

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 27 September 2018, starting at 6.30pm
Present: D Peat (Chairman)

Councillors:

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| P Ainsworth | G Scott |
| P Dobson | R Sherras |
| L Graves | R Swarbrick |
| J Holgate | D Taylor |

Parish Representatives:

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| T Austin | Billington & Langho |
| E Twist | Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley |
| W Leeming | Bowland Forest (Lower) |
| H Douglas | Chatburn |
| P Brown | Chipping |
| E Pickup | Clayton-le-Dale |
| M Fenton | Clitheroe |
| R Assheton | Downham |
| J Hargreaves | Dutton |
| P Entwistle | Grindleton |
| K Hutton | Grindleton |
| I Forrester | Hothersall |
| R Beacham | Longridge |
| M Everett | Longridge |
| S Rosthorn | Newsholme & Paythorne |
| P Young | Ramsgreave |
| I Sayers | Ribchester |
| T Perry | Rimington & Middop |
| R Whittaker | Rimington & Middop |
| A Haworth | Sabden |
| J Shorter | Sabden |
| J Aaron | Salesbury |
| T Westwell | Salesbury |
| R Hirst | Simonstone |
| K Hodson | Slaidburn & Easington |
| P Hallett | Thornley-with-Wheatley |
| J Hilton | Waddington |
| HD Parker | Waddington |
| R Chew | West Bradford |
| J Brown | Whalley |
| M J Highton | Whalley |
| T Gaffney | Wilpshire |
| A Scholfield | Wiswell |

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Regeneration & Housing and Housing Officer.

Also in attendance: County Councillor Keith Iddon, Phil Durnell (Lancashire County Council Highways) and Councillor N Walsh.

335 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors P Dowson, B Hilton, M Robinson, D Smith, County Councillor P Rigby (Parish Champion) and from the following Parish Representatives:

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|-------------|-----------------------|
| R Carr | Bowland Fore (Higher) |
| A Schofield | Clayton-le-Dale |
| P Robinson | Clitheroe |
| J Turner | Dinckley |
| A Steer | Osbaldeston |
| J Bremner | Wilpshire |

336 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

337 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

338 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

339 PRESENTATION BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR KEITH IDDON AND PHIL DURNELL – LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS

County Councillor Iddon gave an overview of his role and responsibilities as Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, advising Committee of the extent of the road network in Lancashire, along with related aspects of pavements and gullies and road drainage system.

He explained that the available budget for highway maintenance, repairs and improvement, was comprised of £24m Central Government Funding, £10m from Lancashire County Council funds and a £5m allocation specifically for work on potholes.

The County Council had systems in place to plan certain projects, and to respond to reports of faults. He acknowledged that there had been difficulties with the "Report It" process for reporting faults and monitoring progress of repairs, particularly in relation to communication with customers and updating the site, but explained that these issues were being addressed with additional resources.

Mr Durnell explained his role as Head of Service for Highways, acknowledging that, within budget restraints, the County Council endeavoured to spend available funds sensibly and where required.

Questions were asked by a number of Parish Representatives. Concern was expressed that, whilst the initial process of the "Report It" system was excellent,

the follow up on the system, including timeliness of repairs and updating of the online information, was unsatisfactory. County Councillor Iddon explained that there had been improvements to the system in recent months, and that Lancashire County Council were willing to meet Parish Councils to advise their members of the position. More staff had been engaged to seek to improve communications and to ensure that the system was kept up to date. One Parish Representative reported to Committee that they had noticed the improvements in communication.

County Councillor Iddon and Mr Durnell explained the improvements to the pothole repair process in 2018, when 6 dedicated machines had been hired to carry out work while weather conditions allowed, and informed Committee that the machines would be hired once again in 2019.

Further information was given on gully maintenance systems, and the reactive work which was carried out if there was flooding from surface water which could bring soil and debris to block gullies. This applied particularly on roads that were not on gritting routes, where there was a potential for ice hazards.

Members were also advised of work patterns of Lancashire County Council Parking Enforcement Officers, which included weekend and evening work, and the availability to attend particular areas on a reactive basis if parking problems were reported.

There was discussion about particular sites and issues in the Ribble Valley and Members were encouraged to contact County Councillor Iddon and Mr Durnell with details to be investigated.

RESOLVED: That County Councillor Iddon and Mr Durnell be thanked for attending the meeting.

340 OVERVIEW OF THE AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME

The Head of Regeneration and Housing introduced Jill Brown, the Housing Officer with responsibility for administration and management of the Affordable Warmth Scheme in the Ribble Valley.

She outlined the Cosy Homes in Lancashire Scheme and explained that Ribble Valley receive funding from Lancashire County Council to improve efficiency, tackle emissions and to try to address fuel poverty for residents. Support could be given to improve homes, including replacement of windows, first time installation of central heating, insulation work, provision of heating and radiators, and smaller projects such as radiator reflectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Members were advised of the eligibility criteria and the means by which the scheme was promoted on the Ribble Valley Borough Council website, by word of mouth and at events with partner agencies.

Booklets and information were made available to Members.

RESOLVED: That Jill be thanked for her presentation.

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

a) Simonstone Parish Council – Update on Neighbourhood Plans

Simonstone Parish Council expressed an interest in the experience of other Parish Councils who had embarked on the neighbourhood plan process. The Head of Regeneration and Housing explained the progress that had been made on the 3 schemes commenced, 2 of which had been discontinued for various reasons and that the examiner's report had recently been received for the Longridge Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Representative for Longridge agreed that there was a lot of work involved in the scheme and that it was not a project for the faint hearted. The Head of Regeneration and Housing was willing to bring the topic forward at a future meeting of the Committee.

b) Hothersall – Difficulties in Recruitment of Parish Clerk

Hothersall Parish Council sought the assistance of the Committee in relation to recruitment of a Parish Clerk. Because the parish had a low precept, the position had previously been a voluntary role, but the increased workload and employment, tax and pension responsibilities meant that they had not been able to recruit a suitable candidate.

The Chief Executive explained that some Clerks serviced more than one Parish and that this might be an approach be adopted. He considered that there could be difficulty in Ribble Valley Borough Council employing a peripatetic Clerk, including the possibility for conflict of interest on matters such as planning. It could be that the Lancashire Association of Local Councils or the National Association of Local Councils could provide guidance to Parishes.

c) Dutton – Seek Experience of any Issues with GDPR

Dutton Parish Council expressed continuing concerns with regard to Data Protection since the introduction of GDPR. The Chief Executive indicated that problems had not been encountered at borough level, but he would be interested to know if any Parishes had encountered specific issues.

d) Chipping – Distribution and Disposal of Dog Waste Bags

Chipping Parish Council raised a query with regard to dog waste bag dispensers and how Parishes arranged for and funded emptying of their own bins. The Chair explained that Simonstone had decided to fund additional bins and their emptying themselves. The Chief Executive reminded Members that dog waste in closed bags could be accepted in any Ribble Valley Borough Council litter bin.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Head of Regeneration and Housing advised Members of the PPP (Positive Parenting Programme) Course provided by Lancashire County Council and the Ynot Aspire Scheme to support young people to achieve their full potential. Information will be circulated to Parish Clerks.

The Representative for Chipping expressed his thanks to Borough Councillor Fenton for her hard work in promotion of the recent Heritage Open Weekends.

The Representative for Slaidburn and Easington queried the availability of grants for copiers and computers for Parish Clerks. The Chair explained that funding in this respect may be available from the Lancashire County Council Parish Champion.

The meeting closed at 7.54pm.

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