

CUMBRIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of 176th Meeting on Thursday 14th June 2018

Part 1 Meeting with South Lakeland District Council

SLDC Leader, Councillor Giles Archibald, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked parish councillors for their public service. He cited poverty and climate change as areas where SLDC is working beyond its statutory responsibilities and would love to partner with parishes on projects in these areas. There were then a series of updates on...

Community-led housing - SLDC Housing Strategy & Delivery Manager, Tony Whittaker, explained that SLDC had received £2.3 million from central government (to reflect the high number of second homes in the district). This money is being used to work with community land trusts & parish councils and to distribute grants (either capacity building or scheme) to groups. He gave examples from Skelwith & Langdale, Helsington, Windermere, Levens & Coniston (see slides for more information). Parishes can get in touch via: housingstrategy@southlakeland.gov.uk He confirmed that SLDC is the housing authority for the whole district, including the 2 National Parks.

Community resilience across South Lakeland – SLDC Director of People & Places, David Sykes, advised that, as emergency events (eg. flooding) will continue to happen, a community-level response and preparedness can really help. This is not substituting work of the principal authorities, EA etc but could cover storage of sandbags in the parish, knowledge of vulnerable people etc. Resources are available (see slides for more information) and any parish interested in doing an emergency plan should contact SLDC who can help.

Improving public health – SLDC Principle Environmental Protection Officer, Sean Hall, explained about the 5 waves of public health, with the current 5th wave working on community-development, obesity, health inequalities & the environment. SLDC is including public health in its plans. Lifestyle, community, local economy, activities and natural & built environment all contribute to improving public health. It is important to work with other organisations. Recent campaigns have included business bike parking grants and healthy menu awards (see slides for more information). One councillor stated how teenage mental health support is in crisis and there are often underlying issues around poverty. SLDC is involved in terms of housing and working with pubs & clubs. Ulverston has a Healthy Town Action Plan.

Working with Lancaster & Barrow councils – SLDC Chief Executive, Lawrence Conway, talked of an economic initiative between the three district councils around Morecambe Bay, with a memorandum of understanding signed to better use resources & face challenges, making the case to CCC, Local Economic Partnership etc.. On the positive, there is significant advanced manufacturing, two universities, a high quality of life in South Lakeland and 96% of the population live, work & shop in the Morecambe Bay area but the economy needs to be sustainable in the long term, with jobs, affordable housing etc. for young people. SLDC Leader could not comment on a question about unitary authority status as any discussions are at an early stage.

ACTION: Amanda McCleery to obtain a digital copy of the presentation and email to all parish clerks.

Other questions were then answered...

i) Parking enforcement in car parks – it was stressed that SLDC only enforce off street car parks that they own & manage (ie. CCC enforce on street parking with lines & signs). There are 3 enforcement officers on duty each day covering the whole district. There is no fixed rota for them but if parishes have any concerns, then they should contact SLDC as there may be a way of rearranging resources.

ii) Locally important projects (LIP) – parishes (and other groups) can only apply in December/January each year because any earlier and SLDC budget is still uncertain, whilst any later and applicants would not find out in April, with the new financial year. However, parishes can talk to SLDC Officers about LIP ideas at any time of year.

iii) Fly tipping – SLDC does publicise when it secures prosecutions, though the investigation and court case can take many months. SLDC will prosecute if it has sufficient evidence.

iv) All planning applications becoming digital only – SLDC has mentioned to parishes its desire to go fully digital (as part of moving to online access for all services) for a few years due to the cost of paper & printing. SLDC will support parishes with eg. projection equipment and any parishes with problems and needing help should contact SLDC.

Part 2 Association Business

9/18 Present

David Peters (Chairman & Natland); Amanda McCleery (Secretary & CALC); Frances Frankland (Barbon); Graham Pitts (Duddon); Peter Winter (Preston Patrick); Ken Dean (Colton); Cameron Yazdi (SLDC); Richard Sutton (Kendal); David Rogerson (Levens); Eve Templeton (Helsington); Helen Ladhams (Kendal); Tracy Coward (Coniston); Peter Smillie (Arnside); Leslie Johnson (Lakes); Shirley-Ann Wilson (Ulverston); Margaret Knowles (Beetham); John Stott (Stainton); Hazel Hodgson (SLDC councillor for Kendal Rural); Roger Atfield (Levens).

10/18 Apologies for absence

Leith Hallatsch (Windermere); Sedbergh parish council; Adrian Bland (Heversham); Richard Metcalfe (Crook & Winster).

11/18 Minutes

Minutes of 175th meeting, held on 8th March 2018, were approved as a true record of the meeting.

