

Cumbria Association of Local Councils

Copeland District

Minutes of a General Meeting held on the 27th March 2019

Drigg Village Hall

Chairman Keith Hitchen (Cumbria County Council)

PRESENT: -

Paul Turner (Cumbria CC)	Jane Donaldson (St Bees PC)
Grant Gilmour (St Bees PC)	Muir Lachlan (Ennerdale and K PC)
Graham Sunderland (Arlecdon and Frizington PC)	
David Faulkner (Bootle PC)	Andy Pratt (Drigg and Carleton PC)
Gillian Elliott (CCC)	Georgina Ternent (CCC)
Peter Manning (Beckermet PC)	Julie Betteridge (Copeland BC)
Gabrielle Napeleton (Millom Without PC)	
Chris Shaw (Calc Copeland Liaison Officer)	

1. Welcome and Apologies

Keith Hitchen welcomed those attending and said there was an apology from the Mayor Mike Starkey

2. Note of the meeting held on the 6th December 2018 and any matters arising

The note had been circulated earlier and was agreed.

a) Copeland Ward Review. Chris Shaw said that parish elections would be fought on the existing parish boundaries although a number of ward boundaries had changed and some parishes had been warded. He said he was anxious that the number of nominations for election to the parishes and town councils exceeded that of 2015 when almost one in four were left vacant. He reminded the meeting that the district council at the behest of CALC undertook a governance review following the 2015 election aimed at reducing the number of councillors in those parishes that considered themselves over represented. Only a small number of parishes had availed themselves of the offer.

b) Sellafield Travel Plan. It was noted that a meeting had taken place with officers from Sellafield Ltd and borough councillors but there had been no formal feedback to councillors. Muir Lachlan raised the problem of traffic on the Cold fell road. He said that the local parishes continued to complain about crew buses using the road and the fact that local contractors had not been made aware of earlier agreements. Gillian Elliott said the county council highways officers were working with Sellafield on the parking strategy and traffic management and would raise the problem again about the fell road. She said that it was apparent that some village car parks, Gosforth was used as an example, were filled by Sellafield workers to the detriment of villagers and tourists. Julie Betteridge said she would investigate the possibility of a charging policy and the law surrounding that issue.

c) Pride of Place and Town Centre Regeneration Julie Betteridge said that further to the information at the last meeting She said that a further £50k would be available in the 4 towns for public realm work and altogether £350k would be available to be spent on the four towns This sum would be matched by Sellafield Ltd which meant that in total £150k would be available to each town with £150k being held back to support a High Street bid.

3 Tourism Summit

Julie said that the tourism summit had been a great success with a number of guest speakers including Nigel Wilkinson from the Local Enterprise Partnership, Gillian Haigh from Cumbria Tourism, Peter Frost Pennington and a representative from Stagecoach. Julie circulated a note of the district council involvement and a note of the pledges obtained at the tourism summit. (Both attached). She said that between 8% and 9% of visitors to Cumbria came to Copeland and that figure had not improved over a number of years. She said that the area needed to be more proactive and pragmatic in looking to improve those numbers. A question was asked about the Red Rose tour signposts which it was believed did not help the tourist. It was noted that the signs had been in place for a number of years and needed to be either updated or taken down. A question was asked why Cumbria Tourism only seemed to promote the central lakes. It was noted that it was a member organisation and the majority of members were from that area although Julie accepted that to a large extent the Copeland area was reliant of the body to promote the Western Lakes.

4 Working Together

Gillian reminded the meeting that highways officers had spoken at an earlier meeting and that the programme was now moving forward. She said that county councils across the country were all keen to legitimise relations with parish council on highway matters to ensure that parish councils doing work over and above the statutory requirements understood the way that work must be undertaken. She said that in a number of parishes work was undertaken in house whilst other councils had lengthsman type agreements with contractors. She said either way formal arrangements were necessary and in some cases the county council would provide training and equipment. She said that county council highways officers would be contacting parish councils in the next month or so to discuss this issue Attached are slides which were handed out as a hard copy together with other documents that were handed around.

5 Health and Housing Issues

Georgina Ternent provide a public health update to the meeting (it was circulated to the parishes on the 28th March 2019 via an e-mail form Calc) She highlighted the Copeland same day health centre which it was hoped might assist the problems at the Seascale practice and the community alcohol partnership which also looked at the drug problem. Georgina was concerned that provision of information to parishes needed to be improved and to that end she was working on the county council website. Julie Betteridge spoke about the community led housing initiative in Copeland but agreed that there was no housing strategy as such for parishes. She said there were discussions with Action with Communities in Cumbria. Keith Hitchen said part of the problem was that there was no current Copeland Plan. Julie said

officers were working on a new plan and it would go out to consultation in the autumn when it would be appropriate for an officer to attend a three-tier meeting.

5 Items to mention

Julie Betteridge said that central government had required national count of rough sleepers. She said that the district council were aware of existence of rough sleepers and the individuals themselves who they tried to help.

