

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 23 September 2010 starting at 7.15pm
Present: P Young (Chairman)

Councillors:

R Hargreaves	G Scott
E M H Ranson	D Taylor
C Ross	J Waddington

Parish Representatives:

J Green	Billington & Langho
B Dowles	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest a & Sawley
J Thornber	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest a & Sawley
H Douglas	Chatburn
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
A Yearing	Clitheroe
S Hopwood	Dutton
P Entwistle	Grindleton
F Priest	Longridge
J Bennett	Newton-in-Bowland
S Rosthorn	Paythorne & Newsholme
J D Waterhouse	Read
A Ormand	Ribchester
R Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
A Howarth	Sabden
I R Hirst	Simonstone
A Duckworth	Simonstone
N Breaks	Slaidburn
C Cherry	West Bradford
S Barker	Whalley
R Thompson	Wiswell

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Development Services, Forward Planning Manager and Partnership Officer

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors T Hill, S Hore, M Robinson and I Sayers and from the following Parish Representatives:

G Sowter	Billington & Langho
R Carr	Bowland Forest Higher Division
C Parkinson	Longridge
N Walsh	Mellor
P Boardman	Ramsgreave
K Jackson	Waddington
K Stains	Waddington

363 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

364 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 108 – Provision of Dog Bins

The Clerk to Bolton-by-Bowland reported that his Parish Council had now been provided with extra dog bins in both Bolton-by-Bowland and Sawley.

365 CONSULTATION WEBSITES

The Chairman introduced Kris Barker from Consultation Research Advisory Council Services. He gave a presentation on a new community engagement website entitled “Feedbackonline” which was aimed at promoting a two way dialogue with the public about a wide range of issues. All five East Lancashire District Councils, Lancashire County Council, the Police and NHS East Lancashire were currently signed up to the service. Its aim was to provide information to the public on what was happening in their area and would give better and increased access to local decision making. He then took Members through the website and explained what was available, how easy it was to access and the benefits it would have for the public in enabling them to make comments on current issues affecting local councils, the police or the NHS.

Members then asked a number of questions about the ease of logging on, the number of current users and possible duplication with other websites.

The Chief Executive commented that Parish Councils could use the website for their own consultation but this would have to be via the Council to access the site.

RESOLVED: That Kris be thanked for his presentation.

366 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

(a) Public Participation (Bolton-by-Bowland)

The Clerk to Bolton-by-Bowland Parish Council sought information from other Parish Councils about how to administer public participation at Parish Council meetings.

Representatives from Mellor, Longridge, Grindleton, Whalley and Wiswell all gave examples of how their Parish Councils dealt with public participation. Some did this as an item early on on the Agenda allowing five minutes per speaker, some used it as an item under Any Other Business.

There was some debate about the legality of including Any Other Business on Agendas but generally it was felt that this was a good

opportunity for residents to come along and have their say on a particular issue of concern.

(b) Update on Local Road Safety Schemes – Bolton-by-Bowland

The Clerk referred to Minute 112(A) of Committee dated 10 June 2010 and updated Members on the County Council's proposals to improve the A59 between Pendle Road junction at Clitheroe and Smithies Bridge. This improvement work was due to be carried out during the current financial year but he did comment that any improvement beyond Smithies Bridge on the section of road heading towards Gisburn was not scheduled for improvement in the following financial year 2011/2012.

The Parish Representative commented on new cameras which had been sited recently at both Gisburn and the Pendle Road junction but it was unclear whether these were speed cameras or automatic number plate recognition (ANPR cameras).

RESOLVED: That the Community Development Officer make enquiries with the police about these cameras and report back to the next meeting.

367 RIBBLE VALLEY CORE STRATEGY

The Forward Planning Manager reminded the meeting of the consultation programme which was underway to consider future ideas for houses, offices, shops, the countryside, local villages, local services and many other issues that would affect the people of Ribble Valley. A series of cluster meetings involving nearby parishes was currently underway inviting people to attend and make their views known on the draft Strategy.

The Clerk to Bolton-by-Bowland asked if extra copies could be made available for all his Parish Councillors. The Forward Planning Manager replied that he was more than willing to discuss ways of helping the Parish Council with this matter but remind Members that copies of the full document were expensive.

Councillor Ranson commented that he wished to encourage people to make their views known on the draft Strategy. He underlined that the Council was keen to hear from as many people as possible with differing views so that an informed decision could be taken when all views were known.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

368 ALLOTMENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Partnership Officer referred to Minute 110 of Committee dated 10 June 2010. He was keen to work in villages with groups of people who wished to set up an allotment in their village and will come back to Committee with specific plans for the Task and Finish Group. He commented that he was currently working with primary and high schools in the area and cited Chipping as a good example of how this work could progress.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

369 MATTERS REFERRED FROM COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

(a) Street Parties and Fetes

The Chief Executive referred to Minute 259 of Community Committee where a letter from the Right Honourable Eric Pickles MP had been discussed in relation to street parties and fetes. The Chief Executive felt that the Government were trying to ease the burden on small groups wishing to organise this type of event.

Members cited examples of how difficult it was becoming for small village fetes to function in the present climate of risk assessment and health and safety. There was also a discussion about the need for full or partial road closures for certain types of events.

(b) Reducing Street Clutter

The Chief Executive referred to Minute 260 of Community Committee where a letter from the Right Honourable Eric Pickles MP had been received which was encouraging local authorities to remove unnecessary street furniture and signs. One of the main proposals was to remove road side signs and replace them with road markings.

The Parish Representative from Sabden cited a number of defunct posts in his village which the Lancashire County Council seemed reluctant to remove. It was suggested that the Parish Council should write either to the Environment Director at Lancashire County Council or to the Parish Council Champion on this matter.

370 HOW TO BRING FUNDING TO YOUR WARD

The Director of Development Services informed Committee that Councillor Sayers had been due to speak to Committee on this item but had in fact been in hospital and had therefore not been able to attend the Seminar. However, he did undertake to find out whether there was any published information arising out of the Seminar, which could be shared with Committee at a future date.

The meeting closed at 8.23pm.

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

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