12/18 Matters arising from the minutes

- (i) *South Cumbria Rivers Trust presentation* – Amanda emailed to all parish clerks (with agenda & minutes) on 23rd April 2018.
- (ii) *Items of interest from CALC* – as there was no time in the March meeting for these, a document was produced and emailed to all parish clerks on 23rd April.
- (iii) *Nominating a councillor to attend District Association meetings* – Amanda emailed all parish clerks on 26th March 2018 and some parishes have duly nominated a councillor to attend District Association meetings.
- (iv) *Proposal to address second homes in YDNP rejected* – the proposition to increase council tax on second homes in the Yorkshire Dales National Park was rejected by one of the partner district councils, namely Richmondshire, so the initiative has stopped.

- (v) *CCC response to District Association on gully cleaning* – CCC Highway Network Manager, Peter Hosking, emailed that “only have a budget sufficient to undertake gully cleansing on A, B and C roads and a few other “on demand”. Therefore if we receive a report of a blocked gully...we will attend to that gully but cannot undertake to cleanse all gullies in that road...it is the result of austerity”.
- (vi) *3rd party agreements between parishes & CCC on highways* – Amanda explained that CCC is only in discussions with Longseddale & Dent as they have existing grass cutting arrangements in place. CCC does not know of other parish lengthmen and cannot comment on whether well managed or appropriate training and insurance certificates held. The review into 3rd party agreements and how to engage with parishes is still ongoing. Coniston explained that its lengthman cuts saplings, cleans signs, keeps the place tidy and safe. The parish council is trying to do things locally & save CCC money but keeps getting “knocked back”. **ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to write to Peter Hosking for answers to CCC’s work on 3rd party agreements, as after 6 months parishes are still waiting.

13/18 Items of Interest from Parishes, CALC and LAPs

- i) *Lakes* – Ambleside library been at risk for years. Parish council liaised with co-operative CCC. The library, manned by CCC staff, has reopened with a lift and the parish council is renting the upper floor for its office, which generates an income for CCC.
- ii) *LAPs* – Most spring agendas have covered Highways and Broadband For Rural North (B4RN) amongst other topics. Considering splitting future agendas between maintenance issues (eg. Highways) and longer term, more strategic matters (eg. barriers to volunteering).
- iii) *Liaison with district councillors* – most areas moved to 3 member set up and unclear therefore (eg. in Colton) which district councillor attends meetings of any specific parish or how responsibilities are being divided up. Suggested that 3 members get together to work it out (even if of different political parties). Some district councillors have already done this (eg. in Bowness and Levens it has been split geographically). Parishes should try to ensure that their meetings do not clash with other parishes in the same area so that their district councillors are free to attend, rather than experiencing clashes.
- iv) *Revision of CALC fee structure* – there will be information sent out to all parishes, prior to any agreement at the CALC AGM in November.
- v) *Items of interest from CALC* - **ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to put all items in one document & send to clerks with the minutes. Items covered were the following:
- SLDC New Homes Bonus
 - Grant to restore historic farm buildings in either National Park
 - SLDC’s Older People’s Housing Strategy
 - Short list of options for flood defence infrastructure on R. Kent in Kendal
 - CALC’s abridged version of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) & charges from Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO)
 - Audit
 - New structure of senior staff at CCC
 - LDNPA Area Rangers for Central & SE Distinctive Area
 - LDNPA Local Plan Review

- Friends of the Lake District's Great Cumbria Litter Pick – Friday 6th July
- Matters discussed at Western Parish Forum of YDNPA in April 2018 –
ACTION: Amanda McCleery to find out the process for election of parish member for South Lakeland & Eden and whether parishes were involved.
- Torver Neighbourhood Plan
- Holme Community-Led Plan
- Guide for county/district councillors on “building powerful communities through community asset transfer” by Locality
- County/district councillors’ workbook on “working with parish councillors” by Local Government Association
- England Coast Path

In future, Amanda to continue to put “items of interest from CALC” into one document and email it to clerks with “reports from reps” a few days before each District Association meeting. It was agreed with clerks a few years ago that all District Association paperwork would be emailed to clerks for them to forward to all councillors, so it is important that this happens.

14/18 Reports from Representatives to Other Bodies

Housing Advisory Group – David Peters

CCC South Lakeland Local Committee – Allan Muirhead & John Saunders

SLDC Standards Committee – David Peters

See attached paper on all the reports above.

15/18 Dates, Venues and Times for Future Meetings

Thursday 20th September 2018 *AGM.* Gilpin Bridge Inn, near Levens
7pm start.

ACTION: Amanda McCleery to contact Project Manager of new project “Great Place: Lakes & Dales” to give a presentation.

Thursday 29th November 2018 *CCC hosted meeting* Gilpin Bridge Inn, near Levens
7pm start.

ACTION: Amanda McCleery to organise agenda with CCC Karen Johnson. Parish suggestions include: Highways and independent living in older age (and ideas for how parish councils can support). Again if questions from parishes were sent to Amanda in advance, she would forward them to Karen for answering at the meeting.