

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 29th September, 2016 at Maghull Town Hall

PRESENT:

Cllrs G.Lee (Chair, Melling), K.Brennan (Hightown), I.Cowell (Clerk, Ince Blundell), A.Ibbs (Little Altcar), J.Bailey (Lydiate), J.Desmond (Maghull), C.White (Sefton)

APOLOGIES:

Cllrs M.Coles (Formby), P.Wiencke (Formby), M.Byrne (Maghull), R.Baker (Melling), Sara Moreton (Highways England), Carl Stockdale (Highways England), Anthony Hearn (Senior Community Parks Officer, SMBC)

- * The Chair commented on the notable absence of Maria and Johnny Duffy from the last few group meetings. Their presence is missed and the last time the Chair saw them was at the specially convened Highways England meeting held in Sefton Village on 13/7/16. The Secretary has been asked to make contact to let them know they are missed.

1. GUEST SPEAKERS

Sadly Sara Moreton and Carl Stockdale of Highways England were unable to attend, but have agreed to attend our next meeting on 1/12/16.

Anthony Hearn, Senior Community Parks Officer for SMBC could also not attend as the Consultation period for the new Parks Strategy has not yet begun. He has expressed an interest in attending our meeting in January 2017.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (21/07/16)

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

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Area Committees

It was queried whether or not there had been any update on the proposed Area Committee changes?

- *Southport seems interested in maintaining the current structure whereas Bootle is opposed to this. It is abundantly clear that one size does not fit all, and Jill Coule of SMBC seems to have taken this onboard.*

It was also stated that Police meetings are now virtually non-existent, so the Police reports given at the Area Committee meetings were the most beneficial part of the meetings.

- *The Chair stated that Inspector Phil Hatton from Merseyside Police attended the recent Melling Community Awards day, at which he was informed by him that the Neighbourhood Officers currently based at Copy Lane Police Station will be transferred to Marsh Lane Police Station*

3.2 Developing Partnerships

Minuted under point (1) "Guest Speaker" at the last meeting. Paulette Lappin, Cabinet Member for Regulation & Corporate Services spoke about 'Developing Partnerships' with Parish Councils. The point was also raised that we were having difficulty in getting Ian Maher, Leader of SMBC to meet with us and Paulette agreed to intervene. Sadly it would now appear that Paulette is going back on her word, in that the Secretary has received emails, which merely state Ian Maher is 'a busy man'. The Secretary will continue to pursue a mutually convenient date to meet with Mr Maher, and will organise a Special Meeting if necessary in order to accommodate his availability.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- * Liz Beard - Senior Planner, SMBC - 28/9/16
 - Adjoining Authority Application : Lower Alt Wind Farm, West Lancs (DC/2015/02177)
 - West Lancs Application: 2015/1055FUL. Advising that this Application to be presented to their Planning Committee on Thursday 6/10/16. Link to Agenda for this meeting included.
 - (*) Notably a report produced by West Lancs Officers strongly opposes building of this Wind Farm on 5-6 strong grounds, and stresses that the impact on the local ecology has clearly not been addressed. It would not only impact visually on the surrounding conservation areas and heritage assets, but would conflict with the requirements of the National Policy Planning Framework and pose a hazard to the safe operation of aircraft. It would also result in significant loss of agricultural land.*
- * Mike Coles, Formby PC - 22/9/16
 - Offering Apologies for 29/9/16 meeting as unsure will make it due to prior engagement
- * Pam Crilly, Clerk Melling PC - 22/9/16
 - New email address: clerk@mellingparishcouncil.org
- * Ian Cowell, Clerk Ince Blundell PC - 20/9/16
 - Cheque payment is no longer a statutory requirement. The Legislative Reform (Payment by Parish Councils, Community Councils & Charter Trustees) Order 2014 (Statutory Instrument 20141580) removed the requirement for cheques to be signed by 2 Councillors. This can now be done by 1 Signatory to the account.
 - (*) Notably SMBC will now be making Precept payments by BACs***
- * Paul Wiencke, Formby PC - 19/9/16
 - Apologies for 29/9/16
- * Anthony Hearn - Senior Community Parks Officer, SMBC - 19/9/16
& 22/7/16
 - Apologies for 29/9/16 as their new Parks Strategy will not be ready by then.
 - Request to attend meeting in January 2017.
- * Fasthosts - 19/9/16
& 21/7/16
 - Invoice 38762373 for Internet subscription / Domain renewal
 - (*) Payment to Paul Hodson authorised for this expenditure.*
- * Pam Crilly, Clerk Melling PC - 9/8/16
 - Invite to Melling Community Awards : Sunday 25/9/16, 1-4pm, Melling Primary School
- * Planning Department, SMBC - 21/9/16, 9/8/16
& 26/7/16
 - Weekly Planning Lists
- * Jill Coule, Head of Regulation & Compliance SMBC - 9/8/16
 - "New Realities" document link. A collaborative 'can do' agreement for SMBC & Sefton's Voluntary, Community & Faith Sectors.
- * Angela McIntyre, Clerk Maghull TC - 8/8/16
 - "E.T. Brixworth Judgement". Re: Adaptive aids for Councillors
- * Noel James, Historic Towns Forum - 4/8/16
 - Volunteering & Heritage Seminar 10/8/16 & HTF Events Update
- * Johnny Smith, Crosby - 3/8/16
 - Public Information meeting re: Fracking in Formby.
 - (*) Sites throughout the area are being tested and loud explosions have been heard in Lydiate as a result of these tests but the outcome is currently unknown. 2 x males attended a Little Altcar PC meeting, but this meeting was non-beneficial or informative. This is something that will require strict licensing.*
- * Johnny Duffy, Clerk Sefton PC - 3/8/16
 - Minutes of Conference with Highways England (13/7/16)
- * Stephen Gent, Aintree Village PC - 28/7/16
 - Parish Clerk Vacancy

- * Johnny Duffy, Clerk Sefton PC - 23/7/16
 - Requesting comment on Liverpool Echo article, "Calls for tunnel link from Liverpool2 terminal to Switch Island to ease lorry congestion". Link provided.
 - (*) Ian Cowell commented that he could not see how this would work!

