

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 28 January 2010 starting at 7-15pm
Present: P Young (Chairman)

Councillors:

M Fielding	C Ross
R Hargreaves	I Sayers
T Hill	G Scott
B Hilton	D Taylor
S Hore	J Waddington
M Robinson	

Parish Representatives:

A Kay	Aighton Bailey & Chaigley
G Sowter	Billington & Langho
J Green	Billington & Langho
H Douglas	Chatburn
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
R Connor	Clitheroe
A Yearling	Clitheroe
N J Isherwood	Hothersall
D Hicks	Longridge
N C Walsh	Mellor
S Rosthorn	Newsholme and Paythorne
C Law	Read
J D Waterhouse	Read
A Ormand	Ribchester
R A Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
A Howarth	Sabden
R Hirst	Simonstone
J B Hill	Simonstone
N Breaks	Slaidburn
K Staines	Waddington
K Jackson	Waddington
C Cherry	West Bradford
M Highton	Whalley
M Edwardson	Wiswell

In attendance: Chief Executive; Director of Development Services; Financial Services Manager, Environmental Health Manager, Community Development Manager, Partnership Officer, Assistant District Partnership Officer LCC and Parish Council Champion LCC.

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors D Berryman and EMH Ranson and from the following Parish Representatives:

R Carr	Bowland Forest Higher Division
I Wolstencroft	Clitheroe
R Assheton	Downham
F Priest	Longridge
A Dales	Mellor
P Jelly	Simonstone

764 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

765 FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER

The Chairman introduced Lawson Oddie, the Council's Financial Services Manager, who spoke to Committee about the work of his section which included:-

- technical advice;
- financial regulations;
- treasury management;
- budgetary control;
- investments;
- procurements;
- payment of invoices;
- salaries;
- parish precepts ;
- help to parishes.

Members asked a number of questions including whether the companies used by the Council were local and whether Parish Councils could take advantage of the Council's collaborative procurement work.

RESOLVED: That Lawson Oddie be thanked for his informative presentation.

766 COUNTY COUNCILLOR MIKE OTTER – PARISH COUNCIL CHAMPION

The Chairman introduced County Councillor Mike Otter the new Parish Council Champion from Lancashire County Council. Councillor Otter informed Committee that, in addition to being a County Councillor, he was also a Parish Councillor himself. He was keen to help Parish Councils wherever he could and had a small budget of £10,000 which could be used for a variety of Parish Council projects. He stated that he had already visited some Parishes, including Hothersall in the Ribble Valley.

He gave examples of the types of projects which he was able to fund which ranged from speed indicator devices to memorial cleansing and bulb planting to Parish notice boards.

He advised Committee that there was currently £1700 left in the current year's budget. There was also a new Parish Council website being developed.

RESOLVED: That the report from County Councillor Otter be noted.

767 WINTER GRITTING PROGRAMME

The Director of Development Services referred to this briefing paper which had been prepared by the Environment Directorate and explained that this item had been included on the Agenda in the light of the recent adverse weather conditions.

He also informed Committee that Jo Turton, LCC's Executive Director for the Environment, would be attending the next meeting of this Committee in March. He suggested that any questions or criticisms of the gritting programme could usefully be aired at this meeting and then an agreed set of questions could be passed to Jo Turton for her to reply to at the March meeting.

The Director of Development Services and the Chief Executive both explained the Council's involvement in the clearing of pavements over recent weeks. The Chief Executive had decided to switch manual workers from their normal areas of work to clearing snow and ice from heavily used pavements in Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley. There had been problems with refuse collection in some areas with refuse not having been collected because of safety considerations.

Members then voiced a number of concerns and criticisms about the winter gritting regime and how it impacted on Ribble Valley.

RESOLVED: That the Director of Development Services write to Jo Turton with the following questions in relation to the County Council's winter gritting regime:

1. Should Lancashire County Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council have an emergency plan for coping with any future heavy snow fall and its aftermath?
2. Why were gritters not deployed in Longridge until after there had been a critical article in the local paper?
3. Why was special consideration for gritting not given to Eaves Hall Lane, West Bradford which contains 80 residential properties and a hotel?
4. What contractual arrangements does LCC have with local farmers for snow clearing in rural communities?
5. What is the policy in relation to the refilling of grit bins?
6. Has any thought been given to the use of volunteers, young people who are not in education or employment and prisoners from local prisons to help with snow clearing?

