

**NOTE THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION AT THE
NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE**

TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS' LIAISON COMMITTEE

13th April 2023

Present: Councillor Hasthorpe (in the Chair)
Councillors Pettigrew, Dawkins, Shreeve and S Swinburn

J Bratton	Barnoldby Le Beck Parish Council
F Chapman	Barnoldby Le Beck Parish Council
T Crofts	Stallingborough Parish Council
P Fieldgate	Healing Parish Council
J Gale	Immingham Town Council
K Kiddle-Bailey	Waltham Parish Council
L Mumby	Waltham Parish Council
A Poppleton	Bradley Parish Council

Also in attendance:

Insp Matt Stringer	Humberside Police
Martin Ambler	Civil Enforcement Officer Supervisor - Equans
Martin Dixon	Planning Manager - Equans
Paul Thorpe	Operations Director – Equans
Paul Windley	Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager

LM.34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillor Astbury (North East Lincolnshire Council).

LM.35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by any Committee Member in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

LM.36 MINUTES

The minutes of the Town and Parish Council Liaison Committee held on 26th January 2023 were approved as a correct record.

LM.37 COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

The committee received an update on the action plan for the Town and Parish Council Liaison Committee.

It was noted that Mr Windley would be contacting all town, village and parish councils shortly to ask for confirmation as to whether they have adopted the model code of conduct.

RESOLVED – That the action plan and the update above be noted.

LM.38 POLICING PLANS

The committee received an update from Insp Stringer of Humberside Police on policing plans.

Insp Stringer provided an update on Operation Galileo which was aimed at tackling rural and wildlife crime. Three dedicated officers had been deployed on the south bank as part of the rural crime task force. Operation Yellowfin continued to tackle motorbike crime and Immingham and Stallingborough had been identified as hot spots. Focused days of action were taking place and the police now had an off-road motorbike capability. The police were also utilising tagging spray and had the use of a drone with Humberside Fire and Rescue Services. Motorbikes were being confiscated and the parish councils were encouraged to provide support and call in any intelligence.

Insp Stringer referred to a recent issue in Healing regarding a doorstep selling scam and noted that intelligence from communities on such matters would be acted upon and warnings issued. He further encouraged sign up to Community Alert, which allowed a two way conversation around crime incidents.

The committee raised a number of queries about Operation Yellowfin. There were concerns that phoning 101 took too long and it would be better to have a dedicated phone line. There were further concerns about recording of incidents as motorbike theft was often a cross-boundary issue. A query was also raised about whether parish councils could request the operation to come to their area.

Insp Stringer understood the frustration with the use of the 101 number but he noted that it was one of the speediest in the country. He recognised that crime did not stop at boundaries and the police did not just look at figures. It was important to talk to communities and listen to what the issues were. The police would go out to different areas but resources would be focussed on those areas where there was a known problem.

Councillor Bratton reported on rural crime issues in Barnoldby Le Beck and felt that a camera would be useful to help tackle these issues.

Councillor Chapman added that there was a new police contact for Barnoldby Le Beck and I would be useful if they could re-introduce themselves to the parish clerk.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

LM.39 TOWN AND PARISH CHARTER

The committee received the revised Town and Parish Charter.

The Chair stressed the importance of the Charter being actively promoted by all organisations.

Mr Thorpe agreed to make sure that the Charter was shared within the Equans partnership.

RESOLVED – That the revised Town and Parish Charter be approved and actively promoted.

LM.40 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

The committee received a presentation providing an update on planning enforcement matters.

Mr Dixon explained the enforcement capacity and key contacts, noting that enforcement involved wider working with a number of services such as legal, highways and strategic housing. He confirmed the legal position on breaches of planning control and associated time limits. He outlined the council's approach which focused on negotiation rather than use of formal powers as the objective was compliance and not punishment. Mr Dixon confirmed that the enforcement team worked to specific guidelines when considering enforcement action, which included whether action was in the public interest and proportionate. In all cases Equans would make recommendations to the council's legal team who would then decide whether action should be taken. It was noted that 1292 cases were reported to the enforcement team in 2022. Cases were prioritised and as much information as possible was made available online.

Councillor Crofts raised a particular concern about the use of retrospective applications and also asked whether there was engagement with neighbours. It was noted that retrospective applications were permitted under legislation but there had been discussions about making it more expensive to put in retrospective applications. It was noted that there was active engagement with both developers and neighbours. He explained the engagement process.

Councillor Fieldgate felt that the more training that could be provided on these matters, the better parish councillors would be positioned to assist.

Councillor Mumby raised a concern about how enforcement cases were presented on the council's website and asked if it would be possible to simplify the way it was presented. Mr Ambler noted that enforcement information by its nature was restricted and would only become public information if an enforcement notice had been served.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

LM.41 HIGHWAYS/TRAFFIC UPDATE

The committee received an update on highways/traffic matters.

Mr Thorpe provided an update on the delivery of the Local Transport Plan. £3.9m of improvement works had been identified for 2023/24 and schemes were currently being developed. These would be communicated to town and parish councils in due course. He further updated on the development of an Electric Vehicle Strategy. £67k had been provided locally to bring in additional capacity and options were currently being explored with a view to reporting to Cabinet in June 2023.

Councillor Mumby enquired about progress with the provision of a parking area near Toll Bar Academy.

Councillor Swinburn confirmed that discussions were ongoing with time limited funding available and the parking area would happen.

Councillor Bratton enquired about reporting of cars parked in a dangerous position on the highway. Mr Thorpe suggested that these be reported to the council initially and if this could not be managed within its powers then it would be forwarded on to the police.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

LM.42 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

There were no member development issues raised.

LM.43 REFERRALS TO SCRUTINY

There were no matters referred to scrutiny.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.11 pm.