

PRESTON AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday 13th September @ 7pm at the Toll Bar Cottage

1. Introductions

New Cllrs to this Committee: Daniel Guise from Woodplumpton PC

New Area Support Officer LALC: John Ashurst, explained his role and Debra Platt explained the context as LCC are funding the role and this work. This involves getting the area committees up and running where they had stopped (4), supporting those in existence but lacking a clerk (4) and supporting the others (4). Securing advice on specialist services. There were representatives from Woodplumpton> Daniel Guise, Whittingham>Tony Brooks & Dave Hall, Grimsagh> Peter Burton, Barton > Roger Hacking, Broughton> Pat Hastings

2. Matters arising from the June meeting minutes< minutes circulated

3A. Topic:

Finance Advice and VAT implications for Parish Councils: Debra Platt, LALC Membership & Engagement Officer. Debra brought some notes to help focus the meetings. General issue were discussed. Debra's advice was to contact LALC who would advise and referred. She pointed out that LALC do training in this area and have as part of the LCC support been able to secure specialist advice on VAT, finance and investments from the Parkinson Partnership for Parish and Town councils in Lancashire.

The specific questions asked by the PAC had not been received by Debra and she followed up with this information sent by email.

- 1) VAT 126 is there guidance on what can be claimed? **Local authorities and similar bodies (VAT Notice 749) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**
- 2) Finance packages for Parish Councils do we need them or is a spreadsheet adequate? Is there any actual guidance as to what to use? **Up to Council, for a really small council it would probably be a price too high to buy a package and the time/expense for the training to use the system. For larger Council's the benefits of pre-setup items such as VAT claim is such a time saver.**
- 3) Implications of VAT for Parish Councils with assets - **would need to know what the actual question is here?**

3B) Topic:

Future format of the Area Committee Meetings was discussed and several points made:

- 1) The clerks have their group the SLCC is this group seen as the Cllrs version
- 2) Currently this PAC covers the 7 rural parishes of Preston and the one community council. The one who do not attend this meeting who is a member is Haighton. Lea & Cottam but usually attend and Goosnagh do not attend and are not LALC members. John will contact them and try to get them to come along to PAC meetings.
- 3) There was discussion about the other parishes that about the rural parishes. Barton has two local authorities with part of the Parish in Wyre and Whittingham & Grimsagh that is adjacent to Longridge. It was agreed to explore possible joint meetings and circulating the schedules for the other PAC's to all PC's.
- 4) It was also agreed that the governing document for Area committees was dated and put some councils off attending the PAC asked for this to be on the Agenda for the AGM
- 5) Discussion took place around the format of the PAC meetings with consensus being F3F

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4. Individual Parish Reports and updates

Whittingham

Completed a Parish Plan that will inform the Business Plan of the Parish Council and CiL spend. Whittingham Hospital site: the site of the new primary school is being discussed, the PC is setting up a Working group to look work on the future of St Johns Church it will need a structural survey. The PC is sponsoring the Longridge Town Football Club junior side.

Grimsagh

Neighbourhood plan is on hold currently as awaiting information form PCC planning. The way forward to be discussed at the October PC meeting.

Woodplumpton

Neighbourhood plan is with the examiner and they hope to go to referendum in November. Currently the PC is reviewing its wards as Catforth has 3 councillors and Plumpton has 5 due to the many additional houses being built in the NW Preston development area. Once this work has been completed they will request a Community Governance Review. The traffic calming measures in Woodplumpton have in the main has been well received. Similar work will take place in Catforth next year. ***One point raised that is useful for all Parishes is that purchases made with CiL funds should be recorded ex Vat at the PC's claim the Vat back.***

Broughton

SPID's in place and are recording, Broughton PC is awaiting analysis from LCC/Police. BNDP is currently being reviewed and as sites are to be added it will not be completed until later this year after the CLCS reports. The PAP has been updated. PCC has been commissioned to draw up the plans for KGV field to increase the car park size, update the playground and provide paths and benches around the perimeter. The work on the car park has already highlighted collapsed and blocked drains which will be sorted and hopefully reduce the boggy areas.

Barton

Neighbourhood plan goes to Preston cabinet next week with probable referendum in November. The issues with speeding continues along the A6/Garstang Road. Rene Pinder has talked to the PC about speed monitoring. The LRSP has provided stickers and banners to remind drivers.

5. LALC Update

LRSP has will not fund any shared posts form 1st November. In the next two months the partnership will meet to try to work out a way forward.

The minutes of the LALC executive on the 09/09/23 will be forwarded once completed
Reminder: LCC Parishes Conference & LALC AGM: 04/11/23 details have been circulated

Dates of forthcoming meetings

8th November (Toll Bar Cottage)

Topic: Caroline Williams PCC/CLCS, Update on the Central Lancashire Core Strategy

13th March 2024 venue and topic tba