

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 14 September 2017 at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor D Taylor (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	G Scott
P Dobson	R Sherras
P Dowson	N C Walsh
L Graves	

Parish Representatives:

P Tyson	Aighton Bailey & Chaigley
J Brown	Barrow
T Austin	Billington & Langho
G Cocks	Bowland Forest (Higher)
C Davies	Bowland with Leagram
H Douglas	Chatburn
P Brown	Chipping
A Schofield	Clayton-le-Dale
M Fenton	Clitheroe
J Hargreaves	Dutton
P Entwistle	Grindleton
M Hurst	Grindleton
I Forrester	Hothersall
R Beacham	Longridge
M Everett	Longridge
R Thornber	Newton-in-Bowland
P Young	Ramsgreave
R 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
A Bristol	West Bradford
J Brown	Whalley
M J Highton	Whalley
T Gaffney	Wilpshire
S Giles	Wiswell
M Robinson	Wiswell

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

Also in attendance: County Councillor Paul Rigby.

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillors B Hilton, M Robinson, D Smith and R Swarbrick and from the following Parish Representatives:

E Miller	Bowland Forest (Lower)
E Pickup	Clayton-le-Dale
P Robinson	Clitheroe
R Assheton	Downham
S Rosthorn	Newsholme & Paythorne
A Steer	Osbaldeston
E Law-Riding	Ribchester
A Ormand	Ribchester
D Peat	Simonstone
K Hodson	Slaidburn

266 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

267 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

268 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 90

Councillor Sayers reported that the Little Green Bus staff had visited a number of parishes including Slaidburn, where some interest had been expressed. It was likely that one volunteer driver had been recruited, which experience had shown would normally attract more volunteers.

(b) Minutes 91(a)

The Head of Planning Services reported on information received from Lancashire County Council Highways in relation to development at Pendle Road, Clitheroe and the A59. Highways advised that the agreement for the A59 roundabout was nearing completion, with work expected to commence in March 2018. It was anticipated that there would be significant activity in relation to the site access roundabout on Pendle Road by early October 2017.

269 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMPION FOR PARISHES

The Chairman introduced County Councillor Paul Rigby, the Cabinet Member of Lancashire County Council with the portfolio as Parish Champion. He explained his background as a County Councillor for 8 years, previously having been a Borough Councillor, and that he had been a Parish Councillor for 28 years. He had been Parish Champion since June 2017.

He believed that his role was to try to achieve a smooth liaison between Parish Councils and the County Council and explained that the County Council did wish to support Parish Councils. Since the change of administration in May, priorities have been rural transport and provision of an increased library service, but the County Council would be introducing further plans in the future.

As Parish Champion, he had a small budget available with which to make grants to Parish Councils.

In reply to questions, he explained that 7 libraries have been fast-tracked to open in November, but that he had no personal knowledge of the position with regard to Chatburn library. He would be interested to hear the views of the meeting with regard to non-response by Lancashire County Council Highways officers to electronic communication. Of his budget of £10,000 for grants, he had about half left for distribution in the current financial year – some requests had been held over from his predecessor in the post. There were no specific target areas or criteria for applications – contributions had been made for SPIDS (Speed Indication Devices), road marker signs and a car park. He informed Committee that he would pass on a request for mould to be cleared from road signs.

RESOLVED: That County Councillor Rigby be thanked for his presentation and attendance at the meeting.

270 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

i) Permitted Development Rights in Conservation Areas

In response to a query from Wiswell Parish Council, the Head of Planning Services gave a verbal representation on permitted development rights, especially as they affect Conservation Areas, and changes in regulations. There had been a variation in permitted development regulations between 1995 and 2015, giving rise to what was perceived to be a loophole with regard to residential outbuildings. The current position was that an outbuilding of any size, incidental to the enjoyment of the house, and located within the curtilage of the house, was permitted development, provided that it met criteria as to its positioning and dimensions. General permitted development regulations prohibited such development without planning permission forward of a wall forming the principal elevation of the original house, and Conservation Area status extended this prohibition to buildings situated between a wall forming the side elevation of the house and the boundary of the curtilage. There had also been other changes in relation to permitted demolition in Conservation Areas. As plans for projects carried out under permitted development allowances were not submitted for planning approval and building regulations approvals were not in the public domain, there was no opportunity for Parish Councils to inspect such plans.

ii) Failure of Lancashire County Council Highways to reply to Emails and Electronic Communications

The representative from Wiswell Parish Council reported on submission of an electronic report for Lancashire County Council in February 2017, receipt of which had been rubber stamped and passed on, but with no progress on the Lancashire County Council website up to and including September 2017. Representatives from other Parish Councils reported on difficulties that had been encountered in obtaining responses from the department, and gave reports of various levels of success in obtaining a response from all departments at Lancashire County Council, ranging from lack of any response or progress, to very prompt response to telephone calls from one representative. Members also requested that

Lancashire County Council should review their system of updating records on the web page for electronic reporting of highways problems.

County Councillor Schofield suggested that, if problems were encountered, Parishes might wish to escalate their report to their local County Councillor, or to contact County Councillor Keith Iddon, the Cabinet Member for Highways. County Councillor Rigby suggested that the lead office for highways for the district be copied into emails that are submitted. He was also encouraging County Councillors to try to attend more meetings of Parish Councils within their area than had previously been the case.

It was proposed that the Parish Councils' Liaison Committee make a strong representation to the Head of Service for Highways at Lancashire County Council, Phil Durnell, to express their overwhelming disappointment at the lack of response to electronic communications and to seek reassurance that the issue will be addressed.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive submit a strong representation to Lancashire County Council on behalf of the Parish Councils' Liaison Committee, expressing disappointment at the lack of response to electronic communication and seeking reassurance that the issue would be addressed.

iii) Non-submission of amended plans to Parish Councils

Wiswell Parish Council raised concern that Parish Councils do not receive an update on all amended plans submitted in the course of determination of planning applications. The Head of Planning Services explained that approximately 40% of the 1,200 planning applications received in an average year will be amended during the course of the application. Government guidance is that the need for notification and consultation will depend on the significance of the amendment. As a rule, such notification and consultation will take place where it is considered that further comments may be received. Relevant factors in this determination included whether the changes are significant, whether there had been previous objections and, if so, whether the amendment addresses those objections, and whether the amendment was likely to have an impact where previous consultation had not taken place. He was willing to take on board any individual cases where Parish Councils felt there should have been re-consultation and would review any such matters on a case by case basis to determine if there was an issue. Concern was expressed by one representative that non-consultation diminished their ability to influence the outcome of an application.

271 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chairman invited Members to put forward suggestions for speakers or presentations at future meetings. It was hoped that the Lancashire County Council Director of Public Health and Wellbeing would attend a future meeting.

272 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Head of Regeneration and Housing advised Committee that the Lancashire County Council Health and Wellbeing Strategy would be circulated, and drew

Members' attention to the Health and Wellbeing Showcase to be held at the Council Chamber on the 19 September 2017.

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DOG WASTE

Members' attention was drawn to the Dog Waste Bag Initiative being carried out by the Environmental Health Section to tackle the issue of dog waste, and the project for communities and parishes to request and distribute free dog waste bags. Representatives were able to collect an initial supply at the meeting, and collection and distribution arrangements would be circulated.

The meeting closed at 7.18pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (414400).