

Peterborough Parish Council Liaison Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council Liaison Meeting

Held at 6:30PM on Wednesday 13th April 2022 Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Hosted by Good Neighbours Rural Peterborough CIO

Present:

Cllr David Over	Chair of Parish Council Liaison and Cabinet Advisor for Housing, Culture and Communities, Peterborough City Council
Cllr Keith Lievesley	Ufford Parish Council
Cllr June Bull	Orton Longueville Parish Council, Co-opted Member, Children and Education Scrutiny Committee, Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Margaret Long	Thorney Parish Council
Cllr Henry Clark	Peakirk Parish Council
Cllr Mark Malcolm	Northborough Parish Council
Cllr Neil Boyce	Castor Parish Council, Co-opted Member Communities Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Susie Lucas	Bainton & Ashton Parish Council
Cllr Richard Clark	Wansford Parish Council
Cllr Anne Perkins	Ailsworth Parish Council
Vince Moon	Werrington Neighbourhood Committee
Cate Harding	Good Neighbours-Rural Peterborough
Matt Gladstone	Chief Executive Office, Peterborough City Council
Esther Baffa-Issacs	Cohesion Peterborough City Council
Matt Oliver	Head of Think Communities Peterborough City Council
Alla Irodenko	
The Very Revd Chris Dallison	Dean of Peterborough Cathedral
Judita Grubrienne	Ukrainian Church in Peterborough

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Penny Bryant, CAPALC and Jason Wilson PCC

2. Minutes of the Parish Council Liaison Meeting held 2nd February 2022

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record

3. Matters Arising

Cllr Over stated that Matters Arising would not be included at future meetings but actions would be followed up by the Working Group.

Cllr Bull raised that no further response was received from the finance team regarding queries raised following the budget presentation. Cate confirmed that this would be followed up by the Working Group.

4. Welcome from Matt Gladstone, Chief Executive PCC

Matt has been in his new role for 3 months. His priority is to stabilise the council's financial situation due to the many pressures most of us will be aware of. An improvement plan has been put in place.

Matt is impressed by the City and its potential, including its collaboration with Partners. He is seeing a lot of economic growth within the city, such as the new university and the development within the city centre and at Fletton Quays, Queensgate and Westgate House.

Matt has been liaising with the Combined Authority to bring in more investment for things such as active transport and climate change. Economic growth is key to building resilience and ensuring growth helps to address some of the health inequalities in our city. There are many positives such as the quality of green space and the community networks across all faiths and backgrounds.

Matt stated there would be a Local Plan review within the next 12 months. There is not yet a clear set of priorities but these will be developed in consultation and in collaboration with other relevant parties so that all the challenges are understood. The priorities are key to identify where resources are needed. It is critical to deliver on savings but there are many opportunities that Matt is seeing to do things differently. PCC has many arm's length organisations, some still partially or fully owned by PCC and he aims to get a command of these as part of delivering local government services. Matt acknowledged that whilst his immediate pressure and challenge is to address the budget, he is starting to get a good sense of the issues and starting to look more outwardly.

The following questions were raised following the presentation:

- Cllr June Bull – what opportunities do you see between the first and second tiers of local government working more collaboratively, such as the cost of living and the pockets of deprivation which are prevalent in some rural and urban areas. Matt responded by saying that he comes with a neighbourhood driven approach. Local communities know what they need and he has been spending time going out to different communities and businesses to understand the need, which is often hidden, such as fly-tipping, child poverty and other cross cutting agendas. Working together is key and Parish Councils have an important role to play. Matt is considering an area-based fund to encourage community activism/involvement in wider issues such as tackling loneliness, isolation, good quality jobs and intergenerational activities. Community led initiatives have a greater impact.

- Keith Lievesley – Peterborough has been cited in a number of reports as having a low skill, low wage economy. The university is felt to be a way of changing this. However, Members seem addicted to getting rid of large areas of land and sticking in logistic sheds which is incongruous with this. Many parish councils are part of a nature recovery project and the worry is that these areas will be threatened and encroached upon. Matt responded that economic growth happens in a range of levels and some of these businesses are not always low-quality companies. There is a high level of inward investment for SMEs. There is hope to bring more quality housing and businesses in the city centre. Matt is keen to look at the planning policies and systems.
- Cllr Anne Perkins – Lack of transport for rural areas. Will there be a plan to improve this? Public transport is in a perilous state post COVID. Services have been in decline and are no longer commercially viable. There are more opportunities to explore alternative community led initiatives. A consultation is due to start in May this year.
- Cllr Over raised concerns about the condition of roads, pathways and planning decisions in rural communities.

5. Support for Ukraine – How Parish Councils can help

A number of guest speakers were invited to attend the meeting to give an update on how parish communities can support.

Mark Malcolm – is a Northborough Parish Councillor and has been making local connections for the Homes for Ukraine scheme by co-ordinating interest from people wanting to offer homes or other support roles. Connections and systems are now in place for a number of refugees to arrive in Peterborough.

A face book page has been set up to share information:

<https://www.facebook.com/Old-School-Northborough-109048578411799>

Esther Baffa-Issacs- Cohesion and Social Mobility Officer at PCC gave an overview of the support and processes available if people wish to help.

