



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council Liaison Meeting held at the
Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall on 21 December 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors:

Councillor Philip Thompson, Deeping Gate Parish Council
Councillor Jane Hill, Deeping Gate Parish Council
Councillor Richard Clarke, Wansford Parish Council
Councillor Denis Batty, Glinton Parish Council
Councillor Vince Moon Werrington Neighbourhood Council
Councillor Bill Pickering, Castor Parish Council
Councillor Sarah Rodger Castor Parish Council
Councillor Keith Yerbury, Sutton Parish Council
Councillor Peter Lee, Sutton Parish Council
Councillor Joseph Dobson, Helpston Parish Council
Councillor Richard Perkins, Ailsworth Parish Council
Councillor Paul Froggitt Orton Waterville Parish Council
Councillor Ed Murphy, Peterborough City Council Labour group
Councillor Jason Merrill, Bretton Parish Council
Councillor Bob Randall, Glinton Parish Council
Councillor Susie Lucas, Ashton & Bainton Parish Council
Councillor Henry Clark, Peakirk Parish Council
Ian Dewar, County Executive Officer Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC)
Councillor Irene Walsh, Peterborough City Council

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Kim Sawyer, Director of Governance
Sylvia Radouani, Community Capacity Assistant
Cate Harding, Community Capacity Manager
Karen S Dunleavy, Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Stokes and Sylvester. Councillor Murphy was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Sylvester.

Apologies were also received from Parish Councillors John Bartlett and Dawn Clipston.

2. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 21 September 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2016 were approved as a true and accurate record, subject to the change in wording in relation to Community Assets. Item 3, page 5, maximising the Use of Community Assets, 2nd bullet point.

3. Appointment of Co-Opted Members to Peterborough City Council Scrutiny Committees

Cate Harding presented the report and distributed a summary which outlined the agreement to the Co-opted Members on the newly formed Scrutiny Committees.

Key points raised:

- There would be four new Scrutiny Committees with effect from 1 January 2017.
 1. Children and Education Scrutiny Committee;
 2. Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee;
 3. Health Scrutiny Committee; and
 4. Growth , Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee.
- The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities would no longer function..
- There would be four co-opted Parish Councillors from the rural areas nominated as co-opted members for each new Scrutiny Committee.
- The Parish Council Liaison Working Group submitted their recommendations for the Co-opted members positions.
- There had been one remaining vacancy for the second or substitute co-opted position on the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee.
- The Scrutiny co-opted members selected would serve their appointment through to April 2018.

The following appointees were introduced to the meeting:

1. Health Scrutiny Committee – Henry Clark - primary co-opted Member
2. Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee - Neil Boyce - primary co-opted Member
3. Children and Education Scrutiny Committee – Susie Lucas - primary co-opted Member
4. Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee – Keith Lievesley – primary co-opted Member

Kim Sawyer outlined the process of adopting a second co-opted member and the nominees were announced. It had been anticipated that these appointments would be confirmed following the first meetings of the new Scrutiny Committees.

1. Children and Education Scrutiny Committee – Margaret Palmer – 2nd co-opted Member or substitute
2. Health Scrutiny Committee - Jason Merrill - second co-opted Member or substitute
3. Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee – Vacant - second co-opted Member or substitute
4. Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee – Richard Clarke – second co-opted Member or substitute

Discussions, comments and responses were as follows:

- Co-opted Members would be able to:
 - i. Provide a view from a rural perspective
 - ii. Initiate and influence the scrutiny meetings
 - iii. Suggest an item for inclusion on the agenda.
 - iv. Suggest items for the Forward Plan
- The timing/cycle of meetings has been considered.
- Anyone can suggest an item for the agenda.
- Co-opted Scrutiny Member training would be available by contacting Democratic Services.
- Meeting dates for the new Scrutiny Committees will closely follow the schedule of the committees they replaced and dates would be confirmed shortly.
- The distribution of agendas.

AGREED ACTION

The Parish Council Liaison noted the report and agreed for the PCL Members to be put forward as the co-opted member nominations for the following Scrutiny Committees:

- Children and Education Scrutiny Committee – Susie Lucas - primary co-opted Member
- Children and Education Scrutiny Committee – Margaret Palmer – 2nd co-opted Member or substitute
- Health Scrutiny Committee – Henry Clark - primary co-opted Member
- Health Scrutiny Committee - Jason Merrill - second co-opted Member or substitute
- Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee - Neil Boyce - primary co-opted Member
- Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee – Vacant - second co-opted Member or substitute
- Children and Education Scrutiny Committee – Susie Lucas - primary co-opted Member
- Children and Education Scrutiny Committee – Margaret Palmer - second co-opted Member or substitute
- Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee – Keith Lievesley – primary co-opted Member
- Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee – Richard Clarke – second co-opted Member or substitute

The Parish Council Liaison meeting also agreed:

- 1) That following appointment, PCL co-opted members would provide a feedback to the Parish Council Liaison meetings following each round of Scrutiny meetings;
- 2) That an extraordinary Parish Council Liaison meeting would be scheduled for 15 February 2017 to follow the January round of Scrutiny meetings;
- 3) The Parish Council Liaison meeting scheduled for 15 March 2017, would be moved to 29 March 2017 in order to provide an opportunity for feedback following the March round of Scrutiny meetings;
- 4) That following appointment, co-opted PCL members would inform Democratic Services Officers if they required Scrutiny training;
- 5) That the Community Capacity Manager would send the new Scrutiny meeting dates to PCL nominees; and
- 6) The Democratic Team would review the options for wider distribution of Scrutiny agendas to all PCL Scrutiny co-optees following appointment.

