

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 28 January 2016, at 6.30pm.
Present: David Peat (Chairman)

Councillors:

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

Parish Representatives:

D Bland	Aighton Bailey & Chaigley
D Chiappi	Barrow
T Austin	Billington & Langho
H Fortune	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
E Walsh	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
E Twist	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
C Astin	Bowland Forest (Higher)
H Douglas	Chatburn
P Brown	Chipping
E Pickup	Clayton-le-Dale
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale
M Fenton	Clitheroe
P Robinson	Clitheroe
R Assheton	Downham
K Hutton	Grindleton
J Forrester	Hothersall
R Beacham	Longridge
B Murtagh	Mellor
A Steer	Osbaldeston
P Young	Ramsgreave
S Bridge	Read
A Ormand	Ribchester
R Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
T Haworth	Sabden
J Shorter	Sabden
D Ashe	Salesbury
P Boyes	Salesbury
G Meloy	Simonstone
J Hilton	Waddington
H D Parker	Waddington
T Perry	West Bradford
M J Highton	Whalley
T Gaffney	Wilpshire
R Thompson	Wiswell

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Regeneration and Housing and Strategic Housing Officer.

Also in attendance: Sheena Campbell and Peter Lloyd – Conservation Officers with The War Memorials' Trust.

575 APOLOGIES

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

E Miller	Bowland Forest (Lower)
S Hopwood	Dutton
D Waters	Gisburn
S Rosthorn	Paythorne & Newsholme
J Lawson	Slaidburn
L Scott	Slaidburn
J Bremner	Wilpshire

576 MINUTES

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

577 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no pecuniary and non-pecuniary declarations of interest.

578 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 411

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported that the Parish Grants Scheme is under way and payments have been made. The Chief Executive reported that there has been a low take-up to date, and urged Members to remind their parishes of the funding available, for which applications had to be made by September 2016. The Head of Regeneration and Housing agreed to look into simplification of the application forms and stressed that help is available where necessary in completion of those forms.

(b) Minute 412

The Chief Executive confirmed that Ribble Valley Borough Council have claimed the full funding due for the Community Safety Partnership, which had yet to be received.

PRESENTATION BY THE WAR MEMORIALS' TRUST

The Chairman introduced Sheena Campbell and Peter Lloyd, who are both Conservation Officers with The War Memorials' Trust, advising on applications and grants.

They gave a presentation on the difference types of war memorial in the UK and explained the work of The War Memorials Trust and the support that they can offer. They provide expert input and provide financial assistance for conservation of existing war memorials, working on a principle of minimum intervention to maintain the intentions of the people or bodies who originally provided the memorial.

They can assist with structural repairs, removal of deposits (either natural or human such as graffiti) and can help to restore inscriptions).

They provided advice on the War Memorials online website, and demonstrated how to access and report the condition of a memorial and any specific concerns.

Grants are available up to 75% of the cost of the work and up to a maximum of £30,000. Considerable funding is currently available, up to mid-2018. They explained the process of application, commencing with a pre-application assessment, with a target time of 6 weeks, following which the full application is then invited. This would need to be supported by quotes from contractors, or, in the case of applications for over £10,000, by three tenders. These applications are assessed each quarter. They explained that full criteria and explanation of the process is available on the website. In the past there has been a preponderance of applications from the south of England and applications are actively encouraged from northern England.

Members then asked a number of questions and helpful replies were provided. It was suggested that storage of historic documents relating to memorials could best be provided in the Lancashire County Archive. Formal evidence of ownership is not required on application and Parish or Town Councils or any custodian could apply for a grant. Names could be added to a memorial if not commemorated elsewhere.

As they are a Conservation Trust, the War Memorials' Trust, look to replace on a like-for-like basis. The War Memorials' Trust can signpost applicants who require funds to other sources for the 25% balance, if required, and in this respect the Chair mentioned possible support from Regimental Associations. Work can be carried out to internal memorials such as a framed parchment, and Members were reminded of the need to apply for a faculty from the Diocese where appropriate for work undertaken in Churches.

RESOLVED: That Committee thank Sheena and Peter for their informative presentation.

