

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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Area Partnership held on Tuesday 18th September, 2012 at Maghull Town Hall

1. PRESENT

Cllrs M.Coles (Chair, Formby), T.Baldwin (Aintree Village), G.Downey (Aintree Village), S.Gent (Aintree Village), R.Cawley (Formby), G.Gaskin (Formby), T.Asbury (Hightown), D.Warren (Hightown), M.Mansour (Ince Blundell), A.Ibbs (Little Altcar), M.Byrne (Maghull), R.Baker (Melling), T.Carr (Melling), G.Lee (Melling), B.Draper (Sefton), Jane Gowing (SMBC Planning), Steve Matthews (SMBC Planning)

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr S.Kermode (Maghull)

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM (27/09/11)

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS AGM

There were no matters arising.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair mentioned that he was giving his report at the end of his 4th year as Chair; a year during which the group had managed to keep on top of a wide range of issues. Cllr Coles thanked the Vice Chair, Cllr David Warren, for chairing 2 meetings during his recent period of absence due to ill health, and also thanked Vicki, the Secretary, for her continue hard work over the last 12 months. He then went on to talk about 2/3 significant changes, which had happened this year – the new Council makeup and reports of further financial cutbacks perhaps being the most significant.

On speaking about the Local Elections, Cllr Coles commented that for once the Council has a working majority, and it has been useful that some of our members are also Ward Councillors, since they have been able to provide important input and feedback on a wide range of topics to the group. Equally, Cllr Coles also expressed his gratitude to MP Bill Esterson who has also shown his support of the group and local politics generally.

The key issues that the group has concerned itself with this year and welcomed Guest Speakers on include,

- Governance
- the Core Strategy
- Local Policing
- the Economic Strategy
- the Coastal Strategy

With regards 'Governance', the Chair commented that little progress had been made in this area, and feels this is a result of us not being listening to properly by SMBC, and added that our working relationship with SMBC needs improvement. The loss of the Area Partnerships was also mentioned.

Similarly despite all the work to-date on the 'Core Strategy' (Local Plan), the Chair commented that this also needs tidying up.

Upon reflecting on the visit by local Police Officers to our meeting in July, the Chair spoke of an informative meeting which highlighted some of the cuts the Police have had to face in difficult circumstances; particularly during a busy year when their resources have been stretched to the max due to the Olympics. He said it is vital that we continue to give them our continued support. The *Beach Safe* project has been an excellent piece of work, whereby the Police, local Community groups and other key organisations have worked together in the Formby/Freshfields beach areas to deter anti-social behaviour. This is just one such project, which supports the aims of the 'Coastal Strategy'.

The Chair feels that SMBC are clearly lagging behind other areas with regards the 'Economic Strategy', and that they still have a lot of work still to do to clearly show their support for local economy. In reality he believes such financial constraints will be with us for many years to come, until some of the outstanding debts are repaid.

In conclusion, the Chair's greatest regret is that he feels he did not get SMBC's Chief Executive, Margaret Carney, to listen to this group fully, and he feels there is still a clear gap between this group and SMBC. He urged us to consider ways of us developing a better working relationship with SMBC, and was keen to stress the importance of monies raised by Parish/Town Council precepts remaining within our communities

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that all donations for the year 2011/12 had been received, and that expenditure for the year had been £540, which had included advance spending on stamps in order to beat the increased postage costs. This means the bank balance now stands at £212.83, although the renewal fee for the website is now due (expected to be c.£50).

It was agreed that the Secretary's fee should be increased by £5 to £60, since this fee has remained the same for the past 4 years. Conversation also took place that a scheme should be implemented whereby larger Parish/Town Councils pay a slightly larger donation than smaller member Councils. It was agreed this would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting, following liaison by members with their respective Councils.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers were elected as follows:

- **Chair** - Cllr Mike Coles, Formby Parish Council
Proposed by Cllr G.Lee, Melling Parish Council
Seconded by Cllr A.Ibbs, Little Altcar Parish Council
- **Vice Chair** - Cllr David Warren, Hightown Parish Council
Proposed by Cllr R.Cawley, Formby Parish Council
Seconded by Cllr T.Asbury, Hightown Parish Council
- **Treasurer** - Cllr Godfrey Downey, Aintree Village Parish Council
Proposed by Cllr T.Baldwin, Aintree Village Parish Council
Seconded by Cllr M.Byrne, Maghull Town Council
- **Co-Signatory** - Cllr Terry Baldwin, Aintree Village Parish Council
Proposed by Cllr M.Coles, Formby Parish Council

Seconded by Cllr G.Downey, Aintree Village Parish Council

- **Auditor** - Cllr Geoff Gaskin, Formby Parish Council
Proposed by Cllr R.Cawley, Formby Parish Council
Seconded by Cllr G.Lee, Melling Parish Council

- **Audit & Governance Committee Representatives**

- Cllr Terry Baldwin, Aintree Village Parish Council
Cllr Geoff Gaskin, Formby Parish Council
Cllr David Warren, Hightown Parish Council
(Already agreed several months ago)

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items of any other business were raised.