

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

TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS' LIAISON COMMITTEE

25th January 2024

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

F Chapman	Barnoldby Le Beck Parish Council
B McKenzie	Barnoldby Le Beck Parish Council
B Turner	Bradley Parish Council
V Turner	Bradley Parish Council
P Fieldgate	Healing Parish Council
K Swinburn	Immingham Town Council
D Poucher	New Waltham Parish Council
D Raper	New Waltham Parish Council
T Crofts	Stallingborough Parish Council
M Archer	Waltham Parish Council
A Moss	Waltham Parish Council

Also in attendance:

Insp Claire Jacobs – Humberside Police
Martin Dixon – Planning Manager (EQUANS)
Ian King – Space Planner (EQUANS)
Anthony Snell – Transport and Traffic Manager (EQUANS)
Guy Lonsdale – Assistant Director Finance
Paul Windley – Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager

LM.20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillor Hudson (North East Lincolnshire Council) and Councillor Bratton (Barnoldby Le Beck Parish Council).

LM.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

LM.22 MINUTES

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

LM.23 POLICING MATTERS

The committee received an update on policing matters from Insp Jacobs of Humberside Police.

Insp Jacobs reported on staffing movements within the division and local teams. She noted that there had been a 35% reduction in anti-social behaviour in the Grimsby West area during November, largely due to an increased police presence in the town centre. The rural crime team were also out and about in North East Lincolnshire. She urged people to report any issues, particularly with regard to misuse of motorbikes and speeding. On the latter it was important to know locations and the time of day when problems were occurring.

Councillor Fieldgate raised concerns regarding attendance of police officers at parish council meetings and the general lack of a police presence in the village of Healing.

Insp Jacobs noted that DS Potter was a local resident and had agreed to attend parish council meetings. An additional PCSO had been deployed in the Wolds but she acknowledged that there were a still a couple of vacant spaces for PCSOs.

Councillor Turner voiced similar concerns about attendance at parish council meetings. She also had concerns about motorbikes. Whilst the position had improved with the installation of CCTV, there were a number of problems in the Bradley Pitches area.

Insp Jacobs reported that steps were being taken to try to design out the issue and data was being collated when problems were reported. Operation Yellowfin continued to address this issue.

Councillor Chapman was concerned about speeding and expressed an interest in how incidents were being logged and the outputs from these reports.

Insp Jacobs promoted the use of My Community Alert and offered to make contact with Councillor Chapman to further discuss the reporting of crime.

Councillor Dawkins praised the work of the community policing team but felt that the problems were occurring in the evening.

Insp Jacobs responded that there was some flexibility and shifts had been changed in the past to try address such issues, which were considered at tactical meetings.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

LM.24 BUDGET, FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING PLAN 2024/25 – 2026/27

The committee received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets outlining how North East Lincolnshire Council planned to deliver its agreed financial strategy over the coming three-year period.

Mr Lonsdale summarised the content of the report.

Councillor Crofts enquired whether there was a general percentage figure for contingencies.

Mr Lonsdale responded that all capital schemes had different contingency levels but they were typically around 10%. He added that construction inflation was a particular challenge at present.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and any specific queries be channelled through the Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager for a response from the appropriate portfolio holder.

LM.25 CONSULTATIONS

The committee received an update on current consultations being conducted by North East Lincolnshire Council

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

LM.26 LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

The committee received an update on the current consultation taking place on the Local Plan Review.

Mr King explained the focus of the review and the process to be followed, including planned engagement. He then summarised the key elements of the draft plan, focusing on the proposed introduction of a green wedges policy. In terms of housing sites, he stressed that there was a need to identify sites favoured as well as those not favoured. Town and parish councils were asked to consider and respond to the consultations, identify what would be supported as well as what might raise concerns, and encourage residents to engage with the local plan process.

Councillor Crofts enquired how parish councils should respond to the review. Mr King advised to respond via the parish clerk but added that parish councillors could also comment individually as residents if they wished.

Councillor Moss enquired about the difference between a green wedge and a strategic gap. Mr King explained that a green wedge would provide defined edges to protected areas and would be more effective.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted and details of drop-in events be circulated to parish and town council clerks.

LM.27 PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS

The committee received an update on how planning officers work with highways officers as part of the planning process.

Mr Dixon explained that the planning process required consultation with different bodies, some statutory and some not. Highways were a statutory consultee but only in certain circumstances. The planning team worked very closely with highways officers. The highways team has a Development Control Officer who consults with others in the team. There are also weekly team meetings to discuss planning applications. On receipt of a pre-application proposal, consultation with the highways team would take place straight away. Further advice would be provided once an application was submitted.

Councillor Chapman enquired how the service would work with highways when there were traffic issues arising from developments that were already under way.

Mr Dixon responded that this would depend on the magnitude of the development. If it was a housing development then a transport assessment would be looked for. He added that the National Planning Policy Framework included guidance on highways matters. If it was a congestion issue then concerns would need to be severe and a balance of considerations had to be applied.

Mr Dixon repeated his previous offer to come out to parish councils to provide training on planning matters.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

LM.28 HIGHWAYS/TRAFFIC UPDATE

The committee received an update on highways/traffic matters.

Mr Snell was pleased to report that two new members of staff had been recruited to the Road Safety team. They had been tasked with engaging with the community.

Speeding remained a concern but he noted that this was an emotive and subjective issue. Data was being collected but this did not always back up concerns, which sometimes could be down to the odd reckless driver.

He noted that Barnoldby Le Beck, Waltham and Habrough had been identified as priority areas. There was some potential work being undertaken with Safer Roads Humber around a community speed watch programme but Mr Snell would send out a further communication on this should it come to fruition. Parish councils were welcomed to join a programme of replacement vehicle reactive signs that was planned for the next couple of years.

Bus Service Improvement Plan funding had recently been obtained and it was anticipated that this would be used to improve public transport at weekends and in the evenings but he welcomed any ideas on this.

A report was expected to be submitted to the portfolio holder in February to reinforce school safety issues, with 15 sites identified for action.

He noted that there were ongoing parking concerns in Laceby but it was proving difficult to find a solution.

Councillor Raper noted that at the end of last year certain roads in New Waltham had been resurfaced but not Pretyman Crescent. He enquired why.

Mr Snell noted that this wasn't an area he was specifically involved with but he understood that there was a limited budget and, following an assessment, resurfacing would be prioritised. He added that sometimes roads were pre-patched and then followed up but he agreed to look into this particular example.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

LM.29 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The committee were provided the opportunity to raise any development issues. No such issues were raised.

LM.30 REFERRALS TO SCRUTINY

There were no matters referred to scrutiny.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m.