

Borough/Parish Councils Liaison

Wednesday, 15 January 2014

Present: Councillor Alistair Bradley (Executive Leader),
Councillors Dennis Edgerley, Executive Member (LDF and Planning)

Representing Parish/Town Council:

Barry Lee, Mayor of Adlington Town Council
June Molyneaux, Adlington Town Councillor
Ian Horsfield, Chair of Anderton Parish Council
Laura Lennox, Chair of Astley Village Parish Council
Chris Lennox, Astley Village Parish Council
John Pigott, Bretherton Parish Council
John Taylor, Chair of Charnock Richard Parish Council
Mick Muncaster, Chair of Clayton-le-Woods Parish Council
Alan Platt, Clerk to Croston, Ecclestone and Heapey Parish Councils/Euxton Parish Council
Mark Frost, Chair of Ecclestone Parish Council
Malcolm Allen, Heapey Parish Council
Charles Ian Oakes, Chair of Heath Charnock Parish Council
Graham Ashworth, Heath Charnock Parish Council
Marel Urry, Hoghton Parish Council
Terry Dickenson, Chair of Wheelton Parish Council
Tina Newall, Whittle-le-woods Parish Council
Steven Perry, Chair of Withnell Parish Council
Paul Leadbetter, Chorley Councillor

Borough Council Officers:

Gary Hall, Chief Executive
Lesley-Ann Fenton, Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy
Ruth Rimmington, Democratic and Member Services Officer
Jennifer Moore, Head of Planning

14.PCL.91 WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader of Chorley Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

14.PCL.92 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cynthia Dereli (LCC Champion for Parishes), David Dickinson (Hoghton Parish Council/Chorley Council).

14.PCL.93 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2013 were confirmed as a correct record.

It was noted that the Planning in Practice workshop for Borough and Parish Councillors would take place on Monday, 20 January 2014. The topics covered would include; Lancashire County Council highways input on planning applications, replacement dwellings in the green belt and Community Infrastructure Levy contributions.

There was the possibility for a session on Neighbourhood Planning for Borough, Town and Parish Councillors run by the Planning Advisory Service. Attendees indicated this session would be helpful and that an evening would be most convenient. Several dates were suggested and the clerk would confirm the agreed date by email.

It was noted that a meeting with Lancashire County Council was scheduled to be held at the end of the month to discuss the proposals in relation to the 3 Tier Forum.

14.PCL.94 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

In accordance with the Members Code of Conduct the following Councillors declared an interest:

Terry Dickenson – Chorley and District Sports Forum, Chorley Athletic and Triathlon Club.

Graham Ashworth – Chorley Community Housing/Adactus.

14.PCL.95 CONSULTATION ON THE 2014/15 BUDGET

Gary Hall, Chief Executive, advised that the proposed budget would be approved for consultation the following evening and gave an outline of the proposals.

Early planning and preparation had enabled the Council to address the forecasted budget deficit in advance of 2014/15. Consistent with last year's budget setting process, a balanced budget position had been achieved with no further permanent use of New Homes Bonus to fund the financial commitments within the base budget.

This presented an opportunity to invest in the Council's Corporate Strategy for a further year despite the significant reductions in grant funding, including; Council Tax to be frozen in 2014/15, proposed New Investments for 2014/15 and 2015/16, balanced budget position for 2014/15 and a forecasted budget position to 2016/17.

The review of the council tax support scheme and discounts and exemptions would also be considered at the meeting the following evening.

It was noted that the Council were proposing investment in PCSO's and Neighbourhood Working which were of particular benefit to Parishes. There were projects to support businesses to create and sustain jobs within the Borough and the local economy.

Town and Parish Councils were invited to give their views on the proposals during the consultation.

The update was noted.

14.PCL.96 ITEM(S) REQUESTED BY PARISH COUNCILS REQUESTED PRIOR TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA

(a) Item requested by Heapey Parish Council

Does the Council have a Policy on applications for Wind Turbines?

Jenni Moore, Head of Planning, advised that the Council was preparing a Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which would provide further guidance.

It was clarified that there were different approaches for solar forms and solar panels on houses.

In response to a query Jenni advised that whole issue of fracking would be subject to national rather than local policy.

The update was noted.

(b) Item requested by Heath Charnock Parish Council

What is Chorley Council's intention with regard to dealing with the unsightly fencing at Skew Bridge, Heath Charnock?

Jenni Moore, Head of Planning, reported that a member of the Planning Enforcement team had visited the site that week. The land was owned by allotments and a letter had been sent to the letting agents by Environmental Health and Planning Enforcement requesting that the land be tidied up. If no action was taken in 28 days an untidy land notice would be served.

Jenni clarified that the Council did not have the power to remove the fence and that the fence did not require planning permission.

The update was noted.

14.PCL.97 ANY OTHER ITEM(S) REQUESTED BY PARISH COUNCILS

Terry Dickenson, Wheelton Parish Council, raised an issue about support for events by the Police in the future. Alistair Bradley suggested an approach of getting other organisations involved in marshalling events. The Police had given assurances that the commitment to community policing remained. Councillor Bradley agreed to write and ask for clarification on support for community events.

Ian Horsfield, Anderton Parish Council, thanked the Council for their input in arranging the meetings with Network Rail in relation to the electrification project.

Alan Platt, Clerk to Croston, Eccleston and Heapey Parish Councils queried whether the Council would be holding any events to commemorate the World War One centenary. Councillor Bradley confirmed that plans were in development and information on these would be sent out to Parishes once there were confirmed.

14.PCL.98 NOTICES AND PUBLICITY

Councillor Bradley advised that Holocaust Memorial Day this year had the theme of "Journeys" in recognition of the journeys that people were forced to undertake in fear of what would be found at the end. The service would be held on Saturday, 25 January, at 11am, at the cenotaph in Astley Park.

The Council was working on the next edition of the "What's happening" magazine and invited Parishes to send details of their events for inclusion.

14.PCL.99 ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES IS/ARE URGENT

Councillor Bradley advised that the Council would be writing to Town and Parish Council's informing them that the Play Area, Open Spaces and Pitch Stagey consultation would be extended from 17 January to 14 February.

Chair