- * Johnny Duffy, Clerk Sefton PC - 22/7/16
 - Free Bus Shelter

5. FUTURE SPEAKERS

- * Highways England (1/12/16)
- * Anthony Hearn, Senior Community Park Officer (January 2017)
 - "New Parks Strategy"
- * Ian Maher – Leader of SMBC (*Special Meeting if necessary)
- * MP Bill Esterson
- * Merseytravel
 - "Sefton District Bus Network Review Plan 2016/17"

(*) Concerns were raised about accessing Hospitals and vital services, and about poor links between some areas, which could worsen given that some bus services are being merged; seemingly as a cost cutting measure. It's hoped a Local Mayor will bring more control back over bus services. Cllr Miles invited those present to attend the Merseytravel Committee meeting next week, but stressed they would not be able to voice their opinions just merely act as Observers.

- * Andrea Watts, SMBC
 - Re:- Area Committee report
- * Heritage Lottery

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Clerks' Pensions

From 2017 Parish/Town Clerks must be offered a Pension. The following conditions are applicable,

Clerk's wages £10,000+
= Must be offered a Pension

Clerk's wages £5685-£10,000
= Clerk should be asked if they want to opt in/out.
2% contribution from PC/TC + 2 ½% contribution from employee

It was commented that NES was a good scheme.

6.2 Meeting Dates 2017

The Secretary asked that all Clerks submit their 2017 Meeting Dates to her promptly to assist with compilation of the meeting schedule for next year.

6.3 New Treasurer

Cllr David Miles of Thornton Parish Council is the newly appointed Treasurer of this group. From now on, anything of a financial nature, including the submission of donation cheques, which are now due, should now be addressed to Cllr Miles. The Secretary will be forwarding all Clerk email addresses to David to assist with requesting this year's donations.

6.4 Renovation of Railings & Sun Dials

The railings and Sun Dials by the Nags Head Public House in Thornton have been renovated recently as a result of a Heritage Lottery Grant. Funding has also been secured to locate a Christmas tree on the grass opposite here.

6.5 Friends of the Abbey

The Friends of the Abbey group associated with St Catherine's Chapel by Lydiate Hall, have recently secured a grant of £7200 for an initial survey from the Lottery Heritage Trust. This area is not only iconic, but of historical significance. It was previously used as a graveyard.

6.6 Resignation of Ince Blundell PC Clerk

Ian Cowell, Clerk of Ince Blundell PC for many years, and a much welcome regular attendee at the 10 Parishes meetings, reported that he is retiring as Parish Clerk as of 10/11/16. Ian explained that he will be staying on the Payroll in case of any problems and to provide holiday cover, and provided the new Clerk's details.

The Chair expressed his thanks to Ian for his diligence, knowledge and service to both Ince Blundell PC and this Committee for many years, and invited Ian to stay as an Honorary Member of the group.

Mrs Colette Birch
19 Carr House Lane, Ince Blundell, Merseyside, L38 1QE.
Tel: (0151) 929 2711

7. AREA ROUND UP

7.1 Hightown Parish Council

Hightown PC now has a full Council again and also a new Chairman, Councillor Karl Brennan.

The main issue they are currently dealing with is the potential closure of the Village Surgery. The Landlord has taken ownership of the building, as there is a currently a dispute with NHS England about the payment of rent and whether they will indeed sign a new lease. Notably Formby Village Surgery now provided GP Services in Hightown. The PC desperately need to meet with Katy Paige of the Scrutiny Committee and John Kelly of the Sefton East Area Committee to see what can be done. It was also suggested that MP Bill Esterson be approached for help with this matter.

7.2 Little Altcar Parish Council

Little Altcar PC are continuing to work on their Neighbourhood Plan in conjunction with Formby PC. A proposed housing development for Shorrocks Hill, and a potential development by Tesco's were mentioned. Formby PC are suggesting several tweaks to the current Neighbourhood Plan.

7.3 Lydiate Parish Council

Work on their Neighbourhood Plan is progressing thanks to the work of Consultant Eddie Taylor, who has compiled a Vision Statement and timetable. They hope to reach Referendum Stage next year. They admit their job is somewhat simpler, given there is only housing and countryside to concentrate on.

7.4 Maghull Town Council

Maghull Town Council has just gained a Certificate of General Competence. In order to qualify for this award they had to have 2/3 of their Councillors elected, and also had to prove their Clerk was competent. In addition they also have to produce newsletters in accordance with stipulated targets.

Paul Challinor has been appointed Events Co-ordinator by the Council. The next event he'll be hosting in conjunction with Merseyside Police will take place on 29/10/16. This will be a Laser Tag and Cinema event at which *Hotel Transylvania* will be shown.

7.5 Melling Parish Council

Melling PC recently hosted a successful Community Awards Day on the back of the success of the Canal Fest event, as a change to the usual Civic Service. This event encompassed both young and old members of the Community, and many awards were presented in recognition of the service of local residents to the Melling area.

7.6 Sefton Parish Council

Cllr White reported that he had not been in touch with either Cllr Duffy or their Clerk Johnny Duffy for a while due to a family illness. As such no report was provided.

7.7 Thornton Parish Council

Thornton PC is still short of Councillors, and it was reported that their Clerk has recently resigned.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of this group will be held on Thursday 1st December, 2016 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber at Maghull Town Hall.