

SEFTON AREA PARTNERSHIP OF LOCAL Councils
Aintree Village-Formby-Hightown-Ince Blundell-Little Altcar
Lydiate-Maghull-Melling-Sefton-Thornton

Minutes of the Meeting of the Area Partnership held on Thursday 19th January, 2017 at Lydiate Village Centre

PRESENT:

Cllrs G.Lee (Chair, Melling), M.Coles (Formby), K.Brennan (Hightown), J.Bailey (Lydiate), M.Byrne (Maghull), J.Desmond (Maghull), R.Baker (Melling), C.Jones (Sefton), D.Miles (Thornton), J.Little-smith (SMBC), M.Shaw (SMBC)

APOLOGIES:

Cllrs S.Gent (Aintree Village), A.Ibbs (Little Altcar), J.Duffy (Clerk, Sefton PC), M.Duffy (Sefton PC), Pat O'Hanlon (Park Ward Councillor)

1. GUEST SPEAKERS

New Parks & Greenspaces Strategy – “Better Places Greener Spaces”

Jane Little-smith & Mark Shaw – SMBC Parks & Greenspaces (Communities) team

1.1 Overview

1.2 Comments/Questions

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)
- f)
- g)
- h)

- j)
- k)
- l)
- m)

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (01/12/16)

Cllr Baker proposed that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the Meeting and Cllr Coles seconded this. Those present were in agreement.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

(*) SEE APPENDIX 1

Due to the excessive amount of Correspondence that the Secretary has recently been receiving, the Chair requested that members/Clerks send only essential emails in future.

Sefton Parish Council / A5036

The Working session, which will have representation from each of the 10 member Councils to discuss problems with local roads will be starting soon. This group will give support to Sefton Parish Council to help them tackle the proposed Brickwall Lane junction development associated with the A5036 Port Access route scheme. Today Cllr Coles met with Angela Rushton the Church Warden and Carl Stockton of Highways England at St Helen's Church in Sefton Village to discuss arrangements for the forthcoming Consultation exercise about the Port of Liverpool Access Scheme. Carl Stockdale will contact the Parish Clerk, John Duffy, to confirm the most convenient time and date for this. Cllr Coles urged those present to get to one of the Public Consultation events to show their support to Sefton Parish Council. These start next Tuesday 24th January, 2017 11am-5pm at the Park Hotel located on Dunnings Bridge Road in Netherton. Cllr Ken Hounsell of Thornton Parish Council has also agreed to provide his comments on this. The group was also in agreement that Her Honour Judge Judith Daley should be invited to attend future meetings in view of the support she has shown regarding this matter.

Southport Area Committee : Gypsy & Traveller Issues

Cllr Coles clarified that he had requested notes of the recent Southport Area Committee meeting covering this issue, given that in recent years Southport has experienced problems with Travellers; an issue which is becoming too much for SMBC to deal with. SMBC does have a Travellers Policy, and in the last 5 years there has been a 20% increase in members from the Travelling Community visiting Southport.

He added that Ince Blundell has been identified as a transit point, with access to the rear of the Tesco site. Notably there is no infrastructure or facilities on this identified site. Cllr Coles wished to warn other member Councils of the possible adaption of existing facilities for transit points, and said that he can supply further details for those interested.

Ian Cowell, Retiring Clerk to Ince Blundell Parish Council

Thanks were expressed to Ian Cowell, the retiring Clerk to Ince Blundell Parish Council for his contributions to both Ince Blundell Parish Council (IBPC), this group, and local governance for many years. Ian is a very wise and supportive man who has a wealth of knowledge. His retirement will be a great loss to IBPC and this group. It was agreed that Ian should be made an Honorary Member of this group.

5. FUTURE SPEAKERS

- * Andrea Watts, SMBC - 23/3/17
- The future of our Neighbourhoods & the Neighbourhoods team
- * MP Bill Esterson
- Budgets & Finances / Managing the next few years
- * Peel Holdings

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Sefton Central Area Committee

The Chair recently attended a Sefton Central Area Committee meeting. He feels that SMBC are trying to abolish this Area Committee as a cost saving mechanism, which would be very sad as it offers a good means of communication.

Cllr Coles added that he had recently attended the Southport Area Committee, which he felt was far too large. He feels the old East and West Area Committees were far more effective and relevant and better attended; a point he made 18 months ago to SMBC. Other members present echoed this point and said there should be more emphasis on the Agenda items as opposed to the Committee itself.

The Chair, Cllr Lee, and Cllr Coles will be meeting with Ian Willman next Friday 27/1/17. Cllr Lee also expressed a wish to meet with Andrea Watts too, and is saddened that the Parish Charter is seemingly being disregarded and that there may be some 'anti-Parish Councilism' occurring. Cllr Coles will resend his letter to SMBC and will report back to the group on any response received.

Those present also stated that discussion between Parish and Ward Councillors and members of the Public both at these meetings and generally would be beneficial.

7. AREA ROUND UP

7.1 Formby Parish Council

Their Neighbourhood Plan is currently with the Inspectorate and is hoped this will go to Referendum later this year. Cllr Coles commented that he would have liked to have seen more reference to the future economics of Formby.

The Waste Prevention Fund for Merseyside was also mentioned. John Lally, the Marketing and Communication Officer for the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority is the contact for this funding, which local Community groups can apply for.

7.2 Hightown Parish Council

Cllr Brennan reported that he had attended the Planning Committee meeting on 18/1/17 and the proposed Telecommunications Mast application had been deferred. It's hoped the Hightown Club site is a viable location for the Mast as the alternative BT building site on the roundabout would be an eyesore. The only grounds for objection are unsuitability of the site and visual impact, and there only needs to be notification erected advising of the proposed installation. This is part of a Central Government initiative to increase the number of Masts by the end of 2017.

Hightown PC are currently fighting to keep the Hightown Village Surgery open, and have challenged the CCG for figures. MP Bill Esterson has again been asked to help with this, and it was suggested that pressure also needs to be put on NHS England. This has currently been delayed for Consultation purposes.

7.3 Lydiate Parish Council

Work on their Neighbourhood Plan continues, although their Focus group has not met since before Christmas. A walk around Lydiate with their Consultant recently took place to identify features, which should appear in their Neighbourhood Plan.

7.4 Maghull Town Council

The proposal to house a Community Police Station at Maghull Town Hall is currently out for Consultation.

Objections have also been voiced about a recent article printed in THE CHAMPION newspaper, which implied that Parish Councillors merely take on the role as a hobby and for the money! This is clearly not the case.

Sadly there are currently problems with Anti-Social behaviour at Treeview Court Shops. A recent incident involved racist graffiti being written at this location. Maghull Town Council were involved in a meeting 1 week ago with the Borough Councillors, Shopkeepers, and local Police to discuss the problem and possible solutions.

7.5 Melling Parish Council

They are currently awaiting a meeting with their Consultants about their Neighbourhood Plan, which they hope to have concluded and in situ by the end of 2017.

In conjunction with the Sefton Bus Review, an active resident requested that the Clerk of Melling PC contact Merseytravel to request digital bus information display boards in view of the poor bus information currently available. It was suggested that other member Councils also support this notion and submit similar letters.

7.6 Sefton Parish Council

Covered under Correspondence.

7.7 Thornton Parish Council

Their precept was set on 16/1/17 and has not increased. They will be holding an open meeting in February 2017.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of this group will be held on Thursday 23rd March, 2017 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber at Maghull Town Hall.