

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 9 November 2016 starting at 6.30pm
Present: D Peat (Chairman)

Councillors:

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| P Ainsworth | D Smith |
| B Hilton | R Swarbrick |
| M Robinson | D Taylor |
| G Scott | N C Walsh |
| R Sherras | |

Parish Representatives:

| | |
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| C Holden | Aighton Bailey & Chaigley |
| E Kinder | Barrow |
| T Austin | Billington & Langho |
| H Fortune | Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley |
| M Walsh | Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley |
| H Douglas | Chatburn |
| P Brown | Chipping |
| E Pickup | Clayton-le-Dale |
| M Fenton | Clitheroe Town Council |
| K Hutton | Grindleton |
| I Forrester | Hothersall |
| B Murtagh | Mellor |
| S Rosthorn | Newsholme & Paythorne |
| J Bennett | Newton |
| A Steer | Osbaldeston |
| P Young | Ramsgreave |
| I Sayers | Ribchester |
| R Whittaker | Rimington & Middop |
| A Haworth | Sabden |
| J Shorter | Sabden |
| G Meloy | Simonstone |
| K Hodson | Slaidburn & Easington |
| H D Parker | Waddington |
| R Chew | West Bradford |
| J Bremner | Wilpshire |
| A Schofield | Wiswell |

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

Also in attendance: Councillors S Bibby and T Hill and Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, Lancashire County Council.

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors P Dobson and L Graves and from the following Parish Representatives:

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|-------------|----------------------------|
| P Tyson | Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley |
| R Carr | Bowland Forest (Higher) |
| E Miller | Bowland Forest (Lower) |
| A Schofield | Clayton-le-Dale |
| P Robinson | Clitheroe Town Council |
| T Hoyle | Dinckley |
| P Entwistle | Grindleton |
| R Hirst | Simonstone |
| P Hallett | Thornley with Wheatley |

414 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

415 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

416 MATTERS ARISING

- a) Minute 268 – a representative from Sabden asked for an update on when work will commence on the roundabout at the junction of the A59 and Pendle Road, Clitheroe. No further update was available at the meeting on this issue, where it had previously been reported that work was expected to commence in March 2018.
- b) Minute 270(i) – the representative from Wiswell commented on the issues that could arise between the legal interpretation of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 and the Management Guidance and Appraisal of the Conservation Areas which appeared on the Ribble Valley Borough Council website.
- c) Minute 270(ii) – a reply had been received from Lancashire County Council highways, advising that their website for reporting highways faults and monitoring progress of repairs was being updated over the coming two months, and that in the meantime updates could be requested from highwaysdistrictlead@lancashire.gov.uk. This information had been circulated to Parish Clerks.

417 PRESENTATION BY DR SAKTHI KARUNANITHI, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING, LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chairman introduced Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing at Lancashire County Council, informing Members that, although people were living longer, their health and/or quality of life may be poorer. Dementia had replaced cardiac issues as the leading cause of death. Detailed statistics for small areas could be accessed through the Lancashire County Council website, and Parish Councillors could make a difference in their areas.

Dr Karunanithi explained that a part of his role is preparation of reports and analysis of statistics for the whole County but that it is possible to drill down for

detailed local information. He produced figures to illustrate the projected healthy life span for a child born in 2017, which was considerably less than the life expectancy of that child. In some areas of the Ribble Valley, such an average child may reach the projected retirement date in a healthy condition, whereas across other parts of the Ribble Valley and across most of Lancashire, the average child would have developed a health condition before retirement.

He explained that, as well as genes, social factors are the determining factor in health and wellbeing, with lifestyle being a factor in 40% of deaths. Lifestyle choices, including drinking, smoking and narcotic use, are major factors for the finances of the health service and for the public sector in general. Local authorities, through Parish, District and County Councils, can have an influence on health and wellbeing, being able to contribute to those factors affecting lifestyle by influencing decisions on many policies including, for example, licensing and planning, and he welcomed this opportunity to receive the views of the Parishes.

Questions were raised and observations were made by Members.

Concern was raised about distinct problems of loneliness and social isolation in rural communities, and the particular pressures experienced by the farming community. Work was being carried out locally, with practical solutions such as the field nurse service being introduced for these identified problems.

A query was raised about the reason for the gap between healthy life expectancy and actual full life expectancy. Many social factors were involved, including lifestyle choices and drinking and smoking, changes in choices available to individuals regarding healthy and unhealthy food, and in parental involvement with young people.

