

Minutes of Parish Councils Liaison

Meeting Date: Thursday, 14 September 2023, starting at 6.30 pm
Present: Councillor M Highton (Chair)

Councillors:

K Horkin	G Hibbert
G Scott	M Peplow
R Walsh	N Stubbs
D Brocklehurst	

Parish Representatives:

T Austin	Billington and Langho
S Farmer	Billington and Langho
S O'Callaghn	Clayton le Dale
A Schofield	Clayton le Dale
J Hargreaves	Dutton
P Atkinson	Grindleton
L Halley	Grindleton
M Gee	Hothersall
D Jackson	Longridge
S Rostron	Paythorne and Newsholme
S Greenhough	Read
G Mason	Ribchester
K Buckley	Sabden
M Wood	Salesbury
D Peat	Simonstone
J Hampson	Simonstone

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Strategic Planning and Housing and the Partnership Officer

Also in attendance: Sergeant K Day (police officer) and J Moran (Integrated Place Leader for East Lancashire)

301 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillors K Barnsley, D Birtwhistle, S Cowman, C McFall, S O'Rourke and M Robinson.

Apologies were also received from R Porter of Chatburn Parish Council and M Hacking of Read Parish Council.

302 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

303 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY, OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests.

304

NEW POLICING MODEL

Sergeant Kevin Day gave a presentation on the new policing model that has been adopted in the Ribble Valley. It was noted that the change marked an end to the hybrid policing model where officers were performing both neighbourhood and response roles.

Sgt Day outlined that under the new model there will be a dedicated response team and a separate neighbourhood policing team. The response team will operate 24 hours per day and will be composed of dedicated Ribble Valley officers. The neighbourhood team will also now have an additional four community beat managers, who will be working alongside the PCSO's.

The role of the rural task force was outlined and it was confirmed that they will be getting an additional officer, to bring their number to five.

Sgt Day answered questions from Committee and advised that Clitheroe police station is now open Mondays – Fridays from 9am – 1pm. He further confirmed that officers would continue to attend Parish Council meetings, as long as they have been provided with details of the meeting dates.

305

LANCASHIRE PLACE INITIATIVE

Jackie Moran, the Integrated Place Leader for East Lancashire gave a presentation on the introduction to the new Places in Lancashire and South Cumbria and the Lancashire Place journey to date.

The presentation covered the following:

1. Providing an update on the new system arrangements, and specifically, the development of the new Lancashire Place
2. Providing an update on the emerging arrangements for the East Lancashire locality.
3. Consideration of some of the big questions / areas for development and a timeframe for next steps.

Jackie Moran then listened to concerns raised and answered various questions from the Committee. She confirmed her hope that Place could influence local policy and re-iterated the importance of training and technology going forward.

Jackie's message was that Place Initiative is striving to achieve the best outcomes for the best value and that they are seeking for improvements for residents.

306

ELECTION ACT UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee about the provisions of the Elections Act 2022 which were due to come into force.

Members were reminded that the Elections Act 2022 had made a range of changes to electoral law and processes, and the first tranche of changes had included the introduction of Voter ID and new accessibility requirements which were implemented for the elections in May 2023. The second tranche of changes would come into force in advance of the May 2024 polls relating to:

- Absent Voting
- Overseas elections
- EU citizens' voting and candidacy rights
- Postal vote handling and secrecy and commonly used names

The changes would apply to the following types of elections:

- UK Parliamentary elections in Great Britain
- Local Elections in England – including mayoral elections
- Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales

Further details and the implications of the above changes were explained in the report.

Discussion also took place around voter ID for elections, publicity for the changes and ensuring that people are voting in the correct ward.

307 REFERENCES FROM COMMITTEES

308 HEALTH & HOUSING - GRANTS ADMINISTERED BY THE HOUSING SECTION

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report providing Committee with a summary of all the different grant types that are administered by the Housing Team.

309 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND (REPF)

The Partnership Officer informed Committee that Ribble Valley Borough Council were now inviting expressions of interest for the REPF grant programme. The scheme is for capital projects and grants of up to £50,000 are available to eligible organisations. It was noted that all relevant information and criteria for the scheme was on the Council's website.

HARP

The Chief Executive provided an update as to the current position, advising that work was underway to create the legal agreements required in order for the project to commence.

He confirmed that Council officers were more than happy to meet with Parish Councillors to discuss HARP. In addition, there would be a Community Liaison Officer appointed who could attend Parish Council meetings and the creation of a Community Board, consisting of officers from RVBC and LCC, United Utilities and other statutory undertakers.

310 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman informed the committee that the next meeting would be on 9 November 2023 at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.09 pm

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, Jenny Martin jenny.martin@ribblevalley.gov.uk.