



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2014

Members Present: Councillor Nigel North (Chairman),
Andy Martin, Castor Parish Council
Olive Leonard, Hampton Parish Council
Ian C Allin, Orton Longueville Parish Council
Henry Clarke, Peakirk Parish Council
Roy Pettitt, Peakirk Parish Council
Jason Merrill, Bretton Parish Council
Harry Brassey, Barnack Parish Council
Joe Dobson, Helpston Parish Council
Tim Pearson, Wansford Parish Council
Andy Goodsell, Eye Parish Council
Teri Star, Hampton Parish Council

Officers Present: Cate Harding
Gillian Beasley
Lisa Roberts

Also in attendance Councillor Serluca – Cabinet Member for City Centre Management, Culture and Tourism

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Denis Batty, John Bartlett and Marian Brown

2. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 9 July 2014 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2014 were approved as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising – Including an Update from the Extraordinary Meeting of 16 September 2014

Ian Allin from Orton Longueville Parish Council mentioned that under item three, the clinical commissioning group had developed a system with health for older people. He stated that he had been to the annual general meeting and only the paperwork for a system had been developed. They would nominate a firm to complete the task on the 1st October. When the firm would do the work, it would be around April of next year. Unless it was known exactly what the firm would do, it would not be possible to make comments.

Andy Martin from Castor Parish Council stated that they were completely against ward boundary changes, as this would move the boundaries from being representative of rural areas to incorporate majority urban areas. He asked what the Council's stance was on this matter?

Councillor North responded that the Council was sticking by its own proposal. Amendments would come from various councils and residents. It was important to put down cogent reasons for objections.

Gillian Beasley, Chief Executive of Peterborough City Council added that the Council would go back to its original submission but would support this with additional evidence. She requested submissions from attendants around community identity, as this would greatly aid the Council's argument.

4. Council Structures

Gillian Beasley, Chief Executive of Peterborough City Council, introduced the presentation on the Council's structure. Attached at appendix A for reference. She noted, however, that this represented the outcome of the first phase of restructuring, and there was likely to be further restructuring in the future. Points raised included:

- The restructure would take into account the way people lived their lives;
- The Council was likely to be smaller, as there would be £22 million in savings to make;
- There was significant population increase and growth in Peterborough, which had a notable impact on school places. Whilst people also left, there was a net growth in the population of the city;
- Preventive measures were at the top of the agenda, as services were often extremely costly;
- Having a University of Peterborough was a priority;
- There had been significant investment into the city which had seen an increase in jobs;
- Diminished funds would mean diminished services, so income generation was a high priority for the Council;
- Commissioning was a means of identifying need and assessing the best means of delivering services, whether it was through the Council itself or through the private or voluntary sector;
- Children's Services had been through some tough times. Whilst the Ofsted 'adequate' rating was positive, but it was still an indication that further improvement was required;
- There were also issues with child sexual exploitation as there was in Rotherham. Young girls had been identified as being potentially at risk, which had resulted in a large police investigation;
- Public health responsibilities had been taken on, and there were issues around how these would be incorporated into the structure of the Council; and
- Children's Services had not been incorporated into Adult Social Care's directorate as the service was under significant pressure at the moment.

The following questions and comments were put to Gillian Beasley:

The budget cuts would be £22 million, what proportion was this to the overall budget?

The overall budget is around £290 million. In the four years of austerity there will be a 43% loss of budget. The financial year in 2015 was particularly difficult because there would be a 10% overall reduction in the grant due to austerity. The £22 million represented a reduction in grant and those measures.

Could the communities sector not be divided into smaller sections?

The directorate was sectioned so that it was manageable and not an amorphous mass.

Why don't Parish Councils feed more into the communities sector?

Cate Harding responded that the meeting itself was an opportunity to bring representatives together in order to aid the work of the parishes. The community capacity team wish to work

closely with all Parish Councils in order to support and ensure their sustainability and viability.

Could you explain Honeywell as a source of revenue?

A large number of buildings were operated by the Council. Honeywell was looked at as a partner to reduce bills. Introducing Honeywell into other Councils would also see payments to support this. There would also be income generation around solar energy. Councillor North added that Peterborough had won an Axia Best Energy Efficiency award.

Why were Parish Councils not mentioned in commissioning?

This was not to exclude them, but simply because the list was not exhaustive in the presentation. Parish Councils were certainly included. Cate Harding added that devolving services / community budgeting would be one of the main themes at the Parish Conference on 27th November.

5. Libraries and Community Centre Review

Cllr Lucia Serluca and Lisa Roberts provided an update on the current consultation of the libraries and Community Centres. Points raised included:

- The purpose of the consultation was to understand how people were using the services;
- Peterborough had 52 community centres, with 34 operated in Council-owned or leased buildings;
- There had been 4424 responses to the consultations to date; and
- The effective use of Council assets was being explored, particularly at combining assets in a streamlined way.

Questions to Councillor Lucia and Lisa Roberts included:

Had Community Associations of Peterborough been spoken to?

They had been consulted with. Teams had also been sent out to all community centres to meet the groups in person. A presentation would also be given at the CAP (Community Action Peterborough) AGM this, however, this would be after the consultation ended.

Where would this meeting be?

The meeting would be located at the Eye Community Centre.

6. Future Agenda Items

Cate Harding asked for feedback from Parish representatives as to what items they would like included in future meetings. The following items were considered for inclusion on future agendas:

- The 20mph speed limits in the City. Parish Councils could pay for this if desired in their area, which Hampton had chosen to do. The police had mentioned that this would be a difficult policy to police due to resource constraints. After discussion, it was decided that this would not be included on the agenda in future meetings; and
- Planning had changed since the present government came into power. Things would continue to change in planning policy. What, if any, developments in rural areas would there be? Councillor North stated that Planning could be included in future meetings. Peterborough has a plan which would prevent developers coming in and wishing to develop wherever they pleased. Peterborough was very well-run in terms

of planning. It was agreed to invite Simon Machen, Director of Growth & Regeneration, to the next meeting to update the Parishes.

7. AOB

Councillor North presented the Draft Flood Risk Management Strategy. It was agreed to invite Julia Chatterton, author of the report, to the next meeting to give the opportunity for more detail and questions.

A sub group of the Parish Liaison Committee, made up of volunteers from Parish Councils, had met on a monthly basis to review potential agenda items for future meetings. Following a resignation there had been a space to join of anyone was interested in becoming more involved. Volunteers were encouraged to contact Cate Harding for more information should they be interested.

There was a date confirmed for the Annual Conference of 27 November 2014 and the venue would be held at Bedford Hall in Thorney.

Agreed Action:

Julia Chatterton to attend a future Parish Council Liaison meeting to discuss the Draft Flood Risk Management Strategy.

8. Dates of Future Meetings

The Chairman advised the group of the following dates:

- 27 November 2014 – Annual Parish conference Bedford Hall.
- 17 December 2014; and
- 25 March 2015.

CHAIRMAN
6:30 – 7.22 pm