768 DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

Janet Simpson, the Acting District Partnership Officer for Ribble Valley informed Committee that she would be covering the Ribble Valley Office for two-day a

week over the next six months due to the secondment of Colin Everett to the Chorley office. She also reported that the District Partnership Office would move base from Whalley to Clitheroe in March 2010. Contact details would be passed on to Parishes once these were available.

Finally, she announced that she had a series of A1 laminated parish maps which had been prepared for all Ribble Valley villages by Lancashire County Council. Parish Representatives were urged to collect these maps at the close of the meeting.

769 HEALTHY VALLEY PROJECT

David Ingham, the Partnership Officer, referred to minute 797 of Committee dated 29 January 2009 and gave an update report on the progress which had been made with this project.

He highlighted the potential beneficiaries, and discussed what outcomes were anticipated in helping communities to help themselves by strengthening the community and voluntary sector and providing a coordinated sustainable service for rural communities.

There had been a joint strategic needs analysis undertaken which involved identifying the population of interest, age profiling them, mapping the services and asking communities what services they needed to live healthy lives.

A series of village hall open house days had been run with varying degrees of success. Evening meetings had also been held with community leaders. There had also been work done with village halls and village enablers.

Chris Hughes, Community Development Manager also commented that some grants had been made for minor improvements to village halls. This funding had been made available by East Lancs Primary Care Trust from their Health and Inequalities Fund and this was now phase 2 which Parish Councils could bid in to. He also mentioned the mobile skate park which was available to take out to villages on request. Members then discussed the project.

RESOLVED: That the update report be noted.

770 PROVISION OF DOG BINS

James Russell, the Council's Environmental Health Manager, returned to Committee to talk further about the work of the dog warden service. He explained the current priorities for the service in terms of strays, lost dogs, barking dogs and dog fouling.

He highlighted where the Council had power to enforce dog fouling legislation and also indicated the cost of this. He explained the recent changes to the out of hours service in relation to stray dogs and also explained the policy on appropriate signage for dog fouling areas.

Turning to the provision of dog bins he explained the Council's current policy on provision and that there were currently 81 provided with the intention to provide a

further 20 this next year. He highlighted the cost of emptying bins a number of alternative approaches. Members asked questions about whether dog waste could be co-mingled with other waste and whether it was classed as hazardous waste. Discussion also centred around the lack of legislation in areas where only the national speed limit applied.

RESOLVED: That James be thanked for his update report.

771 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

- (a) Provision of Parish Notice Boards – Paythorne and Newsholme Parish Meeting.

The Correspondent of Paythorne and Newsholme Parish meetings stated that her village notice board was in desperate need of repair and she was seeking advice on what funding streams might be available to her.

The Parish Council Champion offered to speak to the Correspondent at the end of the meeting with a view to this funding being made available.

- (b) Proposed Closure of Petre Arms Household Waste Centre

Councillor Sowter from Billington and Langho Parish Council had given prior notice of the question around rumours that the Petre Arms household waste centre was due to close in 2011. The Community Development Officer stated that as far as he was aware LCC were looking at all 23 sites across Lancashire but no final decision had yet been made.

County Councillor Otter commented that he was on the relevant task group looking at this matter from the County Council and stated that the list of 23 to be considered for closure had now been narrowed down to 5, one of which was the Petre Arms site.

Councillor Sowter highlighted a number of arguments for retaining this centre including:

- (i) the unilateral approach of LCC to closure;
- (ii) the high usage and recovery rates of the site; and
- (iii) the possibility of reducing hours rather than closure.

Members supported the keeping open of the Petre Arms household waste centre.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Chief Executive write to Lancashire County Council objecting in the strongest possible terms to this proposed closure; and

2. this matter be again raised at the next meeting of this Committee when Jo Turton from the Environment Directorate would be present.

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman announced that the next meeting of this Committee would be held on Thursday, 25 March 2010 starting at 7.15pm.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Stewart Bailey (414491).

280110
BA/JS

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