

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 25 January 2018 starting at 6.30pm
Present: D Peat (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	M Robinson
P Dobson	R Sherras
P Dowson	R Swarbrick
L Graves	D Taylor
B Hilton	N C Walsh

Parish Representatives:

S McGregor	Barrow
T Austin	Billington & Langho
R Carr	Bowland Forest (Higher)
C Davies	Bowland with Leagram
H Douglas	Chatburn
P Brown	Chipping
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale
M Fenton	Clitheroe
P Robinson	Clitheroe
R Assheton	Downham
J Hargreaves	Dutton
D Waters	Gisburn
K Hutton	Grindleton
I Forrester	Hothersall
B Murtagh	Mellor
A Steer	Osbaldeston
P Young	Ramsgreave
S Bridge	Read
R Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
A Haworth	Sabden
J Shorter	Sabden
R Hirst	Simonstone
K M Hodson	Slaidburn & Easington
J Hilton	Waddington
J Brown	Whalley
M Highton	Whalley
J Bremner	Wilpshire
S Houghton	Wiswell

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Regeneration and Housing, Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

543

APOLOGIES

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

D Bland	Aighton. Bailey & Chaigley
E Pickup	Clayton le Dale
R Beacham	Longridge
B Dixon	Newton in Bowland
S Rosthorn	Paythorne & Newsholme
I Sayers	Ribchester
G Meloy	Simonstone

544 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

545 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

546 MATTERS ARISING

- a) Minute 416(a) – It was confirmed that preliminary work had commenced on the connection to Pendle Road from the site at Higher Standen Farm/Littlemoor Farm, Clitheroe. It was understood that work was due to commence on the A59 roundabout with Pendle Road in the course of 2018.
- b) Minute 419 – It was reported that no volunteer drivers had come forward to support the Little Green Bus.
- c) Minute 420(b) – The Chief Executive verbally informed Committee that 24 Parishes had applied for concurrent function grants, and all had been successful. He explained that this included 18 applications in relation to a Parish Lengthsman, and that, of these 18, there had been 6 Parishes which had been historically entitled to support from a different fund based on the old Lancashire County Council Lengthsman scheme, which had now ended. Therefore, the 6 Parishes were to be brought within the same scheme as the others, with a stepped reduction of grant to those 6 Parishes until they achieved parity with the other Parish Councils claiming grants for Lengthsman.

The representative for Gisburn thanked the Borough Council for the stepped transitional arrangements, but also remarked on the lack of consultation prior to the introduction of the new arrangements, as well as the level of confusion which it was perceived arose for some Parish Councils on entitlement to claim under the concurrent functions scheme.

The Chief Executive clarified the extent of the funds available, emphasising that the projects have to be of a revenue nature, not capital schemes. Of £31,000 provided for in the current year's budget, only £26,000 had been claimed to date. He stressed that officers of the Borough Council would be happy to explain the system and assist, and if need be, a presentation could be given to be attended by Clerks and Parish Councils. He explained that the grants will support Parish Councils up to 25% of payments they have made on particular schemes – that the Parish Council will already have committed three times the amount of the

grant to that work from their precept, which in itself created a process of control over the amount claimed by way of grant.

547 THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

The Chief Executive reported verbally on the Great British Spring Clean, which was to take place over the weekend from the 2 to 4 March 2018, for community groups and schools to be involved in helping to clean their local area. The Borough Council would provide black bags to Parish Councils and arrange for collection from a single site, after groups had collected litter and rubbish. Parish Councils were asked to email Stephen Barker with details of their point of contact, and locations for the bags to be dropped off and collected.

548 INFORMATION TO ASSIST PARISH COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information, outlining current arrangements for Parish Councils, changes to occur with effect at the elections in 2019, and the Parish Council records held on the Ribble Valley Borough Council website. The report included information on the current number of Parish councillors for the various Parish Councils and Parish Wards, and the changes with regard to wards in the Parishes of Billington and Langho, Clitheroe and Whalley which would be effective for the 2019 election.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised Committee of the work carried out by the election staff, from carrying out the canvas from August to December to compilation of the new register each year. Due to the forthcoming changes in Parishes and Wards, the register for use in 2019 would require a lot of work to ensure that the register was as accurate as possible. This would assist at the time of nomination of candidates – in 2019 there are Parish and Borough elections, and nomination of candidates for 290 seats would need to be scrutinised carefully during a short time window.

She stipulated the information which Parish Councils must make available publicly, and requested that Parish Councils ensure that information is submitted to Ribble Valley Borough Council promptly and accurately for posting on the Borough Council website. This included declarations of interest for all Parish Councillors, which should be updated if circumstances alter.

Parish representatives raised issues with regard to the boundaries of new wards, particularly in Billington and Langho and in Whalley. It was confirmed that, whilst the candidate does not need to reside in the Parish, those nominating the candidate should be residents of the ward concerned. The Chief Executive advised that it would be prudent for candidates to submit nomination papers early in the election process, so that any mistakes could be identified and addressed.

RESOLVED: That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be thanked for her presentation.

549 FORTHCOMING CONSULTATION ON CLITHEROE TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE

The Head of Regeneration and Housing gave a verbal report to Committee on the decision of Lancashire County Council cabinet to embark on a consultation regarding closure of information centres at transport interchanges, including

Clitheroe. If implemented, this would result in a loss of the ticketing and passenger information services. The consultation had not yet commenced, but it was considered that Parish Councils should be aware of the proposal in order that they may consider their approach. The consultation would be circulated to Parish Clerks.

Members remarked on the potential loss of revenue if the only ticket issuing function was by machine, and there was no guard/conductor on a train. It was remarked that current deficiencies in fare collection, particularly for those travelling to stations before Blackburn, could result in a significant under representation of the numbers of passengers using the line.

The representative for Chipping remarked on the excellent quality of the Train Line app, both for booking journeys and for seeking up to date information on the routes.

550

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

- a) Clitheroe Town Council drew Committee's attention to the decision by Lancashire Police only to marshal one parade in each borough on Remembrance Sunday 2018. Concern was expressed that parades would be particularly well attended on the centenary of the World War I Armistice, and that they considered that there were no places of worship or war memorials in the Ribble Valley of a capacity to accommodate all the residents wishing to pay their respects. The Chief Executive informed Committee that the matter was being raised with the Police and Crime Commissioner by the two Borough Councillors on the Police and Crime Panel.

It was agreed to invite a representative of the Police to the next meeting of the Parish Councils' Liaison Committee to consider this issue.

The Chief Executive also informed Committee that Ribble Valley Borough Council would be participating in a chain of beacons being lit on the evening of Remembrance Sunday.

RESOLVED: That an invitation be extended to the Police to attend the next meeting.

- b) The representatives of Whalley Parish Council advised the meeting of the forthcoming closure of the only bank remaining in the village. The meeting was advised that this was understood to be a commercial decision on the part of the bank, reflecting modern banking practice. It was understood that some banking transactions could be carried out through the Post Office. The Parish Council were to consider this at their next meeting, and may seek support of other Parish Councils if they wish to submit representations.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (414500).