

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

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**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Area Partnership held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 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)

The Secretary read out an email from the retiring Chair, Councillor Mike Coles, giving his Apologies for his non-attendance at tonight's meeting due to him attending the formal 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner of the Chilled Food Association, of which he was Chairman from 1995-1997. Councillor Coles stated he was not seeking re-election as Chairman due to a forthcoming Operation on his ankle, but he offered his future support to the Partnership in any other way he can. He thanked members for their help, support, advice, guidance and friendship.

**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM (26/09/13)**

Cllr proposed that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the previous AGM, and Cllr seconded this. The Committee were in agreement.

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS AGM**

There were no matters arising.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chair spoke of a busy, but not particularly easy year, during which members of the Partnership have continued to carry out their commitments to the full on behalf of the Communities they represent.

During the past year the group has received presentations on the following issues:-

- the Sefton Local Plan
- Waste Management
- Policing
- Flood Plain Management & Renewable Energy Issues
- the Switch Island Link Road

The presentation by Stephen Birch, which outlined the details of the commissioning of **Broom's Cross Road**, saw the realisation of an idea put forward decades ago, though he doesn't think it will be too long before there is pressure for another carriageway. The presentation by Steve Matthews was extremely helpful in helping us to understand the scale of the task involved in preparing a Local Plan.

Special Meetings have also been called to discuss Neighbourhood Planning, and Andrea Watts and Mark Long attended to provide explanation about the Local City Region/LEP/Peel Port project and their subsequent impacts on our Communities. The group also visited the Merseyside Recycling Plant at Gillmoss.

At the last AGM Cllr Coles undertook to do 2 things, as outlined below, and to improve working arrangements. Both of these have been achieved and Cllr Coles has also attended CSAC meetings in support of matters raised by member Councils.

- \* *To establish a working relationship with the CSAC and make recommendations on how to make the new structure work better*
- \* *To revise the Town and Parish Charter so that there were clear and agreed understandings and rules for us all to follow.*

The Chair spoke of increased pressures on Parish/Town Councils to undertake additional responsibilities with their limited resources in order to maintain standards due to further funding cuts imposed on SMBC by Central Government. He was grateful for the honesty and openness of Andrea Watts, who has clearly outlined what she and her department can do. He stressed the importance of responding positively in the interest of our Communities.

The work of the group will continue to focus on the environment, climate change and the management of the flood plain, and the focus needed to establish Neighbourhood Plans for Maghull, Melling and Formby, which will form part of the Local Plan. It is important to strike a balance between the housing and social demands upon our infrastructure and the threat to our environment, economy and way of life, ensuring that the parished areas are not devoured by any urban sprawl.

In reflecting on Finance/Administration, the Chair spoke of the need for a modest increase in the Annual Donation from each member Council given the frequency of meetings has increased and costs are rising. He spoke of how much we achieve on a very tight budget of £750 p.a., and also recommended that the Partnership reviews its' Aims and Objectives, and also its' Constitution.

In conclusion the Chair stressed we must aim to ensure that the Borough Council and its' Officers, listen to the concerns of its' residents. He fears SMBC are in danger of becoming more remote and that more changes in managements structure will leave its' administration creaking. It is our role to supply information to the Officers regularly, in a way that ensures our money is spent efficiently and is seen to be value for money. We will not allow our Communities to suffer and must perservere in standing up for them; since this was the purpose of this Partnership and the need is even greater now.

Cllr Coles reflected in the progress made by the group in the last 6 years, and promised his continued attendance at the meetings and support of the group as long as he remains a Parish Councillor. He expressed his gratitude to those he has had the privilege to work with over the years, many of whom he considers good friends. He asked that we continue to build on the foundations and contacts he has established. Finally Cllr Coles thanked the Secretary, Vicki, for her help, understanding, patience and dedication.

***The group expressed their thanks to Cllr Coles for his work, diligence and dedication over the last 6 years. The Secretary will contact Cllr Coles to pass on our gratitude to him for his service to this Committee.***

## 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

No report was provided in the Treasurer's absence. Report to follow at a future meeting. The Secretary reported that to the best of her knowledge the previous bank balance had been £713, and added that £153 is due to herself and her husband for her fee and for software which had to be purchased to upgrade the website to get it working again. Thus she believes the current bank balance to be £560.

## 7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The decision was taken to re-appoint the same Elected Members as last year:-

- **Chair** - Cllr Gerry Lee, Melling Parish Council  
*(Proposed by: Cllr David Warren, Hightown PC)*  
*(Seconded by: Cllr Tony Carr, Melling PC)*
- **Vice Chair** - Cllr Tony Carr, Melling Parish Council  
*(Proposed by: Cllr David Warren, Hightown PC)*  
*(Seconded by: Cllr Ann Ibbs, Little Altcar PC)*
- **Treasurer** - Cllr Godfrey Downey, Aintree Village Parish Council  
*(Proposed by: Cllr Bill Honeyman, Aintree Village PC)*  
*(Seconded by: Cllr Ann Ibbs, Little Altcar PC)*
- **Co-Signatory** - Cllr Gerry Lee, Melling Parish Council  
*(Proposed by: Cllr Tim Asbury, Hightown PC)*  
*(Seconded by: Cllr Tony Carr, Melling PC)*
- **Auditor** - Cllr David Warren, Hightown Parish Council  
*(Proposed by: Cllr Geoff Gaskin, Formby PC)*
- **Audit & Governance Committee Representatives**  
TBC

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items of any other business were raised.