Please see Appendix 1 for the detail of this valuable information.

The Very Revd Chris Dallison, Dean at Peterborough Cathedral informed the meeting that they are also linking with Peterborough Citizens UK to see how a refugee welcome group can help. The purpose of attending the meeting is to ensure a joined-up approach to avoid duplication and advised that there will be a Citizens UK meeting on 27th April at 6.30pm at the Cathedral. It is hoped that this work will complement other work happening across the city.

Alla Irodenko - Leader of the Ukrainian Church in Peterborough thanked everyone for their support. A service will be held at the Church on New Road every Sunday morning.

14 Loads of donations have already been taken to Ukraine but recently donations have started to stop. Help and supplies are still needed. A list of urgent items can be found on Facebook #standwithUkrainePeterborough

Cllr Boyce asked if the minimum support period of 6 months is putting people off hosting refugees. Esther advised that the offers of help have been overwhelming and so there is no need to reconsider the minimum duration which is an important safety net and period of security for people coming to settle here.

Cllr June Bull asked why single household hosts have issues with council tax and losing their discount.

Judita Grubrienne asked where people could access all the information within Esther's presentation. The list of donations required and the presentation slides will be sent to Cate and shared with all Parish Councils and Guest Speakers at this meeting. ***Please see appendix 2***

6. Communications

In acknowledgement that this is the first meeting of the new agreement for Good Neighbours to host the Parish Liaison meetings, Cate confirmed that the key objective is to improve communications with Parish Councils to ensure that any information, including the minutes of these meetings are shared in a timely manner. It is also the objective to ensure that all Parish Councils have the opportunity to input and therefore one of the key objectives has been to resurrect a Working Group which all Parish Councils were invited to be part of if they wished.

The Working Group have now agreed a Memorandum of Understanding with PCC and this is now available on the PCC Website.

Cate has also been contacting Parish Clerks to advise that the Working Group strongly recommend that the minutes of the meetings are shared with the Chair and Vice Chair to ensure that important information reaches them, together with the Cllrs or clerks nominated to attend the meetings on their behalf.

Cate also advised that Good Neighbours are currently undertaking a community needs survey in Member areas and if any other Parish Councils wish to participate, please make direct contact with Cate.

A link to the survey is shared: <https://forms.gle/LgbLzxvCtaMvXKZg8>

Cllr Bull asked how engagement is to be made with parish councils that are not engaging/attending the meetings. Cate is to make direct contact with all. Cllr Bull suggested that the Working Group could also help by personally contacting the Parish Councils

7. Parish Council Emails

Henry Clark advised that he has found a reliable source that can provide PC.Gov.uk email addresses to avoid risks from the Information Commissioner or other GDPR related issues by continuing to use personal email addresses. **Please see Appendix 3** for more information.

Wansford Parish Council are currently going through the process of changing their email address and Cllr Clarke advised that they have found that all emails are stored on the PCC server, not on the parish council's laptop and when you move the domain you could lose all your emails, which they were not warned about. They are still waiting for the IT team to advise how they will back up the information and deal with the transfer. Matt Oliver took the details of the officers involved and will look into this further and ask for an agreed process of how to safely transfer data if Parish Councils wish

8. Parish Liaison Working Group and Conference Update

Cllr Boyce advised that the Working Group met on 9th March. It was agreed by members that Cllr Boyce would be appointed Chair and Cllr Bull appointed as Vice Chair. The members of the group are:

Henry Clerk – Peakirk Parish Council

Keith Lievesley – Ufford Parish Council

Margaret Long – Thorney Parish Council

Richard Clarke – Wansford Parish Council

John Haste - Glinton Parish Council

Vince Moon – Werrington Neighbourhood Council

Cllr David Over – Chair of Parish Liaison Group

Jason Wilson – PCC Representative

Penny Bryant – CAPALC

The working Group will set the agenda for future Parish Liaison meetings. Any suggestions, please inform Cate.

At the previous Parish Liaison meeting it was suggested that all Parish Councils would be given a permit for the Tip. This has been pursued and now agreed as a means of addressing fly-tipping.

The Parish Conference date has been agreed as 8th June 10am-3pm at the Nene Park Lakeside Meeting Room. Cllr Boyce requested that our thanks be recorded for Nene Park Trust who are providing the venue, tea and coffee free of charge. The theme will be Climate Change and the Green Environment. Guest Speakers will include:

Richard Astle (Langdyke Trust), Oliver Burke (Nene Park Trust), Sarah Lambert (Ecologist) Charlotte Palmer (PCC). Mike Horn (PECT)

Presentations will be given in the morning and workshops/exhibitions will be in the afternoon. Parish Councils will be given the opportunity to showcase what they are already doing around this theme and also participate in a pledge board to capture what can be achieved in the year ahead.

Lunch will not be provided so all are asked to bring a packed lunch or purchase from the on-site café. Parking for attendees will be free of charge.

Please book via Eventbrite. Places will be limited so please you're your place quickly. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peterborough-parish-councils-environment-conference-tickets-288553420047>

9. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items will be determined by the Working Group. Any requests/ suggestions, please notify Cate directly.

CHAIR 6:30pm – 8pm