

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 March, 2015 at Maghull Town Hall

PRESENT:

Cllrs D.Warren (Vice Chair, Hightown), W.Honeyman (Aintree Village), G.Gaskin (Formby), T.Asbury (Hightown), A.Ibbs (Little Altcar), T.Carr (Melling), G.Lee (Melling), C.White (Sefton), K.Hounsell (Thornton), Ian Willman (SMBC)

APOLOGIES:

Cllrs M.Coles (Chair, Formby), J.Colbert (Aintree Village), G.Downey (Aintree Village), Ian Cowell (Clerk, Ince Blundell), S.Kermode (Maghull), R.Baker (Melling)

Cllr Warren explained he was chairing the meeting in Cllr Coles' absence who was attending a prestigious event associated with the Food Industry, where he previously worked and is a Founder Member. Cllr Warren spoke on behalf of the group in expressing our deepest sympathy to Cllr Downey who has recently lost his wife following a period of illness. He also thanked Ian Willman of Sefton Council for attending to provide an Update on the Parish Charter, and also commented on the hard work Cllr Coles' had put in to ensuring its' revision.

1. GUEST SPEAKER

Ian Willman – Service Manager, SMBC Neighbourhoods & Partnerships Team

“Update : Parish Charter”

1.1 Overview

Ian Willman explained that he has taken on the workload of Christina Jones alongside his own workload following her recent departure. Ian also has responsibility for managing the Neighbourhood Co-ordinators, including Alex Spencer, and was keen to stress that his team are happy to help us.

Following the Parish Charter being signed off at the end of November 2014 by Cabinet, it has been posted on the internet and staff intranet. Ian is currently in the process of delivering the Parish Charter to Departmental Management Teams, and a paper is currently being written about this which will go to the Senior Leadership Team, which includes the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive, etc.

It is clear to Ian that communities will be looked upon to do more, and that SMBC will not be able to do as much as in the past.

1.2 Comments / Questions

- (a) There is a clear need to educate Ward Councillors. Notably not a single Ward Councillor has recently attended a Parish/Town Council meeting.
- It was suggested that the Ward Councillors be invited to attend a future meeting of this group. Surely it would be in their interest to attend such meetings to better understand the needs of local residents and their reaction to the Local Plan?
- (b) The progress made with past Neighbourhood Team members Claire Littlewood and Steph Prewett was mentioned, and also with the subsequent progress made following the establishment of a Steering Group to review the Parish Charter. Concerns were raised that progress has notably slowed down since then.

- Although Ian Willman is new to the role, he was keen to stress he is very keen and recognises the need for the Parish Charter and will do his best to ensure it is recognised and implemented in the best possible way to ensure this. He added that Andrea Watts is still pushing this through, and mentioned that Cllr Coles has offered to speak to the Departmental Team to ensure they have full understanding of it.

- (c) Reference was made to a Planning Application in the Thornton area, which was only discovered 4 days after approval; in spite of the Parish Clerk checking Planning lists religiously. This caused great embarrassment to the Parish Councillors representing that area, who are also surprised that there is no obligation for Parish/Town Councils to be informed of Planning Applications affecting their area. The need to reintroduce the circulation of Weekly Planning Lists to Ward Councillors and Parish/Town Clerks was raised.
- Ian Willman agreed this was a good idea and agreed to follow this up.
- (d) It was stressed that Parish/Town Councillors know a lot about their areas, and as volunteers they are happy to help, keeping their 'eye on the ball' and abreast of any developments, and aiming to represent their respect communities as best they can.
- (e) The issue of Jane Gowing's recent departure was raised, and also the failure to inform Parish/Town Clerks and this group of her departure.
- (f) Concerns were raised about the particularly poor relationship between the SMBC Planning Department and Parish/Town Councils.
- Ian Willman agreed to raise our concerns with the Planning Department, and added that cutbacks have clearly impacted on this Department.
- (g) The point was raised that smaller Parish Councils simply can't afford to compile a Neighbourhood Plan so are reliant on any input or influence they can have on the Local Plan.
- (h) Cllr Gaskin stated that he has obtained a letter from the SMBC Licensing Department stating he can discuss Licensing issues due to previous problems with Officers being obstructive at meetings about this.
- Cllr Carr explained the process of a Licensing Application being considered by the Licensing Committee.
- (i) The inability to raise 'instant questions' at CSAC Meetings was raised. Is this just a means of preventing any ambush?
- (j) How can the Local Plan work when there are missing elements, i.e. Peel Ports, Thornton Link Road?
- (k) There needs to be more stringent conditions written into the Local Plan to protect against Flooding, particularly considering a recent press release suggested that £1/4 million ring fenced for future coastal protection in the Crosby and Hightown areas may no longer be available. Interestingly new housing developments have been earmarked for the Thornton area on land which is known not to drain properly.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (14/1/15)

