

Peterborough Parish Council Liaison Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council Liaison Meeting

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

Hosted by Good Neighbours Rural Peterborough CIO

Present:

Cllr Ishfaq Hussain		Cabinet Advisor to the Deputy Leader Cllr Steve Allen, the Cabinet Member for Communications, Culture and Communities.
Cllr June Bull		Orton Longueville Parish Council, Co-opted Member Climate Change Committee, Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Neil Boyce		Castor Parish Council, Co-opted Member Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Keith Lievesley		Ufford Parish Council
Cllr Margaret Long		Thorney Parish Council
Cllr Henry Clark		Peakirk Parish Council
Cllr Alan Gasparutti		Bretton Parish Council
Cllr Richard Clarke		Wansford Parish Council
Vince Moon		Werrington Neighbourhood Council
Cllr Denis Batty		Glington Parish Council
Cllr Sue Welch		Marholm Parish Council
Cllr Steve Jackson		Glington Parish Council
Cllr Michael Samways		Ailsworth Parish Council
Cllr John Fox		Newborough Parish Council
Cllr Judy Fox		Newborough Parish Council
Cllr Roland Pickett		Orton Waterville Parish Council
John Haste		Clerk for Castor and Glington Parish Council
Cate Harding		Good Neighbours-Rural Peterborough
Clair George		Head of the PCC Prevention & Enforcement Service (PES)

Cllr Ishfaq introduced himself and gave thanks to being able to Chair the meeting in the absence of Cllr Over who has had a family emergency to attend to. Matt Oliver, also unable to attend and therefore any matters arising from the meeting will be noted and passed on to Council Officer for action/response.

Cllr Ishfaq is the Ward Councillor for Dogsthorpe and Welland and the Cabinet Advisor to the Deputy Leader Cllr Steve Allen, the Cabinet Member for Communications, Culture and Communities. Cllr Ishfaq was born in Peterborough and currently resides in Helpston.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr David Over, Matt Oliver – PCC, Northborough Parish Council

2. Minutes of the Parish Council Liaison Meeting held 13th April 2022

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

Proposed: Cllr June Bull and Seconded by Cllr Henry Clark

3. HRC Permits Trial and process

Cllr Neil Boyce advised that the Working Group took on the task of exploring how to tackle bulky waste and fly tipping following concerns discussed at a previous meeting. Working with Cllr Simons and Amy Nebel at PCC it has been explored if each Parish Council could have a permit for the HRC to take rubbish to the tip without the need for a waste carriers' licence. The Environment Agency approved the proposal and a 3-month trial is now underway with Castor, Northborough and Wansford Parish Councils.

When the trial is completed, those Parish Councils that want a permit need to contact Cllr Boyce or Cate to advise how to apply for a permit on-line. 10 additional Parish Councils have already expressed an interest for a permit. The process will be monitored on an on-going basis and it is recommended that the permit is registered by the Clerk. It is hoped that the outcome will be a reduction in the amount of fly tipping.

The Environment Enforcement Officers will continue with their role to investigate fly tipping but the permits will hopefully prevent it happening in the first place. Trailers will also be able to be used.

Cllr Hussain also recommended the Fix my Street App and regular litter picks. Cllr Fox highly commended the initiative.

4. **Working Group Update**

Cllr Bull confirmed that the Working Group last met on 5th May, primarily to finalise the plans for the Annual Conference, but also to agree items/topics for future meetings.

The group members have also reviewed the Co-opted Membership for the City Council's 4 Scrutiny Committees and can confirm the following positions:

Cllr Neil Boyce – Co-opted Member for Growth, Resources and Communities

Cllr June Bull - Co-opted Member for Climate Change and Environment. Also for Adults and Health

Cllr Michael Samways - Children & Education

Substitutes were also appointed

Ideally the Working Group would have liked to reach out to the full Parish Council Network to request nominations for co-opted membership. Unfortunately, due to the turnover of staff within the City Council., this information was not sent on to Good Neighbours to allow sufficient time to complete the nomination and voting process by the deadline required. The Working Group was therefore left with no alternative than to nominate the same co-opted members as last year in order not to lose these seats. The full recruitment process will be conducted in the next municipal year for those other Parish Councillors that may be interested in these roles.

The Working Group also want to reach out to all Parish Councils to encourage attendance at the Parish Liaison meetings. 12 of 26 are represented at this meeting. It also remains the intention to share information with the Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair of each Parish Council to ensure information is received by those who wish to see it. If attendees would like to receive information directly, please provide Cate with your email address.