The representative from Simonstone reported on the activities and events organised by the community for the ageing population of that village. Dr Karunanithi emphasised the five factors encouraged to maintain wellbeing, including after retirement, which comprised of people trying to be connected with other people; being active; taking notice of what is going on around them; volunteering; and keeping learning. He encouraged Parish Councils to assist with wellbeing, as they were a fundamental route of communication to other public authorities with wellbeing responsibilities. Locally, Parish Councillors are aware of issues, and have assets that can support wellbeing such as benches, and have contact with clubs and organisations who provide local support.

The Chief Executive advised Members of resources available to support health and wellbeing in Parishes, including the recreation grant scheme and concurrent functions funding, which were available to support sports and other activities and facilities. Members advised the meeting of initiatives currently taking place in the Ribble Valley, including the school “walk a mile” scheme, park runs, and many junior sports clubs.

RESOLVED: That Dr Karunanithi be thanked for his presentation.

418 PRESENTATION BY COUNCILLOR SUSAN BIBBY, CHAIR OF RIBBLE VALLEY DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE

Councillor Bibby informed Members of the importance for a person to be respected for who they are and not to be defined or excluded because of their dementia. It was important to understand that people with dementia have challenges, but that they may wish to participate in local life.

The Ribble Valley Dementia Action Alliance (RVDAA) could assist communities, including villages and Parishes, to become dementia friendly, by preparation of an action plan, but this required volunteers locally. The RVDAA was a partnership of many people, organisations and businesses, was not political or a charity in itself, but was owned by the community and backed by the Alzheimer's Society. The RVDAA, of which Ribble Valley Borough Council had been a member for six years, had aims of combatting the stigma associated with dementia by making places and people aware of the condition, and providing facilities for people with dementia and for respite for their carers.

She explained that there were over 100 types of dementia, that no two people are affected in exactly the same way, and that it is projected that 1 million of the population will have dementia by 2025 and 2 million by 2050.

Councillor Bibby and Dr Karunanithi answered questions. No cause had been identified for the onset of dementia, but there were known associations with certain lifestyles. The RVDAA could work with villages to prepare an action plan, acting as facilitator, and could make presentations to clubs or associations.

Councillor Bibby distributed a leaflet 'Living well with Dementia in Ribble Valley' identifying services and support available locally.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Bibby be thanked for her presentation.

419 LITTLE GREEN BUS – RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported verbally on the attempts to increase the number of volunteer drivers, with particular reference to the Hodder Valley villages of Whitewell, Dunsop Bridge, Newton and Slaidburn. One driver had volunteered, but it had been difficult to identify the scale of the demand as there had been low response to enquiries, despite publicity being distributed locally and on local radio. All parishes were encouraged to consider the possible demand in their area. Training would be given, and there was no cost for volunteers as all expenses were reimbursed.

420 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

- a) A representative from Grindleton had advised of the success of Ribble Valley villages in the Best Kept Village competition, with some villages receiving awards or being highly commended in more than one category. Success had been recorded by Grindleton, Sabden, Chipping, Hurst Green and York, with Whalley being the winner of the North West in Bloom, Small Town category.

RESOLVED: That letters of congratulations be sent to each of the villages.

- b) A representative from Slaidburn reported on problems experienced with self-seeded saplings which were in between the carriageway of narrow roads and the adjacent wall or hedge. The Head of Regeneration and Housing explained that highways issues should generally be reported to Lancashire County Council, or that a Lengthsman might be able to act. The Chief Executive advised the meeting that Ribble Valley Borough Council are writing to all Parishes with regard to concurrent functions funding, which can contribute 25% of the cost of a Lengthsman.

- c) Heritage Open Days – The representative of Clitheroe Town Council, Councillor Maureen Fenton, gave a brief explanation on the evolution of Heritage Open Days over the last 20 years. The event, which lasts over a long weekend from Thursday to Sunday, has moved from concentration purely on opening historic places to public access to promotion of the stories behind the places and the people involved. Events did not have to be large in scale or serious. However, in the Ribble Valley in 2017, there had only been participation by 7 locations/activities in Clitheroe and by Whalley Abbey. She encouraged further participation across the Ribble Valley, to make it a destination for the weekend, and mentioned Longridge interest in the history of Club Row and its Building Society association, and the range of history in Slaidburn. Tom Pridmore, the Tourism and Events Officer at Ribble Valley Borough Council, is interested in development in this event. Further detail on Heritage Open Days was available at www.heritageopendays.org.uk and Councillor Fenton could be contacted at: cllr.fenton@ribblevalley.gov.uk.

The Chairman referred to the work and funding available of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, which may be able to assist in this respect.

- d) A representative from Sabden requested whether other parishes had received a satisfactory response from Lancashire County Council to requests for repair of potholes. Although Sabden were dissatisfied, Lancashire County Council had responded and carried out repairs elsewhere.

The Chairman invited Parishes to consider topics for future agendas.

The meeting closed at 7.44pm.

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