

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 8 September 2016 starting at 6.30pm
Present: D Peat (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	R Sherras
A Brown	D Taylor
L Graves	N C Walsh
T Hill	

Parish Representatives:

P Tyson	Aighton Bailey & Chaigley
J Brown	Barrow
T Austin	Billington & Langho
H Fortune	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
M Ward	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
R Carr	Bowland Forest (Higher)
H Douglas	Chatburn
P Brown	Chipping
A Schofield	Clitheroe Town Council
M Fenton	Clitheroe Town Council
P Robinson	Gisburn
D Waters	Hothersall
J Parry	Longridge
R Beacham	Longridge
M Everett	Newsholme & Paythorne
S Rosthorn	Newton
R Thornber	Osbaldeston
A Steer	Ramsgreave
P Young	Rimington & Middop
R Whittaker	Sabden
A Haworth	Sabden
J Shorter	Simonstone
R Hirst	Simonstone
G Meloy	Slaidburn & Easington
K Hodson	Thornley-with-Wheatley
P Hallett	Waddington
J Hilton	West Bradford
T Perry	Whalley
J Brown	Whalley
M Highton	Wilpshire
J Bremner	

In attendance: Head of Regeneration and Housing and the Principal Policy and Performance Officer.

Also in attendance: David Owen – Commissioner with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors M Robinson, G Scott and D Smith and from the following Parish Representatives:

R Assheton	Downham
R Hanson	Read
A Ormand	Ribchester
	Dutton

Apologies were also received from Marshal Scott.

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MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

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MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Hill reported on the Ribble Valley Borough Council's response to the Lancashire County Council Property Strategy consultation, which had been a comprehensive fact based report following visits to most of the premises affected. There had been success in the retention of Longridge Young People's Centre and Children's Centre, but it was reported that the Lancashire County Council cabinet meeting on 8 September 2016 had confirmed the closure of Whalley Library and Springwood Children's Centre in October or November 2016.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW OF RIBBLE VALLEY

The Chair introduced David Owen of the Local Government Boundary Commission, who made a presentation explaining the current review of wards in the Ribble Valley. Their aim was to create electoral equality, where votes are as equal as possible, ideally with each Borough Councillor representing an electorate within 10% of being exactly equal.

The first step would be to identify the total number of Councillors (the 'Council Size') which would be decided after submission by Ribble Valley Borough Council and would be unique to the Ribble Valley, taking into account the area's specific factors. The second step would be to determine the number of wards, the names of wards and ward boundaries.

The Commission try to balance statutory criteria of electoral equality (based on a 5 year population forecast), community identity, and effective and convenient local government. He identified the factors that cannot be considered.

Further information would be gathered between 22 November 2016 and 30 January 2017, when the Commission will invite warding patterns from everybody who takes an interest, followed by the Commission's draft recommendations. There would be open consultation on the draft recommendations from 11 April 2017 to 19 June 2017, and he emphasised that this is an important stage as it is the last opportunity for local people to influence the outcome of the review. The Commission's final recommendations would be published for consideration by Parliament on 5 September 2017.

He identified effective representations as being evidence based, with reasons to support particular views, and that these could support good proposals as well as oppose poor suggestions. Alternatives would be welcomed, if there was disagreement with the recommendations. Good representations would take into account the statutory requirements, and consider the impact of any alternatives across the widest possible area.

In reply to questions, he explained that the Commission will try to conform with Lancashire County Council divisions, but are not obliged to do so. They use forecasts based on the latest electoral data, and the forecast takes into account known factors projected over the next 5 years. Although there is a rolling programme of reviews over a cycle of approximately 14 years, a further review can be conducted more quickly if there is a change in circumstances (for example a major housing development that does not proceed).

RESOLVED: That David be thanked for his very informative presentation, and that the information be circulated to Parish Clerks.

240 **PARISH COUNCILS' LIAISON COMMITTEE RESPONSE TO LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PROPERTY STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

The Chair thanked the Members of the Working Group for their contribution and time in advising on the response.

The Head of Regeneration and Housing observed that this process gave a good opportunity for debate and contribution by the Parish Councils. He emphasised that rural isolation does represent a level of deprivation in the borough, emphasised the strength of the village hall network, and expressed concern at the apparent lack of consideration to Ribble Valley as an area of growth. The Ribble Valley had achieved one better outcome than projected with the retention of facilities in Longridge. He was able to commit the support of his partnership officers to assist groups expressing an interest in providing services, for which there could be some financial support and officer time available from LCC.

The Chair raised the possibility of a further working group, serviced and led by Borough Council officers, to review the effect of closures, and the options available. The Head of Regeneration and Housing informed the meeting that this would be considered over the coming weeks.

241 **RECEPTION FOR PARISH COUNCIL CLERKS**

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported that consideration was being given to a reception for Parish Councils (each represented by a maximum of two

individuals which could include the Clerk), and Members were requested to notify the Clerk to this Committee if there was any topic on which they would welcome a presentation.

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AFFORDABLE WARMTH

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported that LCC funding had been identified to replace the affordable warmth budget, which was previously being withdrawn. Information would be circulated, and the scheme would be accessible through the housing department.

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HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported that Ribble Valley Borough Council was progressing the development of a Housing and Economic Development Plan, and that the 'Issues and Options' stage was out for consultation until 7 October 2016. Copies had been circulated to all Parish Clerks and were available for inspection on line, at the Council's offices and at libraries throughout the Ribble Valley.

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair announced that the next meeting of this Committee would be held on Thursday, 27 October 2016 starting at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

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