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

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising from the previous Meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- * Richard Knight, Peel Holdings (Senior Development Planning Manager)
- Stated that our request for a meeting has been forwarded to his colleague

- 16/1/15

in Peel Ports although he deems it inappropriate to discuss the Switch Island proposal given that the Super Port logistics land has been excluded from the draft Sefton Local Plan.

- * Cllr Mike Coles, Chairman - 16/1/15
 - Copy of letter of thanks sent to Stephen Birch, SMBC
 - Email from Ian Willman, SMBC clarifying actions relating to the Parish Charter
- * Cllr Mike Coles, Chairman - 23/1/15
 - Email from Glynn Harris, Clerk of Aintree Village PC, about the 2015/16 Parish Precept
- * Grantscape - 28/1/15
 - Advising that the Online Consultation Survey Summary for the Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund is now online
 - Update about the Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund stating a map has now been developed showing the proposed area of Benefit the Fund will cover - 18/2/15
- * Cllr Mike Coles, Chairman - 28/1/15
 - Email from Ken Hounsell, Thornton PC about Flooding/Insurance & building on Flood Plains
 - ⇒ ***It was suggested that it might not be possible to get insurance for houses built on flood plains. Potential purchasers might not be aware of this. Reference was made to a campaign entitled 'Flood Free Homes' on the Association of British Insurers' website.***
- * Noel James, Director – Historic Towns Forum - 4/2/15
 - Historic Towns Forum Events & Training Opportunities
- * Ian Willman, SMBC - 5/2/15
 - Confirmation of attendance as Guest Speaker for 19/3/15
- * Richard Knight, Peel Holdings - 5/2/15
 - Providing name of contact in Peel Ports : Warren Marshall, Head of Port Planning. Added that he would be in touch with us in due course
- * Amanda Lee, Maghull Town Council - 5/2/15
 - Charity Fashion Show : Monday 23/3/15, £5.00 each & Bridal Fayre : Sunday 15/2/15
- * - Antiques Valuation Day for Woodlands Hospice : Friday 6/3/15 - 9/2/15
- * Cllr Mike Coles, Chairman - 7/2/15
 - Notes for circulation regarding Changes to SMBC's Recycling Regime
- * Aintree Village PC, Ince Blundell PC & Lydiate PC - 6/2/15
- Responses to Revised Local Plan. Aintree Village PC stated they would be discussing this at their meeting on 23/2/15 though they felt this would have little impact on them. Ince Blundell PC stated they had no desire for a Combined Response as different areas have different issues. Lydiate PC stated they would be agreeing their response on 24/2/15. + 9/2/15
- * Glyn Harris, Clerk – Aintree Village PC - 11/2/15
 - Advising us of Cllr Downey's recent loss of his wife
- * Warren Marshall, Port of Liverpool Expansion - 17/2/15
 - Mersey Ports Master Plan documents
- * Cllr Mike Coles, Chairman - 19/2/15
- Budget Review : Suggested a £5 increase in the Annual Donation per Council given expenditure has increased and 3 years have past since the Budget was last reviewed. + 1/3/15
- * Cllr Mike Coles, Chairman - 21/1/15
 - Final version of letter to Cllr Trish Hardy about Waste Collections

