

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

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

Councillors:

G Scott
R Sherras
D Smith
D Taylor

Parish Representatives:

J Thompson	Bashall Eaves & Great Mitton
T Austin	Billington & Langho
E Twist	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
C Davies	Bowland with Leagram
C Griffin	Bowland with Leagram
H Douglas	Chatburn
M Fenton	Clitheroe Town Council
R Assheton	Downham
J Hargreaves	Dutton
K Hutton	Grindleton
I Forrester	Hothersall
N Marsden	Mellor
S Rosthorn	Newsholme & Paythorne
A Steer	Osbaldeston
P Young	Ramsgreave
I Sayers	Ribchester
R Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
J Shorter	Sabden
J Aaron	Salesbury
P Randle	Salesbury
R Hirst	Simonstone
K Hodson	Slaidburn & Easington
J Hilton	Waddington
D Parker	Waddington
J Brown	Whalley
M Highton	Whalley
J Bremner	Wilpshire
S Houghton	Wiswell
A Scholfield	Wiswell

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

Also in attendance: County Councillor P Rigby (Parish Champion) and Councillor N Walsh.

488 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors P Ainsworth, L Graves, T Hill, B Hilton, J Holgate, M Robinson and R Swarbrick and from the following Parish Representatives:

D Bland	Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley
E Kinder	Barrow
H Fortune	Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
R Carr	Bowland Forest (Higher)
A Schofield	Clayton le Dale
P Robinson	Clitheroe
J Turner	Dinckley
A Haworth	Sabden

489 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

490 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

491 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 341(b)

The Parish Representative for Hothersall had sought to raise the issue of difficulty in recruitment of a Parish Clerk by small Parish Councils with the Lancashire Association of Local Councils, but their meeting had then been cancelled.

The Chief Executive suggested that an event would be held for Clerks and Chairs of Parish Councils to meet informally to consider issues that affected their Councils and to share experiences, and this suggestion was welcomed by Members.

492 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

The Head of Regeneration and Housing gave a presentation to Committee on the Neighbourhood Planning process, informing Members of the potential advantages of preparation of such a plan, and advising of the responsibilities involved and commitment that was required. Illustrations were given of towns and parishes that had introduced Neighbourhood Plans, the different approaches taken and individual issues that had been highlighted.

He advised Committee that the purpose of such plans was to seek to shape an area by reference to development taking place. The process was not designed to prevent development, but to make a contribution to decisions on development within the areas covered. When a Neighbourhood Plan is in place, this was a

statutory policy document for consideration in determination of applications, having standing alongside national planning policy and the adopted local Core Strategy.

He stressed that the process should be embarked upon for the right reasons, as a means of influencing the correct development in the correct location. Whilst the Parish or Town Council was the qualifying body, engagement with the local community was crucial. Topics that could be considered within a Neighbourhood Plan include the issues with regard to housing, community facilities, environment and open spaces and development relating to the local economy and businesses.

Members were advised of the types of plan and related powers that were available, including the opportunity to use Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders.

There were five key stages to the process, consisting of initial agreement of the area to be covered; preparation of a plan; checking by an independent examiner; a community referendum; and the formal adoption. Support was available on line and through consultants, and advice and information could be accessed from the Regeneration and Housing team at Ribble Valley Borough Council. The team could support certain steps of the process. Community involvement was crucial including utilisation of the skills available from local people and organisations.

Members of the Committee asked a number of questions, and gave their own experiences and concerns with regard to the processes. They were advised that fees and expenses could be met by grants or parishes could precept specifically. The plan, once adopted, had to be kept under review in the same way as any local planning document. A Neighbourhood Plan, once formally adopted, had a stronger statutory status as a material consideration, compared to the guidance and information that less formal Parish Plans could contribute to determination of planning applications. The process, if it went smoothly, was likely to take a minimum period of 2 years, and required commitment from the Parish or Town Council and the community.

The presentation would be circulated to Parish and Town Clerks.

RESOLVED: That Colin be thanked for his interesting and entertaining presentation.

493 LANCASHIRE COUNTY NURSING TRUST

The Head of Regeneration and Housing explained that Councillor Bridget Hilton, who had been unable to attend this meeting, was the Chair of the Lancashire County Nursing Trust. Funds were available from the Trust to support members of the general public who were deemed to be sick and financially needy, and who lived in Lancashire, Greater Manchester and South Cumbria. The fund could also support retired community nurses who had worked in that area. Illustrations were given of the type of support and projects available, and Members were advised that the application process was confidential and relatively straightforward. Information was available for collection at the meeting, and would be circulated to Parish Clerks.

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

(a) Bowland with Leagram – Liability of Parish Councils for Unsafe Trees

Bowland with Leagram Parish Council sought advice on the extent to which a Parish Council should take a proactive approach with regard to trees in their area, in the light of a recent Court of Appeal decision against a Parish Council, where a tree owned by them had fallen and hit a bus. Although Bowland with Leagram Parish Council did not own the land with trees themselves, concern was expressed about the responsibility of Parish Councils to inspect and report on any concerns in the Parish. The Chief Executive advised the meeting that the responsibility for trees generally rested with the land owner. The Countryside Officer at Ribble Valley Borough Council (David Hewitt and Alex Shutt) could provide advice and liaise with landowners where appropriate.

b) Whalley Parish Council – Licensing

The representative of Whalley Parish Council advised that residents in their Parish had expressed concern at their recent Parish Council meeting about a Sub-Committee decision extending opening hours for one licenced establishment, and also about the possible impact if an application for a licence were to be granted for other premises, in respect of which a planning application had currently been submitted for a change of use of retail premises to become a restaurant/drinking establishment. The Parish representative enquired as to the timescale for the Community Impact Assessment relating to Whalley. The Chief Executive outlined the position under the licensing system, which was a permissive regime and which took into account objections which raised issues involving the licensing objectives. Objections had to be evidenced based, and there could be difficulty in refusing applications where there was no objection from the Police or other statutory authority. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services was due to report to the next meeting of Committee on the polling station review, and preparations for the 2019 elections, and consideration could also be given to licensing issues.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members were advised that arrangements were being made for the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend the next meeting on 31 January 2019.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

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