Chorley Council

Minutes of	**Chorley Liaison**
Meeting date	**Wednesday, 17 February 2021**
Members present:	Councillor Gordon France (Eastern Parishes (Chair), Councillor Kim Snape (Chorley Rural East Division, Lancashire County Council) (Vice-Chair) <u>Lancashire County Councillors:</u> Hasina Khan (Chorley North Division, Lancashire County Council) and Julia Berry (Chorley South Division, Lancashire County Council) <u>Chorley Borough Councillors (Chairs of Neighbourhood Area Meetings):</u> Aaron Beaver (Chorley Town West), Yvonne Hargreaves (Clayton and Whittle) and Alistair Bradley (Chorley Town), Alan Whittaker (Southern Parishes) and Paul Sloan (Lostock Ward) <u>Town and Parish Councillors:</u> Nicola Smith (Anderton Parish Councillor), Laura Lennox (Astley Village Parish Councillor), Craig Ainsworth (Astley Village Parish Council clerk), Katrina Reed (Euxton Parish Councillor), Graham Ashworth (Heath Charnock Parish Councillor), Terry Dickenson (Wheelton Parish Councillor / Chorley Sports Forum), Ian Horsfield (Anderton Parish Councillor), Colin Evans (Whittle-Le-Woods Parish Council), Karen Wait (Bretherton Parish Council), Christine Bailey (Clerk to Heath Charnock Parish Council) and Tim Blackburn (Anderton Parish Council)
Officers:	Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities), Simon Charnock (Digital Transformation and Information Officer), Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader), Matthew Pawlyszyn (Democratic and Member Services Officer)
Apologies:	(<u>Town and Parish Councillors:</u> Councillor Mark Clifford (Clayton-le-Woods Parish Council)

21.1 Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 18 November 2020 of Chorley Liaison

Decision: The minutes were approved as a correct record.

21.2 Welcome by the Chair

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

21.3   Demonstration of the new council website

Simon Charnock provided members a demonstration of the new Council website, the improvements in the interface, search functionality and accessibility were highlighted, noting that improvements would be ongoing based on user feedback and searches made.

The new website met accessibility legislation, and further assistance would be offered to Parish Council's to ensure they met the legislation, but it was noted that there was a clause of 'disproportionate burden' that may prevent the need if the cost would be too high.

It was raised that on the website, a way could not be found how to report a missed bin collection from communal bins. This would be taken away and followed up.

The Chair thanked Simon for his attendance

21.4   Item requested by Anderton Parish Council

Question was submitted relating to Health Walks, and the answer provided in advance of the meeting was acknowledged.

21.5   Item requested by Croston Parish Council

Councillor Paul Sloan spoke on behalf of Peter Fenimore about the tributaries, the litter along it, dealing with native spaces and plants and improvements to the environment in the area.

Jennifer Mullin, Director (Early Intervention) highlighted the response to the question from Lindsey Blackstock provided in advance of the meeting.

21.6   Questions from Members of the Liaison and the public

Colin Evans raised if CCTV was being extended from Chorley to Whittle-Le-Woods, particularly in the Polo due to concerns of vandalism.

It was stated that Chorley Council was in the middle of revising the CCTV strategy and were currently exploring locations and devising potential work to be completed. A draft strategy would return when created.

It was added that if Parish Councils could contribute CIL money, and cooperation with Chorley Council to advance projects.

21.7   Items for Future Meetings

Any requests or ideas to be emailed to Ruth Rimmington, Democratic Services Team Leader.

An issue was raised regarding the town centre post office and the decreasing number in villages. Councillor Bradley reported that discussions were ongoing. It was hoped that a mobile Post Office would open in an unoccupied space in Chorley Town Centre and there were aspirations for the Council to facilitate the presence of post offices in

villages, but there was difficulty due to the involvement of various decentralised franchises.

It was queried if there had been an increase in flooding since the turn of the century. It was agreed that it had worsened in recent years at Eccleston and St Mary's. It was suggested that the flood defense barrier solved problems on the Yarrow but it pushed flooding to farmland instead of houses.

Councillor Paul Sloan explained that after a meeting with United Utilities, they were exploring opportunities to stop the flow, as water came from the hills faster and there needed to be something in place to deal with high rain fall events and slow the flow.

Questions was asked about the HSBC branch closing in Chorley, what the Council were doing to retain businesses and about the £2m put a side to upgrade the M61 interchange.

Chorley Council was not consulted by HSBC prior to the announcement of the branch closure but conversations were underway. There were other bank branches in the town centre and there was no concern about access to banking. Covid-19 reduced the use of physical cash and measures put into place to encourage contactless payments were likely to continue. Many Councils across the country were looking to the government to put constraints on banks ensuring an adequate level of service.

The planning proposal for the Interchange had changed and was scaled down, the level of commitment honoured depended on the new plans.

The progress of the Local Plan had been delayed due to Covid-19 and the consultation and interaction work could not be completed, but work would resume following lighter restrictions, and an update would be provided at the next meeting.

Terry Dickinson wished for sport and recreation in the area as a future agenda topic.

Chair   Date