

## CUMBRIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

### SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

#### Minutes of 169<sup>th</sup> Meeting on Thursday 8th September 2016

##### **Part 1 Police & Crime Issues – Peter McCall, Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner**

Peter McCall said that fighting crime is all about communities, not just the police, working together to prevent it. He is keen to support local initiatives (eg. training for volunteers to operate speed guns) but realises that no one initiative alone will address all crime. Though the creation of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) is still controversial, it has meant that there is one person who is ultimately responsible for the Chief Constable and the budget. The current Police and Crime Plan is workable but there will be some changes in emphasis over time and the new Plan will be published in October. There will be consultation and debate on the police funding formula this autumn, prior to the government budget being announced in November, so Peter will be fighting hard to ensure that officer numbers in Cumbria are not reduced.

There is a tension between what the public wants (when asked through surveys and drop-ins), namely “more bobbies on the beat” because the public perceive crime as bad and want reassurance, and the reality (from statistics) that most crime in the county is decreasing and that those areas of crime that are increasing (particularly domestic violence, child sexual exploitation and internet fraud) will not be solved by more police officers walking the streets of towns and villages. Nevertheless, Peter is keen to see a greater physical police presence for communities but this does not have to be warranted officers and could be through Police Community Support Officers and Specials (trained volunteers) as they can still reassure the public, collect intelligence and know their communities well. December 2015 floods show that people in Cumbria are community-minded so hopefully a major recruiting campaign for Specials this autumn will be successful. Peter is in the process of commissioning various projects around domestic violence and child exploitation. There is also the issue of hate crime (whether against ethnic minorities or disabled people) that needs addressing.

Various questions were put to Peter. Confidence and trust in the police has fallen which makes it harder to get co-operation from communities. It is the role of the PCC to help address this. People can hold the PCC to account and he meets weekly with the Chief Constable and asks for progress on improving the poor 101 service for example. The public also feels more divorced from the police as officer numbers fall and police stations close. In the future people will be able to use ‘phone apps to make contact with the police. Already officers have digital tablets which saves them returning to the office to input handwritten notes. Various examples of partnership working were given, from Kendal town council working with local schools on hate crime to schools and police working together around Barrow. To share issues or ideas with Peter, email: [commissioner@cumbria-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:commissioner@cumbria-pcc.gov.uk) or telephone: (01768) 217734

## **Part 2 Association Business**

### **16/16 Present**

Amanda McCleery (Secretary); Angela Scrogam (Pennington); Lorraine Thompson (Pennington); Simon Blyth (SLDC); Howard Graves (Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley); Richard Sutton (Kendal); John Chapman (Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg); Ken Humphris (Casterton); Leith Hallatsch (Windermere); John Saunders (Windermere); Christine Hallatsch (Windermere); John Poole (Hawkshead); Peter Smillie (Arnside); David Peters (Chairman & Natland); Jim Shaw (Arnside).

### **17/16 Apologies for absence**

Leslie Johnson (Lakes); Janette Jenkinson (Ulverston); Enid Hastings (Casterton); Andy Blackman (Kendal); Claire MacLaine (Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg).

### **18/16 Minutes**

The minutes of the 168<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016, were approved as a true record.

### **19/16 Matters arising from the minutes**

None.

### **20/16 Election of officers – 2016/17**

*Chairman – David Peters (Natland parish council) was re-elected.*

*Vice-Chairman – Leith Hallatsch (Windermere town council) was re-elected.*

### **21/16 Election of representatives to other bodies**

*South Lakeland Community Safety Partnership – Leith Hallatsch was re-elected.*

*CALC Executive Committee – David Peters & Leith Hallatch were re-elected.*

*Health & Wellbeing Forum – Peter Smillie (Arnside parish council) was re-elected.*

*Housing Advisory Group – David Peters was re-elected.*

*SLDC Standards Committee – David Peters & Peter Smillie were re-elected.*

*CCC South Lakeland Local Committee – Allan Muirhead (Kirkby Lonsdale town council) was re-elected and John Saunders (Windermere town council) was elected. ACTION: Amanda McCleery to give contact details to CCC South Lakeland Local Committee and to thank Philip Thompson (Lakes) as the previous rep.*

