

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE
HELD AT 6.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH 2018
BOURGES VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Parish Councillor Ian Allin
Parish Councillor Geoff Smith
Parish Councillor Jean Mead
Parish Councillor John Howard
Parish Councillor Dawn Magnus
Parish Councillor Denis Batty
Parish Councillor Jane Hill
Parish Councillor Phillip Thompson
Parish Clerk Lynn George
Parish Councillor Martin Greaves
Parish Clerk Jenny Rice
Parish Councillor John Judge
Parish Clerk John Haste
Parish Councillor John Stannage
Parish Councillor John Bartlett
Parish Councillor Neil Boyce

Orton Longueville Parish Council
Werrington Neighbourhood Council
Helpston Parish Council
Hampton Parish Council
Eye Parish Council
Hampton Parish Council
Deeping Gate Parish Council
Deeping Gate Parish Council
Deeping Gate Parish Council
Werrington Neighbourhood Council
Ailsworth Parish Council
Ailsworth Parish Council
Glington & Castor Parish Councils
Wansford Parish Council
Thorney Parish Council
Castor Parish Council

Ian Dewar
Cllr Alan Clarke

CAPALC
City Councillor: Fletton & Stanground Ward

ALSO PRESENT:

Leonie McCarthy
Louise Porter
Jason Ablewhite
Adam Roberts

Chief Executive Officer: PCVS
Community Development Manager: PCVS
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire
Engagement Officer: Office of the Cambridgeshire
Police and Crime Commissioner

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Sylvia Radouani
Joanna Morley

Parish Council Community Co-ordinator
Democratic Services Officer

Appointment of Chairman (for this meeting only)

The Democratic Services Officer opened the meeting and advised the Committee that as the Chairman was unable to attend, a new Chairman for the meeting would need to be appointed. Nominations were sought from the members of the Committee who were present. Ian Dewar was nominated by Councillor Neil Boyce and seconded by Sylvia Radouani and there being no further nominations Ian Dewar was appointed Chairman.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Chairman, Councillor Walsh.

Apologies were also received from City Councillor Anne Sylvester and from Parish Councillors Henry Clark, Joseph Dobson, Richard Perkins, Peter Lee, Vince Moon, and Keith Lievesley

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

2.1 7 February 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. THE ROLE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND CURRENT WORK BEING UNDERTAKEN

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire gave an overview of his role and the current work being undertaken and invited questions from the committee members. Discussion took place around the following points:

- The Police and Crime Commissioner had four main statutory obligations;
 1. Appointing a Chief Constable, and if necessary dismissing them.
 2. Setting the police and crime objectives for the area through a Police and Crime Plan
 3. Setting the force budget and determining the precept
 4. Holding the Police to account
- In terms of the Police and Crime Plan, victims were the top priority. Initiatives such as the Sexual Assault Referral Clinic which included a paediatric ward were in place to better help victims.
- Although there were some offenders who wholly deserved prison there were also large numbers of vulnerable, young and mental health cases that needed help and support to aid rehabilitation and prevent reoffending.
- There was an integrated offenders' hub which used conditional cautions for those with drugs and alcohol problems.
- An example was given of an offender who, as she was hugely in debt from payday loans, could only feed her children by shoplifting. The woman was given debt and finance advice which helped her manage the loans and ensured that her life did not spiral downwards due to a criminal record.
- The cost of the criminal justice system and the demand from policing could be reduced if people could be rehabilitated and prevented from offending in the first place.
- Children with four or more adverse experiences were more likely to have mental health and drug and alcohol issues which then led them to offend.
- The question was posed whether more time and resource should be spent mending 'broken' adults or spent preventing bad experiences for children in the first instance.
- Partnership working and strategic engagement with, for example Children and Adult Safeguarding, the Council, Parish Councils and the Fire service were hugely important.
- Fire service training had been integrated with Police training services in a shared training facility which had lessened costs for both parties.
- An innovative 'Blue Light Hub' had recently been set up in Wisbech. This hub brought together the Police, Fire and Ambulance services onto one site. This initiative was not about closing police stations but about closer working between the services and bringing about substantial savings from reducing building running costs.
- Transformation was a strand of the Police and Crime Plan which looked at taking advantage of some of the estates owned to benefit not only from one off sales but also from creating a revenue stream by leasing buildings to other services.
- By sharing specialist capabilities with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire forces, £2 million savings had been delivered.
- The Local Police Review recommended moving from a six area model to a two area, North and South model. This would mean that Peterborough and Fenland would now share a senior management team.
- The force was growing for the first time in twenty months which reflected the exponential growth in the population.
- Over the past few years there had been a substantial increase in the numbers of reported

crime. This number was however skewed, partly due to the new way in which crimes were reported. For example a bar fight between two large groups would have previously been logged as a single crime but now everyone involved would be logged as an individual case, even if no-one wanted to press charges.

