

Minutes of meeting
7pm-9pm, 20th November 2013
Guiseley Methodist Church

1.0 Introductions

Actions

- 1.1 Cllr Latty welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the evenings speakers from Yorkshire Local Councils Association and the Police

2.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

- 2.1 The minutes from 25th September were noted as a true record with amendments as follows;
- 5.13 Fly tipping had increased
- 2.2 6.2 School places. A question was raised regarding why there had been objections. Cllr Latty explained that parents were concerned over St Oswalds becoming a through school. There might be more difficulty in getting a place, traffic problems around the school etc. There had been a meeting 3 weeks ago with parents, teachers, Councillors and officers to discuss ideas i.e. building a new school, Guiseley Fieldhead becoming a through school, enlarging existing schools. Further consultation will take place before any decisions are made but there are children due to start in September who at present do not have the prospect of a place at a local school.
- 2.4 Cllr Latty gave a brief update on the Leeds Core Strategy which had gone for inspection following consultation. Members had spoken up for Aireborough to express concern over more properties being built, the A65 traffic issues, school places, other infrastructure issues. Clive Wood from WARD spoke about the confusion over the statistics and that there had been a number of different projections showing how many properties Leeds required and that one of the higher projections had been used to come up with the figures. He expressed his opinion that objections were not listened to.
- 2.5 Cllr Latty advised that there is a good deal of land available in the south of Leeds for development where there would not be the same issues. There had also been a large number of developers there for the discussions.
- 2.6 The Core Strategy for Leeds has not been accepted in its present format and the Inspector has expressed concern over the figures for Affordable Housing and Gypsies and Traveller Sites. Without an adopted plan there is less chance of finding grounds to fight future developments.
- Cllr Latty then went on to talk a little about a recent meeting he had attended regarding the Transformation Fund which involved chief Officers looking at how they could ensure value for money and improved delivery around Adult Social Care and Health

3.0 Neighbourhood Policing Update

- 3.1 PCSO Ben Greenhow was present to discuss the local policing issues. He reported on crime figures over the past 2 months.
- 3.2 There had been 10 burglaries, most of which had been at night. Entry was being gained by a variety of methods i.e. via a garage gained access to the house, snapped locks and insecure properties. There had been 2 arrests and 1 person had been charged.
- 3.3 A total of 13 garages and shed had been broken into with a lot of road bikes of high value being taken. The emphasis had been in and around Guiseley but this has now changed to Rawdon.
- 3.4 There had been 10 drugs offences
- 3.5 Several warrants have been issued.
- 3.6 A firearm and drugs had been recovered from a flat on Otley Road.
- 3.7 There had been 17 thefts from motor vehicles
- 3.8 Sat Navs had been removed from VW and Audis. these can be cancelled by the manufacturers if they are informed that they have been stolen. Police also advised everyone to ensure that the car doors were locked when remote locking them as many thefts were from insecure vehicles.
- 3.9 Number plate thefts had reduced. Police explained this was done to steal fuel from garages. Anti-theft screws were available and Neighbourhood Policing teams conducted local initiatives on this from time to time.
- 3.10 Thefts of catalytic converters from vans have been reported but these can be fitted with anti-theft protection.
- 3.11 There were also 14 non-specific thefts consisting of scrap metal and garden ornaments.
- 3.12 The Police advised they carry out regular visits to scrap yards and check car boot sales for stolen items.
- 3.13 There had been 13 shoplifting offences reported of which 7 resulted in charges. Apparently a significant amount of thefts involved meat from Marks & Spencers.
- 3.14 A question was asked if the burgled homes had had alarms. Apparently 1 property had had an alarm activated. There followed some discussion over burglar alarms and their effectiveness. Some alarms are monitored and some are not. In case of a neighbours alarm going off the advice was to call the police rather than investigating yourself.
- 3.16 Rawdon Library has suffered recently from graffiti and damage. Police to take some details and respond to Clive Woods. If anyone sees youths hanging about there and are concerned they should call the Police 101 non-emergency number.
- 3.17 A suggestion was made that the Police check auction houses for legality of the objects they are selling and it was also agreed that people need to be able to identify their own objects as it can be hard to tell items apart in some cases. Ilkley Auction House summer garden ornaments sale was a suggestion for a Police visit.
- 3.18 Ellar Ghyll scrap yard was discussed and a suggestion made that the Police should visit and check dealers papers there. The Police responded that if they have notification of a theft of lead for example they do visit and that some stolen car batteries had recently been found there.

3.19 Car parking issues at EMIS were raised again and the Police and Councillors have met to discuss this and how to target the problems. However it is recognised these are on-going long term issues. The Police have spoken to EMIs over their concerns that an accident will occur.

4.0 Town and Parish Councils

Chris Pilkington (CP) the Deputy Chief Officer of the Yorkshire Local Councils Association was present to talk about the powers and roles of local town and parish councils. He explained that they were the 1st tier of local government and dated back to the 1890's.

4.1 There are approx. 10,000 in England and Wales made up of approx. 100,000 councillors. There are 32 local councils, mainly Parishes in Leeds. Parish councils have a Chair and Town councils have a Mayor.

