

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 10 September 2015, starting at 6.30pm

Present: David Peat (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	I Sayers
A Brown	G Scott
P Dowson	D Taylor
L Graves	N C Walsh
T Hill	

Parish Representatives:

R Wilkinson	Aighton Bailey & Chaigley
H Fortune	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
M Walsh	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
H Douglas	Chatburn
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale
R Assheton	Downham
D Waters	Gisburn
K Hutton	Grindleton
J Parry	Hothersall
T Austin	Langho
R Beacham	Longridge
M Everett	Longridge
A Steer	Osbaldeston
P Young	Ramsgreave
S Bridge	Read
A Ormand	Ribchester
R A Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
A Haworth	Sabden
J Shorter	Sabden
G Meloy	Simonstone
P Hallet	Thornley-with-Wheatley
H D Parker	Waddington
T Perry	West Bradford
J Brown	Whalley
M J Highton	Whalley
J Bremner	Wilpshire
T Gaffney	Wilpshire
A Wright	Wiswell

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

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors R Sherras and D Smith and from the following Parish Representatives:

S Rosthorn	Paythorn & Newsholme
R Hanson	Read
E Law-Riding	Ribchester
J Lawson	Slaidburn
E Scott	Slaidburn

274 POLICING IN THE RIBBLE VALLEY

The Chairman introduced Inspector Ian Cooper, the geographical Inspector for the Ribble Valley, who gave Committee details of policing arrangements for the Ribble Valley. The Lancashire Police Budget was to be cut from £350m to £250m, and the force would have to work in a different way. The force would continue to respond immediately to 999 calls as before. The response to non-emergency 101 calls would be monitored against targets. Serious crime investigation would still be prioritised as it was critical to get the investigation right. The Inspector reviewed the options for local policing and informed the Committee of the arrangements in place for the Ribble Valley, which would be served by 12 Community Beat Managers (an increase of 2) and by Response Officers from Colne, Burnley and Blackburn when required. The Community Beat Managers would also carry out immediate response work if required. Traffic Officers would continue their duties in the Ribble Valley. The Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) would pick up low level crime, and would be busier and more visible.

Inspector Cooper then answered a number of questions from Committee. He explained that there would be 3 or 4 Community Beat Managers at a time, due to shift patterns, and that they would work days and late shifts, with response teams covering other times. Target teams would be brought in if there was a prevalence of one type of offending. The Police would be involved in traffic management planning for processions. Following a 101 call, an assessment would be made whether a response team should be deployed. New communications were due by the end of 2015 – the Police rely on 4G and Wi-Fi. He reassured the meeting that there are good relations with North Yorkshire Police to work with each other on cross-border crime including rural crime. He stressed the importance of reporting crime, as this identifies particular problems in an area that require targeting. He explained that the Police retain powers to deal with obstructive parking, and again requested that the public call 101 to have the problems recorded for traffic enforcement purposes.

RESOLVED: That Inspector Cooper be thanked for his attendance and presentation.

275 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2015 were approved as a correct with the inclusion of apologies from P Young (Ramsgreave) and correction of the date of this meeting to 10 September 2015. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

276 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Minute 101(a)

The Head of Regeneration and Housing was seeking confirmation of the identity of the volunteer to represent the Committee on the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership.

b) Minute 103

Thanks were expressed to Peter McGeorge, Waste Management Officer, and other officers of Ribble Valley Borough Council involved in arrangement of an informative and interesting visit to the Waste Treatment Plant at Farrington, Leyland.

c) Minute 104

Concerns were raised about the extent of coverage of the Little Green Bus service, and the withdrawal or re-routing of cross-border services between Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen. The Head of Regeneration and Housing informed Committee that County Councillor Fillis was attending the October meeting of this Committee and could be asked to extend the issues to be covered to include this concern. The Chief Executive reminded the meeting that funding had been withdrawn by Blackburn with Darwen which had put Lancashire County Council in a difficult position.

d) Minute 105(a)

A presentation on War Memorials and grants was anticipated for the October meeting of this Committee, subject to the availability of the representative of the Voluntary Organisation based in Liverpool that dealt with these issues.

e) Minutes 105(b)

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported on the ongoing steps being taken for removal of roadside banners, where Lancashire County Council had agreed to Ribble Valley Borough Council Officers removing banners from Lancashire County Council fences and land.

RIBBLE VALLEY PARISHES GRANT

The Chief Executive presented a report on the approval of an allocation of £114,000 of grants to Parish and Town Councils in Ribble Valley who annually precept. Each Parish Council was allocated a maximum of £3,000 or £5,000 in the case of Longridge, Whalley and Clitheroe. The criteria and procedure for application were explained.

Applications could be made for contributions to a larger project, for several smaller projects and, where applicable, payment could be made direct to third party suppliers where appropriate evidence and invoices were available. Applications were requested by 30 September 2016, but there was no cut-off

date for payment – on previous occasions payment of this funding had been extended to enable its utilization as matched funding for other applications or projects.

Parish Clerks would receive a letter inviting applications.

Parish meetings that do not annual precept would not be eligible, but worthwhile projects could be considered for support outside this scheme.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

279 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

(a) Employment Sites in Longridge

Longridge Town Council reported on the loss of an employment site in the town to housing use for 55s. While this particular development was welcomed, they were concerned about the ongoing loss of industrial land and how this would be replaced. The Head of Regeneration and Housing responded that the Economic Working Group and Regeneration Team were seeking to identify potential sites in Longridge for employment use, either by possible acquisition by Ribble Valley Borough Council or working with potential developers to bring forward sites.

(b) Traffic Congestion and Illegal/Anti-Social Parking in Whalley

Whalley Parish Council reported on continuing problems of congestion and illegal parking in Whalley, and that they understood that Lancashire County Council Parkwise had been instructed not to enforce parking contraventions in the village. The Chief Executive gave a potted history of parking enforcement and explained that currently Ribble Valley Borough Council have responsibility for off-street parking and Lancashire County Council for on-street parking. Ribble Valley Borough Council are trying to identify a site in Whalley for use as an off-street car park.

Councillor Hill reported on his recent discussion with the Leader of LCC who considered that there was little chance of the return of on-street parking enforcement to Ribble Valley Borough Council but had stated that she might try to organise some purges on on-street parking in the village.

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported on discussions in the Village Working Group, and that Lancashire County Council Highways officers were due to present their proposals to the October meeting of that forum.

The Committee considered that this issue could be raised with County Councillor Fillis on 29 October.

280 FEEDBACK ON THE TOUR OF BRITAIN

The Chief Executive expressed his thanks to Parish and Town Councils and to the Officers of Ribble Valley Borough Council for their involvement in this very successful event. Ribble Valley Borough Council would receive an unedited

copy of the television coverage, and a short film was to be made. The event had been worthwhile, at a cost of approximately £125,000 (about £2 per resident of the Ribble Valley) anticipated to bring in approximately £3m to the area covered by the stage.

RESOLVED: That Ribble Valley Borough Council and its Officers and Members be thanked for arranging the event.

281 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman reported that the next meeting would be at 6.30pm on Thursday, 29 October 2015.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Colin Hirst (01200 414503).