- Burglary and car crime (which involved theft from cars and vehicles and any damage to them) had however been on the increase. There were covert teams that worked to catch burglars, particularly around organised crime and the Police aimed to have the highest rates of burglary detection. Mug shots of criminals were on police station walls and were rag rated; green for in prison, amber for out but not active and red for active.
- On average the Police handled 30,000 101 calls per month and 10,000 999 calls per month. 80% of police time was spent dealing with non-crime issues for example mental health issues, call outs to elderly people and missing people. This had led to increased resources being placed within the force control room, including a new mental health professionals team.
- Over the next 4-5 years £16-20 million savings need to be delivered, with £8.5 million savings this year. The service would have delivered this but was now working at 105% of budget in order to ultimately speed up the process. This required dipping into reserves but would allow for the recruitment of 50 more frontline constables.
- Police were now dealing with issues that were historically ignored such as modern day slavery, domestic crime and cybercrime.
- Cambridgeshire police was still doing extremely well despite budgetary and resource issues and shortages. The victim satisfaction rate was at 86.7% and domestic violence victim satisfaction rate was the highest in the country at 92%.
- 150 of the 6000 roads and streets in the County accounted for 60% of all crime which conversely meant that some villages had no crime recorded last year.
- The Police worked alongside community groups with 8,000 people involved in neighbourhood watch, 2,500 involved in countryside watch, and 2,000 involved in Speedwatch. In addition a large number of special constables had been recruited.
- Parish Councillors felt that the Meet the Police and Crime Commissioner meetings were extremely useful but needed to be more widely publicised to increase attendance.
- Councillors expressed concern that the shortage of accommodation available for offenders once they left prison meant that they reverted to their former lifestyles and started reoffending in order to obtain food and shelter.
- It cost £30,000 a year to keep a prisoner in Peterborough prison and work was being done through the IOM (integrated offenders management) scheme to stop prisoners reoffending and keep them out of prison. A charitable trust was looking at renting a property to offer prisoners accommodation on release from prison.

4. PETERBOROUGH CVS: HOW WE SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Chief Executive Officer of the Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service (PCVS) and the Community Development Manager gave a presentation on the work of PCVS and then discussed grants that were available to Parish Councils to apply for. Discussion took place around the following points:

- PCVS was a registered charity that had been set up by local organisation in 1980 as an umbrella and network organisation to the voluntary sector in Peterborough. PCVS existed to promote and develop the effectiveness of voluntary action.
- PCVS focussed on 5 areas;
 1. Being a volunteer centre that matched people to opportunities.
 2. Providing community groups with support so that they operated with the correct governance and were able to sustain and promote themselves.
 3. Acting as a voice for the voluntary sector as a whole.
 4. Bringing Partnerships together eg. the Peterborough Plus organisation which was looking to put a bid together to tackle hate crime.
 5. Spreading good practice and avoiding the duplication of services.

