

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the PARISHES LIAISON MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Keynsham on Wednesday 9th June 2010 at 6.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors Sarah Bevan (Chair of Bath and North East Somerset Council), Francine Haeberling (Leader of Council), Malcolm Hanney (Cabinet Member for Resources), Charles Gerrish (Cabinet Member for Customer Services), Vic Pritchard (Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Housing), Neil Butters, Gabriel Batt, Brian Simmons

Representatives of Batheaston, Camerton, Chew Magna, Chew Stoke, Claverton, Clutton, Combe Hay, Compton Martin, Corston, Dunkerton, Englishcombe, Farmborough, Farrington Gurney, Freshford, Keynsham, Marksbury, Monkton Combe, Paulton, Peasedown St John, Publow with Pensford, Salford, South Stoke, Stanton Drew, Timsbury, Wellow, Whitchurch Town/Parish Councils

Eric Potter (Chairman, B&NES Local Councils Group)

Tony Heaford (Vice Chair, B&NES Local Councils Group)

Peter Duppa-Miller (Secretary, B&NES Local Councils Group)

Ian Rudd and Chris Mewse of Parish Online

Also in attendance: John Everitt (Chief Executive), Glen Chipp (Strategic Director, Customer Services), David Trigwell (Divisional Director – Planning and Transport), Derek Thorne (Assistant Director – Communications and Corporate Affairs, NHS B&NES); Council and PCT Officers

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Bevan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from representatives of Charlcombe, Compton Dando, Norton Radstock, Priston and Ubley Town/Parish Councils.

Apologies had also been received from Councillors Paul Crossley, Eleanor Jackson, Nathan Hartley, Chris Watt, John Bull, Martin Veal and Douglas Deacon.

4 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair announced the sad death of Cllr Alan Hall and the meeting marked this with a brief period of silence.

An update document had been distributed before the meeting relating to the Ministry of Defence [*a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1*]. The Chair read the update to the meeting. There were no questions or comments. See also Minute 10 below.

5 MINUTES: PREVIOUS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2010

Cllr Robinson (Dunkerton Parish Council) observed that in his view the statement made by Adrian Clarke relating to the Road Traffic Accident statistics (Minute number 38) had not been accurately reflected in the previous Minutes. Cllr Robinson submitted a statement to this effect [*a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2 but is not available on the Council's website*].

It was agreed that the Minutes be amended as follows:

- "the only case not to be logged" to be amended to "the only known case not to be logged";
- Adrian Clarke had expressed the view that there was no evidence of systemic failure but the contrary view, expressed by Parish representatives, was not reflected. It was agreed to add the following sentence: "A number of Parish representatives disagreed and felt that there was evidence of systemic failure."

The Democratic Services Officer was asked to amend the draft Minutes in the light of the comments received.

6 THE CHAIR'S COMMUNITY AWARD

The Chair of Council explained that she had decided to make awards under 4 headings: Sport, Education, Community and Business. She appealed for nominations for the Community Awards and gave an example of the kind of community activity which might attract an award. The closing date for nominations would be 15th October, noon.

7 DISPLAY OF PARISH REPORTS

The Chair announced that in order to raise the profile of the work done by Parishes, she had inaugurated a display outside her office in the Guildhall, Bath, which would reflect the Parish Plans or some other notable landmark from each Parish. She appealed to Parishes to contact her office with suggestions for inclusion in the display. Peter Duppa-Miller agreed to coordinate the gathering together of completed Parish Plans and, where not available, suitable photographs.

8 HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

Derek Thorne gave a presentation [*a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 3*] entitled "Health & Wellbeing Partnership: Engaging our Health & Care Services" explaining the responsibilities, vision and goals of the Partnership and highlighting the achievements and challenges. Derek answered a number of questions posed by Parish representatives. A Parish representative asked why housing was included in the Partnership's responsibilities. Malcolm Hanney (Chair of the PCT) said that housing was an issue which profoundly impacted on health and wellbeing, so it was important that the Partnership should have an interest in housing provision. Peter Duppa Miller asked how the Partnership ensured access to services by those who did not live in the 3 main population centres. Derek Thorne said that this was achieved by outreach into the communities

The Chair thanked Derek Thorne for his presentation.