### **22/16 Items of Interest from Parishes, LAPs and CALC**

1. *Lyth Valley Internal Drainage Board* — NFU and Environment Agency have met with the 5 parish councils that fall within the area of the proposed Water Level

Management Board [WLMB]. Collectively they decided to not consult with local residents as they will not be billed directly by the WLMB. SLDC is considering publishing details of the revised proposals on its website for a 4 week period [with the invitation to residents to comment], prior to Cabinet's formal consideration of whether to support the WLMB request to raise a "special levy" on it. **ACTION:** SLDC Simon Blyth to find out when the details will be on SLDC's website (Post meeting note: consultation with landowners etc first in 2017?, and then on SLDC's website).

2. *North West Coast Connections* – consultation on detailed route and technology originally thought delayed until 2017 but feeling that now later this autumn. **ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to find out dates. (Post meeting note: Barrow parishes think 28<sup>th</sup> October to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016, with some village halls booked for drop-ins). Parishes opposed to the pylons, which have had considerable media coverage over the summer, would welcome parishes not affected by the pylons still supporting them and responding to the consultation.
3. *Cumbria Action for Sustainability's Green Build Festival* – annual week of events and trips to solar/hydro/Passivhaus projects between 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September. [www.cafs.org.uk](http://www.cafs.org.uk)
4. *CALC Executive Committee* – see report by David Peters under agenda item 23.16. There is the need to explore additional finances (with CCC grant falling) and as CALC supports parishes more with devolved assets and services. Chief Officer is developing a medium term plan and proposals for securing income. There will be a survey to collate parish services and assets, so CALC support can better match parish needs in the future. Chief Officer produced a short document on "why CALC matters," outlining its key functions and the changing roles of CALC and the parishes.
5. *Windermere*- there was a lack of police cover when the police officer was injured. There was considerable support from the local community. There is a problem with some youths.
6. *Casterton* – is working with neighbouring parishes to lay fibre cables, as part of B4RN, which will be both cheaper and 30 times faster than BT.
7. *Arnside* – rarely see police officers at parish council meetings since Milnthorpe police station closed down but it does still receive police reports.
8. *Attendance by county and district councillors* – Parish Charter with SLDC does mention that, during their induction training, district councillors are encouraged to attend parish council meetings. There is no current parish charter with CCC. Parishes should keep requesting attendance from district and county councillors. If parishes are unhappy, they could share this with local media and ultimately electors decide at election time. **ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to send this question in advance to CCC Karen Johnson for answering at the next District Association meeting which is hosted by CCC.
9. *Parish Charter* – Latest one with SLDC lists all the ways to interact with the district council, with named officers and contact details. It goes to Cabinet in October.

10. *Local Area Partnerships* – Mandy Lane (Colton) and Robert Courtier (Kentmere) of the Highways Working Group met with CCC Nick Raymond and Peter Hoskins. The Highways Information Management System (HIMS) is being revamped, so that people can send in photos of defects and the location can be pinpointed on a map. Public will be able to see reports and condition of roads. Parish councils are no longer directly consulted on highway priorities; only county councillors. **ACTION:** Parishes to raise this and other concerns with CCC Highways at the next District Association meeting. Maps of gullies and drains have been given to Grange and Cartmel LAP parishes for comments. Recent LAP meetings include: Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale looking at street lighting; High Furness discussing LDNPA Local Plan; Grange and Cartmel exploring NHS integrated care communities and broadband. A Flood Conference (with speakers from CCC, SLDC and Environment Agency) will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016. **ACTION:** Parishes to contact SLDC Simon Blyth for more information on the conference.

### **23/16 Reports from Representatives**

- CALC Executive Committee – David Peters
- Housing Advisory Group – David Peters

Above 2 reports were emailed out to parish clerks in advance of the meeting.

### **24/16 Dates, Times and Venues for Next Meeting & 2017 Meetings**

*Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016*      *Gilpin Bridge Inn, near Levens from 7pm*  
Hosted by CCC, with presentations on Highways and Area Planning.

*Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017*      *Gilpin Bridge Inn, near Levens, from 7pm*  
Suggested presentations include: Rusland Horizons and England Coast Path or third sector's involvement in health (eg. Gateway Centre in Kendal).