

Whilst ambulances and paramedics carry defibrillators, it was stressed that provision in the community was to supplement these facilities. The meeting was also advised the NWAS are proposing a recruitment drive for first responders, and to provide training and demonstrations on defibrillator use to local people.

Concern was raised about liability for use of defibrillators and it was explained that they are deployed in circumstances where a patient's prospects of survival may be increased from 5% to 80%, meaning that there is no realistic risk and maximum potential benefit. Use of a defibrillator authorised by NWAS is covered under NWAS's public liability insurance in any event.

RESOLVED: That Matt Dugdale and Cheryl Pickstock be thanked for their presentation.

408 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) Minute 279(b) – Councillor Hill reported that Ribble Valley Borough Council have written to Lancashire County Council with regard to the reallocation of on-street parking enforcement responsibility to Borough Councils, and that this was currently with the Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council.
- b) Minute 277(a) – The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported that the Chair of this Committee had volunteered to be the Committee's representative on the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership.
- c) Minutes 277(d) – the representative of the War Memorials Trust had been invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee in January 2016.

409 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT – COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN FILLIS

The Chairman introduced County Councillor John Fillis, the cabinet member for highways and transport, who gave a presentation with regard to buses and was willing to address general questions.

He explained that Lancashire County Council's statutory responsibility is to publish timetables and administer the NoW card. They have no further responsibilities since deregulation in the 1980s, and cannot dictate to the private sector on routes, times or prices. However, due to their responsibility to serve the community, Lancashire County Council have identified that statutory services may be the only way to support some services and currently spend £6.8 million per year on 100 subsidised services in Lancashire.

Lancashire County Council had encouraged Community Transport providers to set up a consortium to assist their support for vulnerable people, arranging for contracts for the provision of the services and to attract longer term funding.

A consultation document was to be issued in the next 2 weeks on transport provision by way of Parish Partnerships. This would enable local communities to provide transport to meet identified local needs, rather than elements of the £6.8 million subsidy being used for large and mostly empty buses. This scale of locally arranged transport could take into account local circumstances such as market days and could address known local demand. Lancashire County Council were to engage with Parish and Town Councils who could either join together or run their own local bus company, with Lancashire County Council providing and maintaining 16 seat fuel efficient buses. The Parishes could then set routes, times and prices. These services would be route buses and therefore attract the use of the NoW card, which was not available on Community Transport. The Parishes involved would have to decide between themselves how the services were organised, how they would each contribute, although Lancashire County Council would pay for a consultant to work with Parishes on their business plans.

Management support could be available from the private sector or Community Transport.

The Chairman observed that there would probably need to be a joint piece of work to consider the risks and processes, and County Councillor Fillis stated that he was willing to return to the Committee. Head of Regeneration and Housing said that we would coordinate a response to the consultation, most likely through a task/finish meeting of the committee. He would let people know.

A question was raised about a pilot scheme, and County Councillor Fillis explained that in 2013 Cumbria County Council withdrew subsidised buses, and that Parishes in that county had then combined to maintain the A6 through route successfully. This continued to be provided.

Issues were also raised regarding cross boundary difficulties between Ribble Valley and Blackburn, particularly with regard to access to Brownhill, and timing of services, and County Councillor Fillis and Lancashire County Council officers were requested to look further into this issue. It was also observed that buses were no longer stopping in locations close to where people live, and that changing between services could involve passengers in a long walk.

County Councillor Fillis also referred to responsibility of North West Traffic Commissioners to ensure that the buses run on time, and to other independent complaints procedures.

RESOLVED: That County Councillor Fillis be thanked for his presentation.

410 LITTLE GREEN BUS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

The Chairman introduced Donna Atkinson, the manager of the Little Green Bus Community Transport service who explained the range of services offered, and the benefits available to isolated or vulnerable people. Services included dial a ride minibuses, volunteer car journeys (mainly for medical appointments), group transport and organised trips. Little Green Bus are the lead operator in the Community Transport consortium in Lancashire. Donna explained the partnerships that the Little Green Bus has with charities and other agencies, emphasising the links with general practitioners and the benefits that their drivers can provide by having regular contact and being able to identify possible medical or social issues for their passengers.

She outlined the charitable nature of Little Green Bus, the funding mechanism from passengers (annual membership subscription and set fares), and her fundraising efforts. These include an approach to each Parish Council in the Ribble Valley for £150 annually.

She also explained that, generally, insurance companies do not increase the premium for volunteer car drivers but that if this were to happen, the driver would be reimbursed by Little Green Bus.

RESOLVED: That Donna Atkinson be thanked for her presentation.

411 UPDATE ON PARISH GRANT SCHEME

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reminded the meeting of the availability of the grants available to Parishes with a precept, and that the closing date for such applications is September 2016. He also reminded Members of other grants available, details of which and application forms for which could be accessed through the Ribble Valley Borough Council website, indicating a deadline at the end of the year for sports and art excellence grants and for recreational, cultural and arts grants. The Chairman requested that the note of the other grants be circulated.

412 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

a) Ribble Valley Crime and Disorder Partnership

In response to a query by Sabden Parish Council, the Head of Regeneration and Housing explained that the partnership of which Councillor Robert Thompson is the Chair, is a statutory partnership comprised of the Borough Council, Police, Fire Service and Health Authorities. The priorities for the Ribble Valley are to develop work around issues of alcohol awareness, road safety and anti-social behaviour. Councillor Thompson explained the enthusiasm to promote response to rural crime, and stressed the importance of reporting incidents – if there is no report, then there is no record and funding will be reduced accordingly. Councillor Hill, who is the Borough representative on the Police and Crime Commission, explained that Lancashire Police have now updated their communications system to be able to answer 101 calls.

The Head of Regeneration and Housing explained that the Community Safety Partnership (also known as the Crime and Disorder Partnership) gives an opportunity for access to the Police and to the Police and Crime Commissioner and that there was an opportunity for a member at Parish Council level to be invited to quarterly Community Safety Partnership meetings. He requested that any volunteers should contact him. The Chief Executive emphasised the importance of the local scheme to address issues specific to the Ribble Valley.

413 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman reported that the next meeting would be at 6.30pm on Thursday, 28 January 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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