9 PARISH MAPPING PROJECT

Martin Laker introduced Ian Rudd from Spatial Technologies and Chris Mewse from Get Mapping. He explained that free training was available for Parishes and that the first year's subscription had been paid by the Council.

Ian Rudd gave an online demonstration of the functioning application which was well received by those present.

A Parish representative who had been using Get Mapping for 6 months asked when the B&NES core data would be added, as the product would be much more useful when this data was included. Ian Rudd apologised for the delay in adding this data but assured Parishes that it would be included in the next software release, which was due by the end of June.

The Chair thanked Ian Rudd and Chris Mewse for attending and for their presentation.

10 B&NES CORE STRATEGY AND SITE ALLOCATIONS FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS (Report 10)

David Trigwell introduced the report by reminding the meeting that Eric Pickles, Communities and Local Government Secretary, had indicated that Local Plans would no longer be required to reflect the Regional Spatial Strategy. The Council was therefore in the process of determining local needs. A Government announcement was awaited regarding provision for gypsies and travellers.

David answered a number of questions put to him by Parish representatives.

11 ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT DATA (Report 11)

The Chair observed that Adrian Clarke had not been able to attend the meeting so she asked if there were any questions.

A Parish representative asked what progress had been made on the Terms of Reference of the user group. John Everitt apologised and said that a response to this question would be provided separately.

12 JOINT LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND BATH TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE

In the absence of Adrian Clarke, David Trigwell reported that the Joint LTP was being completed in partnership with the West of England Transportation Partnership. The Council would engage with Parishes in the coming months to inform the policy and he would send out details in due course. He appealed to Parishes to respond to ensure that the right approach is taken despite the reducing funds available.

John Everitt said that early indications were that the Government would look very hard at funding for transport schemes. The expectation was that by September/October there would be more clarity.

The Chair promised to provide an update at the next meeting.

Peter Duppa-Miller observed that the Local Councils Group had asked for an update on the Bath Transportation Package. John Everitt said that the Compulsory Purchase Order enquiry was scheduled for September. A Department of Transport announcement was imminent but he could not predict what Government would say.

13 REVIEW OF OPERATION OF THE PARISH CHARTER

Glenn Chipp gave a powerpoint presentation [*a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 4*]. The thrust of the presentation was that the Council wished to engage more meaningfully with Parishes and to foster a sense of collaboration over the Parish Charter.

It was noted that joint workshops dealing with Development Management and Planning Enforcement would take place on 23 June and 13 July 2010 respectively.

A Parish representative complained that despite promises that Parishes would be informed if there was a substantial change to any planning application, this had not been happening. Glenn Chipp said that he would ensure the officers who had recently taken over this responsibility would be reminded of this.

A number of operational issues were raised by Parish representatives to which Glenn Chipp responded.

14 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY UPDATE

An update document had been distributed before the meeting [*a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 5*]. The Chair read the update to the meeting. There were no questions or comments.

15 ORGANISATION CHART – PLANNING AND TRANSPORT DIVISION

David Trigwell apologised that in the economic climate, there were still a number of sensitive personnel issues being resolved and it had not been possible to complete the updated organisation chart in time for the meeting.

16 ORGANISATION CHART – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (Report 16)

The meeting agreed to NOTE the new organisation chart.

12 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Chair advised Members that the next meetings would be on 20th October 2010 and 16th February 2011.

The Chair referred to the backlog of information requested by Parishes but not provided. She appealed to officers to make strenuous efforts to deliver on the promises made at Parishes Liaison meetings.

The Chair concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm

Chair(person).....

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services