

PARISH COUNCILS LIAISON GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 19th January 2011 at Worksop Town Hall

Present :

Councillors: F Hart (Chair)
H M Brand, R B Carrington-Wilde, D Challinor, G Freeman, D A Hare,
J B Rickells and Miss M Stokes.

Parish Council Representatives: H Burton, C Frasier, H Holdaway, E Jefferies, P Nicholson
L Perry, P Potter, R Simpson, I Trossell, P Wilson,
G Wratten and K Valentine.

Officers in attendance: S Brown, J Hamilton and K Tarburton.

Members of Standards Committee: Mr B Letherland.

Also present: Councillor Mrs A Simpson
Councillor K Sutton – Cabinet Member

24. SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES FOR 15 MINUTES TO ALLOW QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

25. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Gray and Parish Representatives G Brown, D Langmead and W Davies.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

(a) Members

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

(b) Officers

There were no declarations of interest by officers.

27. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH OCTOBER 2010

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2010 be approved.

28. MINUTES FOR ACTION

(a) Minute No 14(a) - Switching-off Street Lights

An Elected Member asked for an update on this issue and the Senior Manager Support Services informed the Group that a presentation had been made the previous evening by Nottinghamshire County Council to a meeting of the North East Bassetlaw Forum. Pilots are

proposed for the Misterton and Bingham County Division areas. Consultation is still in progress and will continue for the next year or so. Contact has been made with the parish councils regarding local information. Significant cost savings and reduction in CO₂ emissions are the likely outcomes, although certain criteria must still be met eg for the emergency services. The Nottinghamshire County Council website contains detailed documents and procedures.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Minutes for Action be received.
2. Nottinghamshire County Council be invited to the next meeting of the Group to give a presentation on its proposals to switch off street lights.
3. Nottinghamshire County Council be asked to produce street lighting costs per parish for the next meeting of the Group.
4. Parish councils collate lists of any street lights which they believe could be turned off safely for submission to the County Council.
5. Parish councils contact Stephen Brown, Senior Manager Support Services, on 01909 533767 or e-mail stephen.brown@bassetlaw.gov.uk if they have difficulty in accessing the Nottinghamshire County Council website for details.

29. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

Outstanding Minutes Nos 18(i) and 9 both refer to Safer Neighbourhood Groups and the Police, and the Senior Manager Support Services reported that their attendance at a future meeting would be now be dependent upon available resources.

RESOLVED that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

SECTION A - ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PUBLIC

Key Decisions

None.

Other Decisions

30. ITEMS FROM PARISH COUNCILS

(a) Localism Bill – Impact for Parish Councils

The Senior Manager Support Services gave a presentation on the implications of the Localism Bill for parish councils, although legislation is still awaited. A summary of the Bill is available on the BBC website.

Elected Members and Parish Representatives asked questions/raised issues on: Safer Neighbourhoods; Standards Board; the legislative timescale; and the difficulty for smaller parishes to precept enough to buy community assets.

AGREED that:

1. The presentation be received.
2. Copies of the presentation be circulated with the draft Minutes to all parish council clerks.

(b) Parish Charter - Review

The Senior Manager Support Services informed the Group that 90% of parish councils in Bassetlaw have signed up to the Parish Charter. As yet, there are no proposals for a county-wide Charter and Bassetlaw is the only District in Nottinghamshire to have such a Charter. However, the Localism Bill could significantly alter parish councils' rights and therefore it was proposed that no further action would be taken with regard to the Charter until implications from the Localism Bill are known.

AGREED that:

1. The position be noted.
2. Implications from the Localism Bill on the Parish Charter be reported to a future meeting of the Group once known.

31. ITEMS SUBMITTED BY BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

(a) Local Development Framework Update – January 2011

An update on the Core Strategy and Site Allocations Documents as at January 2011 was presented to the Group for information. Other recent government proposals which were outlined include: the Localism Bill 2010; New Homes Bonus; Community Infrastructure Levy; and the Rural Affordable Housing Programme.

AGREED that:

1. The update be received.
2. Parish councils contact Richard Schofield, Planning Policy and Conservation Manager, on 01909 533493 or email: richard.schofield@bassetlaw.gov.uk if further information or a presentation to their parish council is required.

32. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

(a) Community Broadband

The Rural Officer for Bassetlaw/RCAN asked parish councils for their feedback on a community broadband initiative by NextGenUs which takes a Big Society, Social Enterprise approach to connecting the "Final Third" of the country, often technologically isolated and suffering from poor broadband speeds, to the internet at high speed via fibre optic cabling directly to the property where the current big players say it is uneconomical to do so. They define "high speed" as 100 Meg symmetric (same speed for upload and download) compared to the "no access up to 8 Meg" situation currently available and future proofed to 1,000 Meg and beyond. Instead of using "digital deadend" technology that isn't future proofed, like the incumbent operators, they connect each property in an area they deploy directly to fibre optics as this is the only true way to offer the fastest speeds and allow easy upgrade to faster speeds as they become available. They pioneered the first fully fibre to the premises deployment to a rural area in the country. Ashby de la Launde in Lincolnshire has seen speeds rocket from a maximum of 1 Meg via mobile broadband to 100 Meg via the NextGenUs fibre optic network in November 2010 and they are now working with other villages around the country to deploy the same technology. Details are available on NextGenUs' website: www.nextgenus.net

AGREED that interested parish councils contact Karen Tarburton on 01909 535563 or email: karen.tarburton@bassetlaw.gov.uk or RCAN.

(b) Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for Wednesday, 30th March 2011 at Retford Town Hall. However, concern was expressed at the lack of questions asked and issues raised by parish councils which are needed for the two-way process to be meaningful.

AGREED that parish councils submit any questions/issues in readiness for the next meeting so that the appropriate officers can be asked to attend to fully answer their concerns.

As there was no other business to be discussed the Chairman closed the meeting.