Updates and Actions from previous meetings are also reviewed by the group. Links to information about parish council emails and support for Ukraine were sent out to all Parish Councils within the minutes of the previous meeting held in February 2022.

An update from CEO Matt Gladstone following his presentation at the April meeting is also to be requested as he referred to plans for an area-based fund to encourage community activism and involvement in wider issues such as tackling loneliness and isolation, good quality jobs and intergenerational activities. These would be community led initiatives within tier one – Parish Councils.

Outstanding responses to the queries raised following the Budget presentation at the meeting in February have now been received from Adrian Chapman as follows:

Q) How sensitive and achievable the £300k surplus was and how this would affect the opening of the 2023/24 Budget process

A) The council ended the 2021/22 financial year with a surplus of around £4.5m - this followed a series of interventions and spend controls, and enabled us to contribute to our reserves position to mitigate some of the risks we knew were being carried in the Tactical Budget i.e. deliverability of some saving plans.

The Council has recently taken a [paper to Cabinet](#) outlining the budget gap for next year and the following two financial years, with recently undertaken modelling showing a median forecast for the 2023/24 financial year of a potential budget gap of around £9.5m, rising to £15.1m by 2025/26. This budget gap is a first quarter position and will be updated further as the year progresses and budget assumptions are further refined i.e. inflation. This budget gap assumes a risk to the delivery of some of the 2022/23 savings of £4.4m, though Council Officers remain committed to delivering all of the savings as contained in the Tactical Budget.

The additional pressures that lead to this forecast budget gap in future years relate to increased demand for statutory services such as adult social care and provision for young people with special educational needs, and the impact of inflation on our costs, particularly but not exclusively utilities.

We will need to identify savings or income proposals in order to deliver a balanced budget in future years, along with disciplined budget management in the current year for emerging pressures.

Q) If it was sustainable for the Council's finances to be so dependent on grant funding.

A) The reference to grant in the presented slides is slightly misleading in that the core funding we receive from the government - includes the revenue support grant - uses this term but is in fact an ongoing contribution (unlike other grants which tend to be time limited in nature).

A question was put to Cllr Bull from Bretton Parish Council regarding the City Council's policies regarding trees and concerns that many trees are being destroyed. June stated that the Climate Change Committee will certainly look at Biodiversity and the Green Environment. There are many lessons to be learnt following the recently disputed felling of a tree in Bretton but it was stressed the concern is broader than one tree. Cllr Fox stated that there are many complaints about trees and this is because historically the wrong trees have been planted in the wrong areas and the city is now paying the price. June stated that this is a sad legacy of the Development Corporation. John detailed that there is a need to plant more trees but in the right location. The Planning team have now updated their strategy to address this.

Cllr Keith Lievesley raised concerns and requested the lobbying of local garden centres/nurseries about the selling of compost containing peat. **Action:** June agreed to investigate and take forward.

5. Parish Conference 2022 Update

Cllr Boyce thanked all those who attended the Parish Council conference on 8th June. 46 places were booked via Eventbrite with a max capacity of 50 in the Venue kindly sponsored by Nene Park Trust. Unfortunately, only 27 people actually attended from Parish Councils.

Various Parish Councils exhibited what they are doing to address biodiversity and nature recovery. 18 evaluation sheets were received and as this is the first time that the Good Neighbours Charity has hosted this event, with a zero budget, it was pleasing that the feedback was so positive.

A key outcome from the event is that many attendees requested that an on-line dedicated Climate Change Summit be arranged for later in the year. The desire is that this would be designed to be specific to Parish Councils

All agreed this would be a very good idea.

John Haste suggested that future events are charged to avoid people not turning up.

Cllr Hussain advised that all new City Councillors receive Climate Emergency Training on-line over 3 sessions. He suggested that this could also be modelled for Parish Councils to receive. **Action Cate & Cllr Hussain**

Cllr Bull advised that there are 10 quick steps (UK wide) that everyone can do immediately to tackle Climate Change. Also, Orton Longueville have developed a number of policies and it will be important to ensure any presentations or training is focused on Parish Councils, what has already been done and what more can be achieved. A number of Parish Councils have also declared a Climate Emergency. Examples will be shared. **Action: Cate & Cllr Bull**

6. Open Discussion – Options to Tackle Speeding on Rural Roads

In Cllr Over's absence, Cllr Boyce invited an open discussion on the proposal for Parish Councils to work collaboratively on campaigning for a blanket speed limit of 50mph on all rural roads and a 20mph limit through the villages. It is appreciated this would not be enforceable by the Police but would help to reduce overall speed.

