

Minutes of Parish Councils Liaison

Meeting Date: Thursday, 22 June 2023, starting at 6.30 pm
Present: Councillor M Highton (Chair)

Councillors:

D Birtwhistle	S Cowman
K Horkin	G Hibbert
G Scott	McFall
R Walsh	M Peplow
K Barnsley	M Robinson
D Brocklehurst	N Stubbs

Parish Representatives:

A Upton	Hothersall
M Gee	Hothersall
S Rosthorn	Newsholme and Paythorne
S Greenhough	Read
C Pollard	Read
G Mason	Ribchester
C Eaves	Sabden
S Clarke	Sabden
T Westwell	Salesbury
D Peat	Simonstone
J Hampson	Simonstone
S Bolton	Waddington
A Scholfield	Wiswell
S Houghton	Wiswell
Gillian	Wiswell
S Clemson	Wiswell
M Highton	Whalley
J Threlfall	Whalley

In attendance: Chief Executive and Head of Strategic Planning and Housing

119 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR 2023/24

RESOLVED THAT COMMITTEE:

That Parish Councillor Martin Highton be appointed as Chairman for this Committee for 2023/2024.

120 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR 2023/24

RESOLVED THAT COMMITTEE:

That Councillor Gary Scott be appointed as Vice Chairman for this Committee for 2023/2024.

121 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillor S O'Rourke.

Apologies were also received from the following Parish Councils:

	Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley
R Whitaker	Newton in Bowland
R Chew	West Bradford

122 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

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

124 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

125 BRIEFING ON THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING

The Head of Strategic Planning and Housing confirmed that this is not a decision-making Committee. The Borough council will bring items to this Committee that are of interest to many of the Parish Councils and to raise awareness on issues concerning the Ribble Valley.

With regards to the Committee agenda, Parish Councils can suggest items to be added, which should be items of broad interest to Parish Councils generally.

It was confirmed that public speakers can be invited to talk on particular topics of interest.

126 NEW POLICING MODEL

This Item was deferred. The Police Officer who was due to give a presentation on the new Policing Model did not attend. The Item will be put on a future agenda.

The Chief Executive confirmed that a briefing on the Target Operating Model for the Ribble Valley would be circulated to Parish Councils

127 REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

(i) Ribble Valley Economic Plan 2023-26

RESOLVED: The Director of Economic Development and Planning had submitted a report to the Economic Development Committee outlining the draft Economic Plan 2023-2026.

The plan follows a similar format to the existing Economic Plan and is split into five priority areas:

1. People – Focuses on those actions that will support skills development.
2. Place – Focuses on those actions that recognise and respect the value and character of the Ribble Valley.
3. Business Support – Focuses on those actions that sustain competitiveness and strengthens business networks.
4. Connectivity – Focuses on those actions that will act as the catalyst for better digital and public transport connectivity.
5. Tourism – Focuses on those actions that will promote the development of accommodation, improve hospitality and support events building on the attraction of the local area.

It was resolved at the Economic Development Committee on 15 June 2023 to authorise the Director of Economic Development and Planning to carry out a public consultation for a period of six weeks on the draft Economic Plan.

The Head of Strategic Planning and Housing confirmed that the consultation has not yet started but she urged Parish Councils to engage with the process and send comments to Ribble Valley Borough Council.

There was discussion as to bringing a report to this Committee annually to assess how strategic plans such as the Economic Plan is progressing. The Head of Strategic Planning and Housing has agreed to bring a report to PCL on the delivery of the current Economic Plan.

Parish Council representatives also sought an update on the Local Plan. The Committee were advised that there have been some delays with the Local Plan, partly due to staffing issues within the Council. However, there is a considerable amount of work being carried out, on what is a very complex programme. The Head of Strategic Planning and Housing will continue to engage with Parish Councils on the Local Plan at appropriate times.

It was confirmed that the Local Plan is a separate process to that of the Economic Plan and consultation on them will take place separately. To consider them together would only serve to delay the Economic Plan and could create confusion.

(ii) Home Upgrade Grant (Phase 2) Scheme (HUG2)

RESOLVED: The Director of Economic Development and Planning had submitted a report to raise awareness of the availability of the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) and to encourage uptake across the Borough. The scheme applies to off mains gas properties.

