

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 30 March 2017 starting at 6.30pm
Present: D Peat (Chairman)

Councillors:

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

Parish Representatives:

M Carrington	Aighton Bailey & Chaigley
E M Kinder	Barrow
T Austen	Billington & Langho
E Miller	Bowland Forest (Lower)
B Green	Chipping
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale
M Fenton	Clitheroe Town Council
P Robinson	Clitheroe Town Council
R Bailey	Dinckley
T Hoyle	Dinckley
R Assheton	Downham
J Hargreaves	Dutton
D Waters	Gisburn
P Entwistle	Grindleton
R Beacham	Longridge Town Council
M Everett	Longridge Town Council
R Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
A Haworth	Sabden
J Shorter	Sabden
R Hirst	Simonstone
K Hodson	Slaidburn & Easington
P Hallett	Thornley-with-Wheatley
J Hilton	Waddington
H D Parker	Waddington
A Bristol	West Bradford
M J Highton	Whalley
J Bremner	Wilpshire

In attendance: Head of Regeneration and Housing.

Also in attendance: Borough Councillor J White, Bob Elliott and Peter Webster of Veterans in Communities.

661

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors A Brown and M Robinson and from Marshal Scott and from the following Parish Representatives:

R Carr	Bowland Forest (Higher)
P Brown	Chipping
I Forrester	Hothersall
J Parry	Hothersall
A Steer	Osbaldeston
S Rosthorn	Paythorne & Newsholme
E Law-Riding	Ribchester
A Ormand	Ribchester
J Brown	Whalley

662 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

663 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

The Chairman declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Governance Trustee of Veterans in Communities, and a number of Borough Councillors and Parish Representatives present indicated that they were Veterans of service in the Armed Forces.

664 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising

665 PRESENTATION BY VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES

The Chairman gave an introduction to Veterans in Communities, a charity based in Rossendale that received support from East Lancashire CCG, the Borough of Rochdale and the Ministry of Defence.

Bob Elliott, the Operations Manager and founder (in 2012) of Veterans in Communities explained that the charity had been established to help servicemen adjust to civilian life, addressing problems which can include mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse and isolation. They endeavour to help members themselves, or, where they are unable to provide assistance, they would direct members to the right support agency. Members of Veterans in Communities are not referred to by rank, and can include people who have not served themselves but are related to someone who has served in the Armed Forces.

Members will still engage with mental health services where necessary, but Veterans in Communities will fill the middle ground in support where funding is becoming increasingly difficult. At the outset, they had organised activities such as art groups or walking parties, and they do also provide support to communities such as at the time of the flooding in Cumbria, helping with schools and gardens, and in World War 1 remembrance activities, taking advantage of the skills and training provided to the armed services.

The charity is keen to make its existence known to potential members, so as to endeavour to avoid them being isolated and without support or direction for their difficulties.

Parish Councils and community groups can help by increasing awareness of the existence of Veterans in Communities and the work which they can do. Of the 30,000 plus Veterans in East Lancashire, many have gone to rural areas to enjoy a peaceful life. Veterans in Communities are the only group of their kind in East Lancashire, and now have a minibus to enable outreach visits and events which are proposed to include locations in the Ribble Valley.

In answer to questions, he explained that funding can be available for specific projects, but that there can be difficulty in identifying funds for the core central services for the charity. They would be happy to work with Ribble Valley Borough Council Partnership Officers in helping veterans or pointing them in the right direction for such key services as housing and education.

Councillor J White, the Ribble Valley Borough Council Armed Forces Champion, indicated that he would arrange for the Veterans in Communities newsletter to be made available for distribution to Parishes. He also advised Members of a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum on 6 May 2017, when the Mayor would unveil a plaque to the fallen of the Ribble Valley. Councillor White invited Parish Representatives or others to contact him if they wish to book one of the remaining places on the coach for this occasion.

RESOLVED: That Bob and Peter be thanked for their informative presentation.

666 PAYPHONES UPDATE

The Head of Regeneration and Housing advised Members that all payphones which had been the subject of objection to removal had been successfully retained. Joseph Hildred, the Partnership Officer, was liaising with BT on repair and cleaning of payphones. Adoption was proceeding for certain payphones, but was delayed by a backlog at BT.

It was reported to Committee that BT are responsible for cleaning payphones, but that routine attendance to collect coins and inspect the condition of boxes was no longer applicable and therefore faults needed to be reported. There was a suggestion that Parishes with Lengthsmen could consider requesting them to undertake inspection and cleaning. It was reported that the payphone in Rimington was operative and clean for the first time in 18 months.

667 TRANSPARENCY ACT

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported that only a few Parishes had contacted his team, but that he was aware that Lancashire Association of Local Councils were circulating Parish Councils to support them with transparency. Ribble Valley Borough Council would be preparing and circulating a guidance sheet to assist Parish Councils. Although the Borough Council cannot make or develop a website, they can help with hosting and signposting. He believed there was still some funding available to help acquire software and equipment.

In response to a question, he indicated that information on a Parish Council website should be proportionate. It should at least identify the Parish Councillors and refer to any roles that individuals may have in the Parish Council.

668 MATTERS RAISED BY PARISH COUNCILS

In response to a question from the Representative of Sabden Parish Council, it was indicated that the Lancashire Combined Authority was highly unlikely to proceed as planned. However, there may well be an Association of Lancashire Authorities, on similar lines and following the model of the current Association of Greater Manchester Authorities.

669 LOCAL PLANNING

The Head of Regeneration and Housing drew attention to the special meeting of Ribble Valley Borough Council Planning and Development Committee to take place on 6 April 2017, to consider the next statutory stage of the Local Plan.

670 MAYOR'S RECEPTION

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reminded Members of the reception to be hosted by the Mayor on 10 April 2017, which would include a presentation on models in health and care in the Ribble Valley.

671 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised Members that, subject to confirmation of the programme, the next meeting of the Committee would be on 8 June 2017 at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.

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