

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 22 March 2018, starting at 6.30pm
Present: D Peat (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	R Sherras
L Graves	D Smith
B Hilton	D Taylor
G Scott	N C Walsh

Parish Representatives:

D Bland	Aighton Bailey & Chaigley
T Austin	Billington & Langho
H Fortune	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
E Pickup	Clayton-le-Dale
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale
M Fenton	Clitheroe
C Holmes	Clitheroe
R Assheton	Downham
D Waters	Gisburn
P Entwistle	Grindleton
I Forrester	Hothersall
S Rosthorn	Newsholme & Paythorn
B Dixon	Newton
R Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
A Haworth	Sabden
J Shorter	Sabden
R Hirst	Simonstone
G Meloy	Simonstone
K Hodson	Slaidburn & Easington
P Hallett	Thornley-with-Wheatley
J Hilton	Waddington
H D Parker	Waddington
M J Highton	Whalley
T Gaffney	Wilpshire
M Robinson	Wiswell
S Stanley	Wiswell

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

Also in attendance: Councillor K Hind, Cathy Hopley (Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership), County Councillor Paul Rigby (Parish Champion).

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors P Dobson, P Dowson, M Robinson, R Swarbrick and from the following Parish Representatives:

J Brown	Barrow
R Carr	Bowland Forest (Higher)
P Brown	Chipping
P Robinson	Clitheroe
T Hoyle	Dinckley
A Steer	Osbaldeston
P Young	Ramsgreave
I Sayers	Ribchester
A Bristol	West Bradford
R Chew	West Bradford
J Brown	Whalley
J Bremner	Wilpshire

714 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

715 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

716 MATTERS ARISING:

(a) Minute 550(a)

Members were advised that contact had been made within Inspector Winter, who was not available to attend this meeting, but could attend a future meeting if Members wished. In 2017, there had been a central decision that Police support only be provided for one parade in each borough, although there was local discretion. Although Community Beat Officers would not be on shift, there had been PCSOs who had volunteered to support 4 parades in 2017, and the Police did appreciate the importance of these community events. Inspector Winter had said that the Police would do as much as they could locally, although it was too early to say what could be committed.

Members requested that the Police be invited to attend the next meeting.

717 PRESENTATION BY CATHY HOPLEY, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER OF PENDLE HILL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Cathy had previously attended Committee in March 2015, at which time the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership was about to be established, and now reported on the progress over the intervening period.

The Partnership, which was led by the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, comprised a number of partners including Local Authorities (Parish, District and County), landowners, environmental, heritage and tourism agencies, the Ribble Rivers Trust, arts organisations, UCLAN and the NHS. There had been a recent award of £1.8m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, a major contribution towards the £2.5m fundraising required for 4 years for the project.

She advised Members of the numbers of visitors, and the relative shortage of visits by unaccompanied young people, minority ethnic groups, disabled visitors, and those who were financially disadvantaged.

16 projects had been identified, including environmental aspects, the local economy, history and archaeology, and projects to encourage involvement and volunteering. Work was being carried out with the NHS to support those with mental health issues and to address social isolation. Work was also being carried out to improve access to Pendle Hill and to provide more information at various gateway locations.

Cathy answered questions from Members, explaining that the area covered extended beyond the hill itself, with 20 parishes in or abutting the area and 20,000 inhabitants. She also explained that the project would not be carrying out work to establish definitive footpaths where currently access was by agreement of the landowner.

RESOLVED: That Cathy be thanked for her informative presentation.

718 PRESENTATION BY COUNCILLOR K HIND, LEADER OF RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL – GROWING THE ECONOMY OF THE BOROUGH TO SECURE SERVICES

Councillor Hind explained to Members that a number of external matters had occurred which impacted on the direction to be taken by Ribble Valley Borough Council. Since 2010, there has been a 40% reduction in funding of Local Government by Central Government, with the risk of a consequential reduction in services. The manifesto commitment of the Government in 2015 had been to enable Local Authorities to retain Business Rates revenue from 2020/21, to replace the lost Revenue Support Grant.

With immigration, the national population was increasing, giving rise to issues requiring more housing and more employment for the new residents. Many people in North West England now wanted to live in the Ribble Valley, with a resultant increase in housebuilding. The conclusion that had been reached was that the Council should drive the local economy to help existing businesses grow, and to increase the number of businesses.

Councillor Hind explained that an Economic Development Committee had been established to promote an Economic Development Programme for the Ribble Valley. A Director of Economic Development and Planning was to be appointed, hopefully in the coming months, with responsibilities for both Forward Planning and Development Control and Economic Development.

The Economic Development Programme had 2 elements.

Firstly, promotion of industrial estates, particularly on the A59 corridor and the railway ribbon to supplement those already being developed in Longridge, Barrow and on the former Time Computers site in Simonstone.

Secondly, development of the tourism strand and attraction for visitors to the countryside and towns in the Ribble Valley. A Heritage and Tourist Trail was

being developed and retail was encouraged including the proposed market development for Clitheroe. In parallel, work was being carried out to seek extension of the railway links to Hellifield, opening up the Ribble Valley to towns and cities in Yorkshire and the West Coast mainline through Lancaster, as well as to increase of the frequency of trains to Manchester from Clitheroe. Transport was a crucial factor, and it was hoped to meet the Secretary of State for Transport to consider the distinct issues for the Ribble Valley.

A new website was being developed to promote the Ribble Valley as a place to live, work and play and the Wedding Heaven initiative had been promoted widely. The spring edition of the Council Newsletter set out the progress already made.

In reply to questions, Councillor Hind explained the proactive work and contact that had been made with regard to railways. Difficulties had been encountered with commercial development on the A59, as landowners had wished to speculate on the possibility of sale of land for residential development at higher prices than might be obtained for commercial development. More sites were needed.

Councillor Hind also advised Members with regard to the contemplated course of development of the Hellifield link, with its intervening stations, and the need for improvement of broadband connectivity in the villages, with Chipping being cited as an example to follow.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Hind be thanked for his presentation.

719 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

Members were advised that links had been circulated to Parish Clerks relating to General Data Protection Rules (GDPR) with guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office and the National Association of Local Councils, in respect of the new rules to be introduced from 25 May 2018. Members were advised that they should not panic at this development, which was a reiteration and strengthening of current data protection requirements. The Chief Executive advised Members that the issue could be considered at a meeting for Parish Clerks, if required. Concerns were raised as to whether the Parish Councils needed to contact individuals with regard to data held, and, if so, how frequently, and also whether Parish Councillors should register individually.

The meeting closed at 7.48pm.

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