It was noted that the Borough has a high percentage of off mains gas properties and therefore it is important that residents are aware of the availability of the scheme as often rural properties are not eligible for grant schemes. The availability of the scheme will be promoted through the Council's website, press releases. The Head of Strategic Planning and Housing asked Parish Councils to assist in promoting the scheme to their residents. Leaflets were prepared for Parish Councils to take away.

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

REQUEST FOR A PRESENTATION ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EAST LANCASHIRE PLACE INITIATIVE

This was a request made by Simonstone Parish Council.

Parish Councillor, David Peat spoke on the Patient-led Assessments of the Care Environment (PLACE) Initiative and the importance of engaging communities with this. The emphasis should be on the Ribble Valley working together uniformly on this initiative.

It was agreed that Ribble Valley Borough Council would invite Jackie Moran, who is the Director of East Lancashire Place and is on Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board to attend the next meeting to give a presentation on the initiative.

LEVELLING UP IN RURAL AREAS

This issue was raised by Simonstone Parish Council.

The Chief Executive confirmed that a report on the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) had been submitted to the Policy and Finance Committee on 20 June 2023. It was felt that the current scheme is too complicated and needs to be simplified. This scheme will cover all areas of the Ribble Valley, with the exception of Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley and there is a pot of approximately £400,000.

There was discussion as to rural villages that are cut off from the larger urban areas potentially having put the levelling up money into transportation and whether there were alternative funds available for this purpose. The Chief Executive spoke about the Little Green Bus Charity which provides transport to people who can't use regular public transport. It was agreed that the Little Green Bus Charity would be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the support and services they offer. The Chief Executive also suggested that the Parish Councils could look at joining together to purchase a bus and to recruit volunteer drivers.

ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Mr Andrew Yates of Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest and Sawley Parish Council provided Committee with an update. In particular, the current focus of the working group has been on considering 20mph speed limits in village areas. The objectives are, amongst others:

- To improve the quality of life within rural communities, where pedestrian and cyclist's movements are high.
- To slow the traffic down going through village streets.

Mr Yates advised that a list had been put together of ways to implement 20mph speed limits e.g. having buffer zones and appropriate signage. Reference was made to initiatives in the UK, such as in the Scottish Borders, where 20mph speed limits have been imposed and the positive impact this has had.

Committee was provided with a brief overview of the approximate cost of implementation. An estimated budget for a 20mph limit (per single road) with buffer would be £3/5,000. However, for an accurate budget, a scoping exercise a scoping exercise would need to be undertaken by an LCC authorised contractor.

Committee were informed that ten Parish Councils are now signed up to the working group. Mr Yates wanted to canvass if any other Parish Councils wished to become involved going forward to assist with the consultation process. The information will then be presented to County Councillor, Rupert Swarbrick.

HARP

This issue was raised at the meeting by Waddington Parish Council in the context of road safety and by Simonstone Parish Council who sought an update.

The Chief Executive advised that the Council has granted planning permission and there will be a dedicated highway officer who will liaise with United Utilities if any problems arise.

It was confirmed that there has been no further information as to whether the Secretary of State will call HARP in. If a decision is made to call it in, then it is likely that there will be a Public Enquiry and the Council will make appropriate representations.

CITIZEN'S SUMMIT FOR CLIMATE AND NATURE

Hothersall Parish Council advised that there will be a Citizen's Summit for Climate and Nature on 1 July 2023. The aim is to bring people together from across the Ribble Valley to generate creative local responses to the global climate. It's a free event and will be a visionary day, imaging what the Ribble Valley will look like in 2030.

PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING

This issue was raised at the meeting by Waddington Parish Council.

Sarah Bolton advised of the difficulties Waddington Parish Council had in obtaining funding. Questions were asked as to whether there could be a shared fund or more information about grants/funding that is available.

The Chief Executive advised that the Council does have a grant scheme and outlined other available schemes, e.g. the Rural Fund. He suggested that Council officers could attend a future meeting to provide the Committee with further information on this issue. A suggestion was also made for a handbook to be produced outlining the range of grants available.

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman informed the Committee that the next meeting would be on 14 September 2023 at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.49 pm

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