- * Cllr Mike Coles, Chairman - 23/2/15
- Presentation for Annual Event
- * Cllr Mike Coles, Chairman - 24/2/15
- Advising that SMBC are proposing to turn off Street Lights from 8pm for the next financial year as a cost saving exercise
- * Lydiat Parish Council - 25/2/15
- Response to Revised Local Plan
- * Aintree Village PC, Lydiat PC, Ince Blundell PC & Sefton PC - 25/2/15, 26/2/15, 28/2/15 + 3/3/15
- Annual Reports
- * Cllr Mike Coles, Chairman - 26/2/15
- Press article: "Please think again" regarding SMBC's decision to cut Street Lighting after 8pm
- * Ali Skinner, SMBC (PA to Chief Executive, Margaret Carney) - 27/2/15
- Stating Margaret Carney unavailable on 26/3/15 for Annual Event due to Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Presentation
- Confirming Margaret Carney is available on either 25/6/15 or 9/7/15 for the Annual Event
- 11/3/15
⇒ **Andrea Watts confirmed she would fit in with Margaret Carney's availability & stated she intended to cover Ian Willman's area (16/3/15)**
- * Cllr Mike Coles, Chairman - 3/3/15, 9/3/15 + 12/3/15
- Chair's Report for AGM. States he may consider Vice Chair although he is due to have an Operation soon, and will still give his presentation at the Annual Event. Note to be read out in relation to his absence at AGM.
- * Cllr Bill Honeyman, Aintree Village PC - 3/3/15
- Information about A5036 and Port access
- * Cllr Ron Baker, Melling PC - 3/3/15 + 19/3/15
- Link to You Tube video about Liverpool 2 Construction & Apologies
- * Cllr Mike Coles, Chairman - 11/3/15
- Email from Alan Lunt, SMBC dated 10/3/15 : The decision by SMBC to turn off Street Lighting after 8pm to save £500k has been temporarily deferred. This would involve alternate lights on key routes been switched off, although an adequate level of lighting a key junctions would need to be maintained. More energy efficient luminaires are also being investigated
- * Cllr David Warren, Vice Chair - 13/3/15
- Commented that at the CSAC meeting on 12/3/15 there was a distinct lack of leadership, and seemingly no-one willing to push things forward.

5. FUTURE SPEAKERS

- * Representative of Peel Holdings
- * Liam Robinson, Merseytravel
- Re: Future improvements to Merseyrail and the rolling stock

6. RESPONSES FROM MEMBER COUNCILS ON REVISED LOCAL PLAN

Raised under point (1), "Guest Speaker".

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Bank Account

The forms have now been received from Barclays after several attempts by the Secretary, who was keen to stress that this needs to be addressed as a matter of priority since this is causing undue stress to Cllr Downey at a difficult time, and the donation cheques already received are fast approaching their deadlines and may have to be re-requested. Councillors Lee and

Honeyman agreed to act as Signatories alongside the Treasurer on the account.

7.2 Budget Review

The Chair, Cllr Coles, has reviewed the Budget and suggested an increase of £5/member Council to cover an increase in expenditure given it is 3 years since the Annual Donations were last reviewed and there is a notably increase in the number of meetings we are having, and also in other costs such as website hosting.

7.3 Website

The Secretary reported that the group's website is now back up and running thanks to the hard work of her husband, Paul Hodson. The group expressed their thanks. (www.seftonparishpartnership.co.uk)

7.4 Annual Event

Margaret Carney, Chief Executive of SMBC has confirmed her availability for either Thursday 25/6/15 or Thursday 9/7/15. The Secretary reported that she is waiting to hear back from the Hope Centre in Aintree, given the Aintree Youth and Community Centre cannot accommodate us on either of these dates due to a long standing regular booking.

In order to continue our 'Tour of the Parishes' members were asked to suggest suitable venues. The following venues were suggested. For some of these venues it would be necessary to source a projector elsewhere.

- Formby : Guild Hall, Luncheon Club on Brows Lane & Formby Golf Club
- Sefton Village / Thornton: Runnells Lane Garden Centre Café & Holy Family School
- Ince Blundell Parish Hall

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TBC – Originally scheduled for Thursday 7th May, 2015, which clashes with Election Day!