

MINUTES OF CHORLEY LIAISON

MEETING DATE Wednesday, 20 March 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Gordon France (Eastern Parishes) (Chair), Councillor Kim Snape (Chorley Rural East Division, Lancashire County Council) (Vice-Chair),
Lancashire County Councillors: Julia Berry (Chorley South Division, Lancashire County Council),
Chorley Borough Councillors (Chairs of Neighbourhood Area Meetings): Aaron Beaver (Chorley Town West), Eric Bell (Clayton and Whittle), Danny Gee (Euxton, Astley and Buckshaw), Alan Whittaker (Southern Parishes), Doreen Dickinson (Western Parishes) and Alistair Bradley (Chorley Town)
Town and Parish Councillors: Clive Hart (Adlington Town Councillor), Ian Horsfield (Anderton Parish Councillor), Nicola Smith (Anderton Parish Councillor), Louise Parkin (Anglezarke Parish Councillor), Laura Lennox (Astley Village Parish Councillor), Karen Wait (Bretherton Parish Council), Alan Cornwell (Charnock Richard Parish Council), Anne Peet (Croston Parish Councillor) and Katrina Reed (Euxton Parish Councillor)

OFFICERS: Chris Moister (Head of Legal Democratic and HR Services) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic and Member Services Team Leader)

APOLOGIES: Lancashire County Councillors: Steve Holgate (Chorley Central Division, Lancashire County Council) and Aidy Riggott (Euxton, Buckshaw & Astley Division, Lancashire County Council) Chorley Borough Councillors: Town and Parish Councillors: Graham Ashworth (Heath Charnock Parish Councillor), Christine Bailey (Clerk to Heath Charnock Parish Council), Marel Urry (Hoghton Parish Councillor), Terry Dickenson (Wheulton Parish Councillor / Chorley Sports Forum), Steven Perry (Withnell Parish Councillor) and Mervyn Holden (Heskin Parish Councillor)

19.11 Welcome by the Chair

The Chair, Councillor Gordon France, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

19.12 Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 16 January 2019 of Chorley Liaison

Decision: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

The group noted the summary of reported injury collisions for Bretherton for the past three years, the review of Special Constabulary for South Division for 2018, information about online reporting to the Police and the amended route for the Ironman UK event.

19.13 Local Government Ethical Standards: A Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life

The Chair welcomed Chris Moister, Head of Legal, Democratic and HR Services. The report has previously been considered by the Governance Committee. The changes have not yet been implemented. A further report will be presented to Governance Committee and shared with this group.

Members noted the changes to sanctions and suspensions, and that Chris (as Monitoring Officer) already provides support to Town and Parish Councils on standards issues. One of the proposed changes is to include a Parish Council representative on Governance Committee.

Members noted issues faced in relation to the use of social media. Chris will facilitate some training on this issue.

19.14 Item requested by Charnock Richard Parish Council

- 1) Does Chorley Council have a forward plan in place to assist with letting/renting out the increasing number of vacant shops in the town centre?

Chris Moister explained that this is a perception as stats show that it's not an increasing amount. In fact, Chorley is ahead of the curve. Several units are due new tenants in the first quarter (several displaced from Botany).

Councillor Alistair Bradley advised that the Council do offer grants for Shop Front Improvements. A number of units have become vacant at the same time, but some tenants are still paying rent. Town centres are generally shrinking and refocusing. The new development at Botany Bay may have a positive impact on the Town Centre.

- 2) Why are Chorley Council looking to go back in to social housing provision?

Chris Moister advised that the aims of the Council are wider than social housing, including our own developments (Market Walk extension, Primrose Gardens Extra Care facility and Strawberry Fields Digital Office Park).

The aim for the Housing Company is for quality affordable housing, with privately rented provision as a funding stream. The Council also has Cotswold Supported Housing and the properties purchased for the Syrian Refugee resettlement programme.

19.15 Items requested by Bretherton Parish Council

1. Collision statistics - Following the last meeting the Police provided information on collisions occurring in Bretherton. However, the Parish Council has also been keeping a record and there appears to be a discrepancy between the two sets of figures.

Chief Inspector Gary Crowe responded to the query by email and advised that this isn't unusual as the Police can only comment on 'reported' collisions. If a collision is so minor in nature that no-one reports it then they won't hold the statistics. Members highlighted the need for residents to report incidents to the Police.

2. Use of roads in Bretherton by HGVs - Rural roads are being adversely affected by HGVs, however the opening of the Penwortham Bye Pass would give the County Council the opportunity to reroute HGVs away from Bretherton and the Parish Council feels it would be helpful if Chorley Council could support this approach.

3. Speed Limits on North Rd, Bretherton - Residents are constantly complaining about the speed of traffic along this road and have given examples of cars and motor cycles travelling at well above the 50-mph speed limit. The Parish Council has asked that the speed limit be reduced to 30 mph and would be grateful if Chorley Council would support this request and in the first instance ask the Police to carry out speed checks in some way

It was agreed to write a letter from the Chair and the Leader of the Council to the Cabinet Member for Highways at Lancashire County Council, County Councillor Keith Iddon, highlighting the issues at items 2 and 3 and to invite him to attend the next meeting.

19.16 Item requested by Wheelton Parish Council

Lack of parking enforcement in villages.

It was suggested that CC K Iddon be invited to attend the next meeting to give an update at the next meeting. It is understood that some enforcement has been undertaken, but during the day.

County Councillor Kim Snape advised that work has been undertaken with Primary Schools on this issue.

Councillor Laura Lennox (Astley Village) reported an issue with a school near Astley Hall - this will be investigated.

19.17 Questions from Members of the Liaison and the public

Councillors Laura Lennox (Astley Village) queried whether the Council consults the Parish Council or neighbours when it maintains a piece of land. Chris Moister advised if the land is proposed to be sold then consultation will be undertaken. In other circumstances the Council may need to issue a license.

19.18 Items for Future Meetings

The agenda management timetable and suggested future items were noted.

Chair

Date