

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 7 April 2016, starting at 6.30pm
Present: David Peat (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	G Scott
A Brown	R Sherras
L Graves	D Smith
T Hill	D Taylor
M Robinson	N C Walsh

Parish Representatives:

S McGregor	Barrow
T Austin	Billington & Langho
H Fortune	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
M Walsh	Bolton-by-Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
G Cocks	Bowland Forest (Higher)
B Green	Chipping
M Fenton	Clitheroe
R Assheton	Downham
P Entwistle	Grindleton
S Ashcroft	Longridge
R Beacham	Longridge
S Rosthorn	Newsholme & Paythorne
J Bennett	Newton
A Steer	Osbaldeston
E Law-Riding	Ribchester
R A Whittaker	Rimington & Middop
A Haworth	Sabden
J Shorter	Sabden
R Hirst	Simonstone
G Meloy	Simonstone
P Hallett	Thornley-with-Wheatley
J Hilton	Waddington
H D Parker	Waddington
T Perry	West Bradford
M J Highton	Whalley
J Bremner	Wilpshire

In attendance: Head of Regeneration and Housing.

Also in attendance: Alex Silverwood – Agronomist.

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillor I Sayers and from Marshal Scott and from the following Parish Representatives:

E Miller	Bowland Forest (Lower)
H Douglas	Chatburn
P Brown	Chipping
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale
P Robinson	Clitheroe
P Hutchinson	Hothersall
P Young	Ramsgreave
A Ormand	Ribchester
P Boyes	Salesbury
J Lawson	Slaidburn
J Brown	Whalley

699 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

700 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Minute 580

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported that, whilst there had been consideration to a further meeting of the Committee to consider a response to the consultation on bus services, an intervening scheme had been introduced by Lancashire County Council. Where problem areas had been identified, Lancashire County Council officers have been requested to look at provision at least of skeleton services and to report back to their working group. There had also been confusion about which services had been stopped, as some commercial companies are now running services which had been believed to have been terminated. He reported that the most suitable contact at Lancashire County Council is Ashley Weir.

The Head of Regeneration and Housing also drew attention to the review currently taking place with regard to Lancashire County Council serviced properties, such as libraries, youth centres and childrens' centres. The cabinet of Lancashire County Council will consider a report on the issues in May 2016, and he encouraged Members to view possible changes with an open mind. It was agreed to invite Mel Ormesher, the newly appointed Head of Asset Management at Lancashire County Council, to the June meeting of the Committee.

701 JAPANESE KNOTWEED CONTROL

The Chairman introduced Alex Silverwood, an Agronomist, who also carried out work to address problems with Japanese Knotweed. He gave a presentation on the history of Japanese Knotweed in Britain, the steps taken to control its proliferation, and the offences associated with its planting and distribution. He explained the identifying features of the plant, the extent of the spread of the impact of each plant, and the potential damage that can arise, both physical in

terms of buildings and other constructions and financial in respect of property values and ability to borrow. The recommended means of treatment is by herbicide on site, with several applications over the 3 years which the rhizomes take to biodegrade. If left untreated, the plant can lie dormant for 20 years.

Committee agreed that it would be helpful if this presentation could be circulated by email to the Parish Councils.

Members then asked a number of questions and helpful replies were provided. Herbicidal and biological destruction on site was preferred to physical removal. The plant is spread by distribution of rhizomes or shards of rhizomes, not by distribution of seed. The herbicidal spray is biodegradable, but it was recommended to leave that part of the garden for a week before return. Records of reported sitings of Japanese Knotweed are available on the DEFRA website, which includes information submitted by the Ribble Rivers Trust.

RESOLVED: That Committee thank Alex for his informative presentation.

702 LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported that the Housing and Economic Plan document, part of the Local Development Plan, was to be considered by the Planning and Development Committee at their meeting on the 14 April 2016. This would be the start of the process to identify new settlement boundaries for the new proposals map. This reflected actual developments and existing planning permissions, and the settlements where there is still a requirement to meet Core Strategy figures. A similar exercise was being conducted for employment sites.

If approved by Planning and Development Committee, a consolidated consultation document would be prepared, hopefully by the end of May 2016. It was important to proceed with the process, in order to complete the Local Development Framework, and it was intended to focus on key issues to enable an up to date proposals map to be prepared. He explained that current information about housing numbers was available in Appendix 4 to the Committee report.

703 TRANSFORMING LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Head of Regeneration and Housing reported on significant changes taking place at Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board, although some of these were awaiting ratification or decision. Whilst certain aspects are being drawn together throughout the County, which includes Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool, at certain levels there are more local issues, such as CCGs, where Ribble Valley falls under more than one body. It was important to ensure that Ribble Valley issues are properly addressed at all times, particularly where there was an element of cross-border co-ordination required. Whilst more urban areas of the County have their own serious issues, problems of a rural nature including isolation and access to services needed to be highlighted and addressed.

There had been a gap between development plans and strategic health planning in the past. There was discussion as to how the health resources could access Section 106 payments.

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

(a) Impact on Collections and Recycling of the Closure of the Farrington Waste Disposal Site

In response to a query from Sabden Parish Council, the Head of Regeneration and Housing reported that the implications of the closure were currently being reviewed. It was anticipated that from July 2016, food waste would be required to be placed in burgundy bins, with green bins being used for green waste only. Information was being prepared to publicise the changes.

(b) Community Infrastructure Levy

In response to a query from Longridge Town Council, the Head of Regeneration and Housing explained that information from infrastructure providers, such as Lancashire County Council and the NHS, had not been available to incorporate a charging levy at the time of the Core Strategy. In practice, it was most likely that Ribble Valley Borough Council would look to progress the Community Infrastructure Levy programme alongside the Local Plan Review in 2 or 3 years' time.

(c) The Condition of Roads, including Potholes and Blocked Gullies

Wilpshire Parish Council reported on issues of reported faults of blocked gullies and potholes, which had been reported to Lancashire County Council and not repaired. This issue went back before the substantial increase in problems of this type after floods in December 2015. It had taken over 2 months for an inadequate repair to be carried out to one particular pothole.

The Head of Regeneration and Housing referred to the severe weather activity update issued by Lancashire County Council in March 2016, which had been received by the Parish Councils, and to the reporting procedures to Lancashire County Council.

It was accepted that there could be an issue with effective execution of repairs, even if the initial response from Lancashire County Council had been fairly prompt. The Head of Regeneration and Housing would let the Head of Engineering Services at Ribble Valley Borough Council know of the comments expressed.

DECEMBER FLOODING

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Parish Council Liaison Committee to the officers of Ribble Valley Borough Council for their work in response to the floods in December 2015, affecting Whalley, Billington, Ribchester and other areas.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

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