4.2 There are big differences between Town/Parish councils and the City Council in terms of their duties. Town & Parish councils may choose to have responsibility for;

Allotments

Crime and diversity issues

Burial authority

Bus shelters

Bye-laws

Community centres

Power to monitor public footpaths

Dog control

Car parks

Public toilets

War memorials

4.3 Statutory right to be consulted on planning applications but not decision making powers
Under Localism 2011 the right to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Which means Town & Parish Councils can acquire 25% of CIL monies if a plan is in place as opposed to 15% if not.

4.4 Income is raised through a precept an additional sum paid by residents living within the boundary of the parish or town on top of their council tax. The precept is set by the town or parish council and can vary greatly. For example Horsforth charged an average of £17.00 per property and Otley charged £69.90.

4.5 CP talked about how a new local council can be formed. A Review would be triggered by a petition to Leeds City Council. Money is available, £10,000 to assist with the process.

4.6 CP stated that Parish councils are civil not ecclesiastical. In terms of staff, any officers are employed under national terms and conditions. A locum clerk could be set on once go ahead had been given for formation of a new body, until firm arrangements were made. Or one of the councillors could act as clerk in the short term.

4.7 When looking at forming a new local council, consideration should be given to the natural boundaries and pre-existing local councils.

4.8 Cllr Latty advised he had tried to organise an Aireborough council in the past without success.

- 4.9 David Bowe talked about how he is currently trying to gauge support for a local council by collecting signatures for the petition. He is going door to door and at the moment has around 250 but is aiming for 1000.
- 4.10 A comment was made by a member of the public that to pursue forming a local council at this time was inappropriate. There would be an extra cost to household for the precept and there would be limited power. Pre 1974 local town councils had powers but times have changed.
- 4.11 Also there were concerns that a local council would be taken over by party politicians rather than local people who just had an interest in their area. City councillors are paid but local councillors are not. There is already a rising cost of democracy.
- 4.12 Cllr Latty informed the forum that he would support a local council if that was what local residents wanted, but that he believed that the Aireborough Neighbourhood Forum would provide many of the benefits of a Parish Council without the dis-benefit of the Precept on the Council Tax
- 4.13 On the question of City Councillors being paid, he advised the forum that although Councillors received an allowance, it is taxed and they had to meet all the costs of being a Councillor, 'phone, fuel (for their vehicle), home office and that deductions were made from the after tax allowance for Civic Parking and use of their Computer.
- 4.14 Cllr Wadsworth made a suggestion that development responsibility be taken out of the discussion for the parish council and remain with the Aireborough Neighbourhood Forum. The parish councils he thought, did an excellent job in making areas look better for residents.

5.0 Open forum

- 5.1 It was raised that the P.A system did not work well at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph and that the public had been unable to hear. It was noted that this would need to be addressed ahead of the Centenary next year.
- 5.2 There was a further issue with traffic control, apparently cars were coming past and causing a potential danger to people, agreed this would need to be looked at by Police.
- 5.3 Cllr Latty was asked to say a little more on the Transformation Fund. He explained how the aim was for the NHS, Childrens' Services and Adult Social Care would work together, pooling budgets to attain better outcomes and make better use of funding. For example for people, living in ONW, coming out of hospital but still needing care would have to go to Wortley or Pudsey rather than being able to stay near home, near relatives and friends. In South Leeds for example Adult Social Care and the NHS have shared costs to deliver a care facility; a similar option might be possible for ONW working through the Transformation Fund.
- 5.4 Some properties in the Silverdales have had letters about their drains and manholes being surveyed. This work is being done on behalf of Yorkshire Water to check they are up to standard. From last year Yorkshire Water now has extra responsibilities in terms of drainage and it was thought these surveys probably related to that.
- 5.5 Cllr Wadsworth advised the meeting that there had been little progress in terms of engagement with EMIS. He commented that despite Police presence he hadn't seen any vehicles ticketed. EMIS employees are apparently renting parking spaces from the Chinese restaurant nearby. Staff can only receive a parking permit if they have enough points which are attained according to the hours worked, where they live etc.

- 5.6 The councillors are meeting with Highways next week to formulate a plan. The problem is around dealing with the problem parking at EMIS knowing that this will move the problem elsewhere.
- 5.7 If yellow lines are in place these are enforceable and the costs of this will need to be looked at. A question was asked in relation to the proposed traffic lights at Park Road. Cllr Latty advised that the last email he had received indicated a proposed start date of February 2014.
- 5.8 A request was made for 20mph zones and residents parking to go on a future agenda. Cllr Wadsworth advised that Benton Park school was due to have a 20mph zone which would encompass the Greenacre's in the near future.
- 5.9 It was agreed that Highways officers would be invited to a future forum meeting to discuss these and also the cost of new traffic lights and traffic control initiatives.
- 5.10 A further suggestion for agenda items was libraries.

The next Guiseley & Rawdon forum will be early in 2014. Dates are yet to be confirmed.