4. Devolution & Consequences

Kim Sawyer gave a presentation to the committee on Devolution and Combined Authority and outlined the procedures, progress, consequences and changes which may occur in the future.

Key points were as follows:

- The order was approved by all seven Councils and the Local Enterprise Partnership. (LEP);
- The order would be recommended to Parliament for approval in Spring 2017;
- Governance;
- Scrutiny;
- The Timetable for implementation;
- Infrastructure;
- The affordable housing fund over the next five years;

- Council housing, options in Cambridgeshire;
- Skills including Apprenticeship Levy;
- Universities;
- Enterprise Zone;
- Transport Policy;
- The ability to make more decisions locally;
- The IPSOS MORI telephone poll covered a more diverse population sample than the online poll; and
- Public participation.

Discussions, comments and responses were as follows:

- The details of the plan were emerging in law and the complete picture had not yet materialised.
- There had been no intention to move local functions to the Combined Authority and the workings of Peterborough City Council were largely unaffected with the focus remaining on Peterborough.
- Members were advised that the Combined Authority should be self-funding within a £20million budget and the Mayor would hold the power to precept for expenses although the Leader would aim to keep costs as low as possible. Expenses would be continually reviewed and monitored through a Scrutiny function and by the political parties. Existing Officers would work to support the new Combined Authority and there would be no additional staff.
- Frequent updates on the progress could be provided to the Parish Council Liaison meetings.
- Affordable housing and the split between authorities and funds available were discussed.
- The definition of affordable housing was raised and the Director of Governance advised Members that affordable housing was not always affordable for all as the rents charged were usually market values. House prices varied greatly across the area and members were advised there was currently no definitive answer.
- Some Members felt that the responsibility for planning and health would be transferred to the Combined Authority and suggested that a fixed rent rate should be considered as there had been property values where there were large differences in market values across the proposed Combined Authority.
- Highways England would remain a separate body with a separate budget and would be responsible for trunk roads. Peterborough City Council would be responsible for key roads.
- The location for the Combined Authority was still under consideration and ideas were welcomed from the PCL members. There would be no dedicated building facility and meetings would be hosted at the shadow authorities where space permitted.
- Members asked how the people of Peterborough would be encouraged to participate if meetings were not held in Peterborough and were advised the first meeting was in Peterborough, with the next one planned for Alconbury.
- The 14 days decision suspension to allow for Call In cannot be changed. Fourteen days should be sufficient time to organise a meeting as the current target was 10 days.
- There were no current decisions taken by the Council which would be taken by the Combined Authority currently, although it had been suggested that there should be a single local transport plan rather than three individual ones. Legislation was written such that councils did not have to pass any of their powers up to the Combined Authority.
- Candidates for the position of Combined Authority Mayor (CAM) could propose themselves if they wished, or be nominated. A list of preferred criteria had been prepared however, appointment would be decided by public vote.

- The candidates were high profile people known to the Councillors however, anyone could stand for the CAM position, subject to the submission of the deposit fee of £5000.00.

AGREED ACTION

The Parish Council Liaison meeting agreed to note the report and that the Director of Governance would feedback the following to Leaders:

- The views of Parish Councillors in relation to what the definition was in relation to affordable housing for Peterborough and Cambridge; and
- The concerns of Parish Councillors in relation to the location of meetings of the devolved administration and possible lack of public attendance.

5. Feedback on Parish Conference

Ian Dewer presented a report on the Parish Council Conference.

Key points included:

- Managing Community Facilities;
- Constitutional and Organisational Matters;
- Aims and Objectives;
- Honorary Officers;
- General meetings of the Organisation;
- Trusts;
- Charitable Status;
- Tenure of Community Services; and
- Management Agreements.

Discussions, comments and responses were as follows:

- Breakout sessions at future conferences should be held in different rooms as they proved a distraction.
- The need to restrict time to speak to allow more time for delegates to speak.
- Collaboration across the authority was identified as a key issue and suggestions were provided on how improvement ideas could work.
- Northborough and Borough Fen had worked together in the past but it had not been common practice.
- Appropriate methods of communication between Councillors.
- Some Parish Councils had not receive notification of the conference and therefore had not attended.
- Collaboration between Ward Councillors and Parish Councils.
- Operation of a buddy system was discussed for councils wishing to become Parish Councils and the committee were advised this was already in place.
- The PCL meeting could offer support with joint collaborations however they were unable to drive any such initiative.
- Community Councils were not currently on the agenda and would not be pursued by the City Council however, Parish Councils may take the idea forward. The City Council could offer guidance and support if required. The community council idea needed to be community driven however, neighbourhood involvement was not always forthcoming as currently funding was unavailable.
- The national association of local councils had negotiated with the government not to place a cap on Parish Council precepts.

ACTION AGREED

The Parish Council Liaison meeting noted the report.

6. Any Other Business

Sylvia Radouani had recently been appointed as a dedicated Parish Council Support Worker.

CHAIRMAN
6.30PM – 8.05PM