UPDATE ON BUS SERVICE PROVISION

The Head of Regeneration and Housing updated Committee on the actions taken since the last meeting, and the well-attended task/finish meeting held in December. He reported on the submission to Lancashire County Council by Ribble Valley Borough Council that the Parishes were unhappy with the proposed cuts, and that they considered that the Parish Partnership proposal to run bus services would not be workable in the Ribble Valley. A leaflet has now been issued, advising which services would be cut from 21 February 2016, and that a further consultation was to take place, closing on 27 March 2016.

It was reported that the Lancashire County Council Budget Meeting which would decide on the cuts was to be held on 11 February 2016. Concern was expressed on whether this was a lawful and timely consultation, and doubt was expressed about its value with a closing date over 1 month after the budget decision.

It was reported that there was a possibility that two services might be partly reinstated, at particular times of the day, to enable students from Mellor Brook, Mellor and Chipping to get to and from college. However, in other villages, there were real issues for students already enrolled or wishing to start courses.

In response to a question about possible legal action, it was reported that a group for disabled people have commenced action under the Human Rights Act.

The view of all parish representatives was that the proposed cuts to rural and other bus services were damaging to the community, that the proposals that had been put forward by Lancashire County Council were not workable, and that current consultation process was of no real value.

RESOLVED: That

1. Committee note with extreme concern that the existing bus services have been terminated during and prior to the conclusion of the period of the formal consultation process, which brings the process into disrepute;
2. Committee have considered carefully the proposal by the Cabinet Member of Lancashire County Council for Highways and Transport, but note that no parishes in the Ribble Valley have accepted the proposal and urge the County Council to reconsider the loss of these vital links for the community, particularly those rural residents who are left even without a minimum level of service;
3. the views of the Committee be communicated to Lancashire County Council and Nigel Evans MP.

COMMUNITY LAND TRUST CHIPPING – A CASE STUDY

The Chairman introduced Rachael Stott, the Strategic Housing Officer at Ribble Valley Borough Council, who gave a presentation on the Community Land Trust process established under the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008. There were

over 170 Community Land Trusts in the country, which would provide more than 3,000 affordable houses by 2020. Such trusts could be established to support and manage any type of asset for the long-term benefit of the community. They could be established either as an Industrial and Provident Society, or as a company limited by guarantee. Grants for projects could be received from the National Community Land Trust network.

A Community Land Trust had been established in Chipping, and, based on the outcome of their Housing Needs Survey, were developing 7, two-bedroom apartments. This had been achieved by working in conjunction with the Brabins Trust in Chipping and with Ribble Valley Homes who have been able to attract grant aid from the Homes and Communities Agency and were to manage the properties on a long lease.

The Strategic Housing Officer encouraged the use of this procedure in the borough, due to the financial constraints currently faced by registered providers of affordable housing. She explained that the Parish Council input would be to identify land that might be suitable and available, to try to identify the right parties for the trust and to motivate volunteers. Advice was available from the Regeneration and Housing Section at Ribble Valley Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the Strategic Housing officer be thanked for her presentation.

582 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

(a) Reporting of Highways Faults

Borough Councillor Robert Thompson, the Chair of Wiswell Parish Council, gave a demonstration of how to report faults in and around the highway by use of the Lancashire County Council website. He emphasised the need to have clear identification of the road on the plan before isolation of the location of the fault, and the range of different problems that can be reported. This process generates a unique reference number which can then be used to monitor progress of the investigation and remedy of the fault.

Members also drew attention to alternative methods of reporting by telephone or by email to highways@lancashire.gov.uk.

The meeting was also advised that issues with regard to Japanese Knotweed can be followed up through David Hewitt, the Countryside Officer at Ribble Valley Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Thompson be thanked for his helpful demonstration.

(b) Clean-up for the Queen

Sabden Parish Council reported on the scheme for cleaning up villages and communities on the weekend of the 4 – 6 March 2016 and requested whether Parish Councils would receive help from Ribble Valley Borough

Council if they pursued the scheme. It was confirmed that Ribble Valley Borough Council could liaise with the representative of the scheme if Parish Councils wished to be involved.

Borough Councillor Thompson, as Chair of the Community Services Committee, confirmed that within their limited resources, Ribble Valley Borough Council would do their best to assist.

583 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The representative for Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley proposed that the next meeting be brought forward to enable the Committee to respond to the consultation on bus services by Lancashire County Council after the date of the Lancashire County Council Budget Meeting.

The Chair and officers agreed to look into this proposal.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (414400).