Cllr Lievesley advised that this was recently discussed at a Barnack Ward meeting, attended by the new Police Superintendent. The 20mph limit was raised and it was felt that this was not viable. Southorpe and Helpston already have this in place already and it is felt that that this does not achieve what is intended, endorsed by the Superintendent. The 50mph limit has been in place on inter-settlement roads in parts of the Midlands and this does seem to help to reduce speed. It has been proposed that this is tested.

Cllr Gasparutti stated that Bretton has Speed Watch along Bretton Way and it was requested if this could be included in local roads with speed to restricted 20mph. This will be looked into.

Cllr Fox commented that safe cycle lanes should also be included in the review of rural roads but it all must be cost-effective.

Cllr Boyce stated that Castor and Ailsworth introduced a 20mph limit and cameras evidence this is rarely achieved. Typically, when the limit was 30mph, cars would drive at 40mph. Now it is 20mph, cars drive at 30mph. So, whilst it is not enforceable it does go some way to slowing the traffic.

Cllr Pickett stated that many roads in Cambridge have a 20mph limit and it appears that most people tend to adhere to this. He stated that in Wales a mandatory 20mph limit is to be proposed for all towns and cities. Scotland are also considering this. There is also an argument that this creates more pollution.

Cllr Bull proposed that the pro's and cons are all considered by Parish Councils and the Working Group, with a cost analysis of moving to formalise these proposals.

Cllr Fox advised that there was a cross-party working group about 4 years ago and it was not considered cost effective at the time. Cllr Bull therefore suggested that this could be resurrected and looked at afresh, including Parish Councils at the table.

Action: Working Group.

Cllr Lievesley stated that traffic calming measures could have a negative impact on public bus services.

Cllr Boyce stated that PCC officers need to think positively and be more proactive to help find solutions rather than saying it can't be done.

7. Community Safety

Clair George, Head of the Prevention and Enforcement Service at PCC was invited to attend the meeting to give an overview of the service across Peterborough.

The Service is responsible for:

- Parking Services and Parking Enforcement There is a team of 13 officers working from 8am to 8pm each day.
- Anti-Social Behaviour. There is a senior Problem Solving Officer who works closely with the Neighbourhood Police Teams. If a team cannot deal with a situation in isolation, they are able to take the matter to a multi-agency Safer Peterborough Problem Solving Group.
- Community Trigger. This is when a case remains unresolved and is looked at by a multi-agency group
- City Centre – Littering and engagement with businesses and the City Centre Market, including events
- Environmental crime. There are 4 area-based officers. The rural based officers work closely with Parish Councils and work closely with the farming communities. A trial contract is in place for a year with EnFortis who have cameras in place to monitor fly tipping, linked to vehicle registration. Cameras are usually in place for up to 6 weeks and there have been some positive hits resulting in 5 cases going forward for prosecution. The cameras

will continue to be rotated around areas of need. PCC will also be looking to purchase their own cameras for the enforcement of fly-tipping in urban areas.

- **Unauthorised Encampments**

Clair invited questions.

Cllr Welch asked if cameras had been placed in Marholm. Clair confirmed this was the case and Parish Councils will always be informed if a case in their area goes forward for prosecution.

Clair acknowledged that a high number of complaints are received in the Millfield area, especially the Taverners Road junction. It was questioned why CCTV cameras could not be used to help enforcement of parking offences and Clair advised that legally PCC are not able to retrospectively issue fines, unlike Private organisations who operate under different legislation. However, the council want to get smarter with the use of CCTV to radio an officer to immediately go out if there is an obstruction.

Cllr Batty raised concerns regarding parking on Helpston Road and asked what the Parish Council can do to help. Clair recommended building relations with the Road Safety Team who can work with the school and parents on various initiatives. Clair will help to arrange a meeting on site.

Cllr Samways asked what criteria was being used to judge the success of the fly-tipping cameras. Clair advised that when the prosecutions have completed and been published this will hopefully act as a major deterrent. The scheme is also at zero cost to the council so will hopefully be continued. Cllr Samways also asked why the tipping from cannabis factories in rural water courses is not taken more seriously.

Cllr Fox raised concerns about the advertising vans on roadsides which the Police will not enforce. Clair confirmed PCC are exploring other forms of legislation to enable them to tackle this directly.

8. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday November 9th 2022. 6:30pm via Zoom

CHAIR 6:30pm – 8:06pm