- Additionally PCVS provided direct services where there were no other member organisations to do so, and acted as a signposting and referral service for health and wellbeing needs.
- There was a great amount of pressure on Parish councils to deliver services in light of the funding issues faced by the City Council.
- The site <http://www.parishresources.org.uk/resources-for-treasurers/funding/> provided very useful advice on how to write and submit bids to access extra funding.
- The Sport England Community Asset Fund provided capital funding grants of £1 000 to £100 000 for improving local sporting facilities. The definition of sporting facilities included any outdoor spaces such as woodlands and towpaths where people could become physically active.
- The Big Lottery Fund had two types of available funds; Awards for All and Reaching Communities.
- *Awards for All* offered grants of up to £10 000 for community projects lasting up to one year.
- *Reaching Communities* offered grants of between £10 000 and £500 000. The fund was being reopened on 2 April after a redesign of the application process to make it more person centred. Awards would be given to ideas that supported lasting and sustainable changes to places and spaces and communities that developed happier and stronger relationships with each other.
- The Heritage lottery fund had three funds; *Our Heritage* offered grants from £10 000 to £100 000 to help protect and share the heritage that communities cared about. *Heritage grants* were for bigger projects up to £5m. *Resilient Heritage* offered grants of £3000 - £250000 to help strengthen organisations to build the capacity of staff and volunteers to better manage heritage in the long term.
- Funds that were available specifically for health matters included *One Stop Carriers for Causes* and *Comic Relief – Levelling the Field*. *One Stop Carriers for Causes* issued grants of up to £2000 to promote physical activity. *Comic Relief – Levelling the Field* offered grants of £30 000 to £250 000 to increase the social inclusion of women and girls in sport.
- Funding available for environment projects included *Viridor*, and *Tesco Bags of Help*. *Viridor* offered small grants up to £20,000, main grants of £20 000 – £50 000 and large grants of up to £100 000. The funding priorities for all three Viridor grants were Community, Biodiversity and Heritage.
- Tesco Bags of Help was always open to applications from community projects which were then shortlisted for an instore vote. The project that received the most votes from all the stores in the region received £5000, the second project, £2000 and the third £1000.
- Funding for buildings was available from the Sport England Community Asset Fund, the Big Lottery Reaching Communities and Lord Barnaby's Charitable Foundation.

ACTIONS AGREED:

1. The Parish Council Community Co-ordinator to circulate the presentation slides and accompanying notes.
2. The Democratic Services officer to circulate a draft copy of the minutes as soon as possible as the next meeting of the committee was not provisionally scheduled until July in the new municipal year.

5. CO-OPTED MEMBERS FEEDBACK SESSION

The Co-opted Member of the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee provided feedback on the last meeting of this scrutiny committee which had been held on 12 March 2018.

Discussion took place around the following points:

- There had been two items on the agenda; the report of the Task and Finish Group that had assisted with the development of a New Homelessness Strategy and a report on the background of Peterborough City Council's delivery and ownership of social housing stock. The reports can be found within the following link. [Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee 13 March 2018 Agenda](#)
- The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the Task and Finish group's report and the new Homelessness Strategy and recommended that the Homelessness Strategy 2018 - 2020 be endorsed and to be taken to Cabinet for approval and adoption.
- The Committee also recommended that the Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development contacted (i) the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, (ii) the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and (iii) the Local Government Association, to seek their support to amend legislation so that:
 - (a) the Housing Benefit element of welfare benefit payments are paid direct to landlords rather than to tenants, in an attempt to encourage more landlords to offer their properties for homeless households or those at risk of becoming homeless; and,
 - (b) Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 (*Recovery of Possession on Expiry or Termination of Assured Shorthold Tenancy*) is reviewed with a view to ending its widespread use, and in its place introduce legislation that provides for greater tenancy security in the private rented sector.
- The Housing & Strategic Planning Manager introduced a report which provided the Committee with the national context relevant to the delivery and ownership of social housing stock by local authorities in general, and also the background to the delivery and ownership of social housing stock by Peterborough City Council.
- The Committee noted the challenges to delivering council houses in the traditional sense for Peterborough as a local authority that has transferred its housing stock and no longer had a Housing Revenue Account
- The Committee also noted the mechanism that the Council had already put in place to enable the provision of social housing that Peterborough City Council was directly engaged in delivering, through the establishment of the housing joint venture with Cross Keys Homes, Medesham Homes
- The Committee recommended to full Council that the Council's focus for delivering social housing should continue to be through the now established joint venture housing company, Medesham Homes, rather than seeking to return to providing council housing in the traditional sense; this vehicle having the flexibility to deliver a range of tenures and to take advantage of the capability of each partner to provide land, funding and capacity and share risk when responding to the challenges of austerity and the housing crisis

6. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Democratic Services Officer advised the Committee that nominations would be sought for the Scrutiny committees' co-opted positions for the new municipal year.

ACTION AGREED:

The Parish Council Community Co-ordinator to seek nominations for the co-opted members positions for each of the four scrutiny committees: Adults and Communities, Growth, Environment and Resources, Children and Education and Health. The names of the nominees to be sent to the Senior Democratic Services Officer ahead of the first scrutiny meetings of the new municipal year in July.

CHAIRMAN 6.30 – 8.30pm

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