



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council Liaison Committee held on
2 February 2011 at the
Town Hall, Peterborough

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr David Over (Chairman)
Colin Brown, Ailsworth Parish Council
Marian Browne, Ufford Parish Council
David Buddle, Thorney Parish Council
Mike Chambers, Orton Waterville Parish Council
Richard Clarke, Wansford Parish Council
Roy Pettitt, Peakirk Parish Council
Henry Clark, Peakirk Parish Council
Denis Batty, Glinton Parish Council
John Bartlett, Thorney Parish Council
Paul Bianchi, Orton Longueville Parish Council
Martin Greaves, Werrington Neighbourhood Council
David Hedges, Werrington Neighbourhood Council
Sally Jackson, Peakirk Parish Council
Eric Pearson, Wansford Parish Council
Geoff Smith, Werrington Neighbourhood Council
June Woollard, Barnack Parish Council

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Cllr Harrington, Newborough Ward Councillor
Cllr Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Paul Phillipson, Executive Director of Operations
Leonie McCarthy, Neighbourhood Manager - Citywide
Julie Rivett, Neighbourhood Manager – North & West
Steven Pilsworth, Head of Corporate Services

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings held on 7 July 2010 and 6 October 2010

The minutes of the meetings held on 7 July 2010 and 6 October 2010 were agreed as a true and accurate record of those meetings.

3. Medium Term Financial Plan to 2015/16 (“Budget Consultation”)

The Cabinet Member for Resources and the Head of Strategic Finance presented to PCL the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy for the forthcoming 5 years. The proposals took into account recent government grant funding cuts and included proposals to cut spending in a number of areas. The Council's Capital Programme retained a number of projects including work to improve and extend some of the city's schools.

PCL considered the proposals and noted the likelihood that the spending cuts would have an impact on the Parish precepts.

4. Rural Affairs Committee Proposals

Councillors Harrington and Clark presented a report on progress to establish a robust and effective mechanism for ensuring that the issues of the rural parts of the authority were properly heard. There were currently a number of different bodies engaged in rural affairs, for example PCL, parish councils and the Rural North Neighbourhood Council, all of which had common aims, discussed the same topics and generally had the same membership. There was a general feeling that the rural issues tended to be ignored in favour of the issues relating to the more urban areas and so there was a need for a more effective body to represent the rural areas.

The proposal put forward was to create a new body which would have representatives from each of the parish councils plus the PCC rural ward councillors. This would also help support the intentions of the government's localism bill in giving more local accountability. Discussions amongst the members showed support for the proposals, but it was also recognised that there may be a need to retain PCL and for it to meet occasionally to ensure that the urban parish councils would still have an input.

The Committee endorsed the proposals and noted that the parish council clerks would be kept informed of progress.

5. Rural Footpaths

Sally Jackson, secretary of the Northern Footpath Forum, gave a presentation on the work of the forum. Its members were invited from the Glington, Northborough, Deeping Gate, Deeping St James, Newborough and Peakirk parish councils as well as from Werrington neighbourhood groups.

The aim of the forum was to encourage safe, non-vehicular access for all residents and visitors to a network of footpaths stretching north to south from Werrington to Deeping St James and east to west from the A15 to the A1073.

The forum worked with the Environment Agency, local farmers and landowners and had achieved a number of successes. They added a voice to the Local Transport Plan consultations and supported the introduction of "quiet lanes", to give cars, horses and pedestrians equal priority on a designated road.

The group expressed its support for the work done so far by the forum and thanked Sally for her presentation.

6. Area Allocation Consultation

The Chairman reported that he had found minutes and agendas of the Local Development Framework Working Group (which reported into the Scrutiny Committee and then the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee) which agreed extra housing provision in rural areas. The Chairman expressed his concern that this appeared to be ad hoc decision making and that it was very difficult to find out information about the group.

The Executive Director, Operations replied that the Site Allocations document arose from requests from landowners asking to build in certain areas and offered to ask the Policy and Strategy Manager to attend a future meeting of Parish Council Liaison Committee to discuss the consultation process that has been followed for the Site Allocations document.

7. Parish Question Time

A Parish Councillor commented that the consultations page on the Council's website was much harder to find than previously. Officers agreed to look into the issue.

8. Parish Council Liaison Work programme

The Committee agreed to wait until after the outcome of the Council's budget decisions to look at the work programme.

CHAIRMAN
Closed at 7.55pm