

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 18 November 2010 starting at 7.15pm
Present: P Young (Chairman)

Councillors:

T Hill	G Scott
M Robinson	J Waddington
I Sayers	

Parish Representatives:

H Douglas	Chatburn
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
A Yearing	Clitheroe
R Assheton	Downham
S Hopwood	Dutton
P Entwistle	Grindleton
A Hutchinson	Hothersall
F Priest	Longridge
N C Walsh	Mellor
P Boardman	Ramsgreave
C Law	Read
A Ormand	Ribchester
R Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
A Haworth	Sabden
A Duckworth	Simonstone
K Staines	Waddington
K Jackson	Waddington
M Robinson	Wiswell & Barrow

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Development Services, Community Development Manager, Partnership Officer, Principal Planning Officer (Design and Conservation) and the acting District Partnership Officer (LCC).

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors D Berryman, S Hore, EMH Ranson, C Ross and D Taylor and from the following Parish Representatives:

B Dowles	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
R Carr	Bowland Forest (Higher Division)
R Connor	Clitheroe
I Wolstencroft	Clitheroe
S Rosthorne	Paythorne & Newsholme
I R Hirst	Simonstone
C Cherry	West Bradford
M Highton	Whalley

504 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

505 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 370 – How to bring funding to your ward. Councillor Sayers referred to this minute and informed committee that the training course which he had been due to attend had in fact been cancelled and would now take place in February 2011. He promised to report back on this course to the next available meeting of this Committee.

506 CENSUS 2011

The Chairman welcomed Caroline Gee from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) who made a presentation to Committee on the forthcoming Census 2011.

She explained why the census was important, what differences there would be in 2011 compared to previous years, the key messages contained within the census and how Parish Councils could help.

She pointed out the importance of obtaining as accurate and as full a return as possible as each missing property could mean a reduction in government funding. She outlined which agencies would use the collected data including central government, service providers, business and researchers. She also stressed the absolute security of the data collected which not become a public document for over 100 years.

The Office of National Statistics were working with all local authorities to obtain the best local information possible. The Census would be postal with collectors employed to chase up non-returned forms. Many of these posts had yet to be filled.

Forms would start to be sent out from 4 March 2011 and Census Day was 27 March 2011. 10 days later collectors would start to collect any forms which had not yet been posted back.

The community benefits were stressed as an accurate census would benefit everyone. She also pointed that help would be given to anyone requiring it for form completion and a series of Census roadshows were being planned.

Members then asked some questions of the process.

RESOLVED: That Caroline be thanked for her informative presentation.

507 STAN THE VAN

The Community Development Manager informed Members that a mobile resource unit had been launched in partnership with Pendle and Rossendale Borough Councils. It was known as Stan the Van – Stan being an acronym for

services to a neighbourhood. It would operate on a three weekly cycle basis in each Council area.

The vehicle was fully self contained with IT connections, kitchen and toilet and could be used principally in Ribble Valley as a rural outreach facility. Venues were being sought and a programme had been put together for November and December. However, in 2011, it was hoped that Parishes along with partner agencies, would identify ideas on how best to use the van and on what location. Whilst there would not be a strict rota, it was hoped that some kind of informal rota could be worked out to give communities advanced warning of the van's whereabouts.

Members asked questions about the van's relationship with the CAB service, whether Parishes had to bid for it and whether the operating hours could be altered in the future.

RESOLVED: That Chris be thanked for his report and Parish Councils be encouraged to suggest venues and uses for the van over the forthcoming months.

508 HEALTHY VALLEY PROJECT

The Partnership Officer gave an update report on work which was ongoing with the healthy valley project. He reminded them that the project had arisen out of the Sustainable Community Strategy and was aimed at the specific needs of rural communities, particularly around such issues as an ageing population, affordable housing, access to services, fuel poverty and emergency response times.

He commented that a survey of over 50s in villages had recently been completed and the main areas of concern shown in that survey were access to GP services. There was also a large proportion of rural people who were prepared to offer voluntary help to their communities.

The healthy valley project was all about combining resources with numerous agencies to avoid duplication and provide a holistic service to isolated communities.

Details were given of the types of help which had been offered to rural communities, in particular the good work done by Help Direct in signposting and rural enablers were commented upon. The results of the over 50s survey would be reported to the next meeting of this Committee. Finally, the needs of younger people were also being addressed via a variety of initiatives.

RESOLVED: That the report on the healthy valley project be noted.

509 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION ISSUES

The Principal Planning Officer (Design and Conservation) spoke to his report which gave details about the work which he undertook and addressed such issues as why it was important to conserve Ribble Valley's historic environment. The report gave some key economic and social statistics including increased

visitor numbers, the fact that it is cheaper to repair historic buildings than replace them and the fact that areas with cared for listed buildings added value to the area over time.

The sustainability of conserving rather than demolishing buildings was also considered.

Issues such as minimal intervention in the historic fabric, honesty in repair and restoration and speculative restoration and reconstruction were also discussed.

A detailed narrative on legislation and policy was highlighted and included the following:

- Listed buildings of special architectural and historic interest.
- Conservation Areas.
- Scheduled Monuments.
- Works requiring consent and the main considerations in decision-making.

Finally, details were given that Ribble Valley had 1100 listed buildings, 22 Conservation Areas, 27 Scheduled Monuments and 3 registered historic parks and gardens.

Members then discussed the report and asked a number of questions.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

510 ELECTIONS 2011

The Chief Executive reminded Members that full Borough and Parish Council elections would take place on Thursday, 5 May 2011. In addition, there was the possibility of a referendum on the alternative voting system to be held, possibly on the same day.

He suggested that the Legal Services Manager should be invited to attend the next meeting in January 2011 to outline how the Council were proposing to organise these elections and give details of timetables and the process, particularly for Parish and Town Council Elections.

RESOLVED: That the Legal Services Manager be invited to attend the next meeting of this Committee to give details of the arrangements which the Borough Council were proposing for Borough and Parish Council elections to be held on Thursday, 5 May 2011.

511 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ISSUES

The acting District Partnership Officer gave details on the following:

- a) Winter services provided by LCC and how Parish Councils could help.
- b) Travelling in winter leaflet.

- c) Three tier forums (replacing Ribble Valley Locals).
- d) Changes in district partnership office staff – Janet Simpson to return to Hyndburn, Colin Everett returning to Ribble Valley).

RESOLVED: That

- 1. Relevant literature on winter services, winter travelling and three tier forums be sent to all Parish Clerks; and
- 2. Janet Simpson be thanked for her work as acting District Partnership Officer in the absence of Colin Everett.

512 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman announced that the next meeting of this Committee would be held on Thursday, 27 January 2011 starting at 7.15pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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