6 Date and venue of the next meeting

Chris said that the summer meeting was normally held in the south of the district and he would plan a meeting some time in either late June or early July

Meeting closed at 7.55 pm

Regime consultation had started on the 26th September 2016 and will run until the 19th December 2016. There were a number of public meetings in Allerdale dates and venues of which could be found on the Success Regime website at www.wnecumbria.nhs.uk/consultation-events/

ii) The North West Coast Connections project by the National Grid was to begin consultation on the 28th October 2016 and run until the 6th January 2017. Pre consultation meetings for local councils had been arranged and the Allerdale meeting was to be held at Maryport on the 24th October 2016.

iii) The District Council were considering changes to the protocol for site visits. Peter Bales said that this had been undertaken which put local councils and general objectors on the same footing.

Two matters were raised by councillors

a) The Site Allocations document of the Allerdale plan. It was noted that consultation had taken place on a draft document in March 2015 but no progress had been made since the

close of the consultation Mike Heaslip said that he understood that there was to be a further document published in November 2016 and a twelve week consultation.

b) The Parish Charter. The liaison officer said that this document had fallen into disuse and he would speak to officers at the district and county councils about a re-draft.

c) Geological Disposal Facility The liaison officer said he was not aware of any later information than that in his report but he would make enquiries.

It was agreed that the report represented a fair summary of the issues that had arisen in the year.

4. Election of Officers and other representatives

a) Chairman Rick Petecki (Embleton PC) was proposed and seconded There were no other nominations and Rick Petecki was elected for the year 2016/2017

b.)Vice Chairman Peter Bales (Workington TC) was proposed and seconded. There were no other nominations and Peter Bales was elected for the year 2016/2017

It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman would represent the Allerdale district on the county executive unless either were elected by the Cumbria councils for a three year term in which case a further nomination would be made by the district.

d) Allerdale Association Executive Margaret Throp (Above Derwent PC), David Colborn (Boltons PC) and Jenny Alexander (Kirkbampton PC)) were all proposed and seconded and it was agreed that in addition to the officers they would form the executive.

Part Two

Joint meeting of the three tiers of Local Government in Allerdale

Michael Heaslip (Allerdale Borough Council) chaired the meeting.

6 Note of the Meeting held on the 30th June 2016

The note was agreed and no matters were raised from that meeting.

7 Area Planning (Cumbria CC)

Lizzy Shaw the Allerdale Local Community Services team manager for the county council spoke to this item. She said that the county council 2014/2017 area and delivery plans aimed at working with local communities to understand their needs, build on the assets which exist there - including local knowledge, energy and willingness to get involved – in order to shape services which are relevant and accessible. There was to be a review next year with local councils involved and whilst it was understood that many parish and town councils had their own plans this would look at the whole of Allerdale. She said that this area planning approach was crucial to service redesign and savings and would help communities shape their local services Lizzy said that there was also a role for the third sector as the county council recognises the value that third sector organisations have and through a compact will work with them. She said that the way the different groups worked together during the flood recovery period was a fine example. Lizzy gave examples of how the county council were at present working groups in Allerdale and mentioned the Maryport Health Assets group, the North Allerdale Youth Partnership and the Dementia action alliance. Across the county there were area based service reviews of day care and extra care housing. Lizzy referred to a number of small projects which involved the county

council and local councils where asset transfers or sharing accommodation would assist in bringing the local community better services. Lizzy was asked whether a list of buildings that were surplus to requirements could be produced. Lizzy said that it would be after the county council elections in 2017 that a new plan would be produced but that preparations should begin and all local councils including the very smallest need to become involved.

8 Allerdale Flood Recovery and emergency planning (CALC)

Rick Petecki the chairman of the Allerdale district of Calc and a member of the Allerdale Flood recovery group spoke to this item. He reminded the meeting of the devastating effects caused by Storm Desmond and the need to be prepared for future events. He said that registering on Cumbria Community Messaging was one easy and effective way of knowing what is happening and whether action needs to be taken. Rick said it was clear that all communities should have some emergency planning arrangements and whilst most of the town councils were aware of groups in their areas the need applied equally to smaller settlements. He said by being better prepared recovery was quicker and that the county council and Act websites had all the information that was required to get an emergency plan completed. Rick spoke about the Allerdale Resilience Group which Ian Frost the chief executive of Allerdale district council chaired. He said regular meetings had been held since last winter with a number of agencies and the authorities in attendance. He said it was a forum for local action and he encouraged attendance. He said that once local plans had been agreed and approved by the Cumbria Resilience Forum they were published on the Cumbria Messaging Service for wider information. It was noted that the Environment Agency representative had not always attended the meetings and that was thought to be disappointing.

9 District Council Ward Boundaries Submission (Allerdale BC)

Michael Heaslip spoke to this item as an executive member of the district council. He said that the council and the Electoral Commission were in discussions about the number of ward councillors was appropriate for the area. The council had previously taken soundings within the political parties and independents presently represented on the council and there had been a considerable degree of unanimity that a reduction from 56 to 48 would be proper. This figure had been put to the Boundary Commission who was minded to agree and so a consultation exercise had begun on the 27th September 2016 and would run until the 5th December 2016 The aim would be to keep parishes within a single ward where that was feasible and views would be sought on whether single member or multi member wards were apt.

10 Thirlmere to West Cumbria water Link

Chris Shaw said that planning applications had been submitted to Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and the Lake District National Park Authority by the developer but to date none had been resolved. Peter Bales said that the Allerdale decision would be taken at the next development meeting. Paul Titley (Keswick TC) said that there was concern about the headspace at Thirlmere and that valve changes were necessary to ensure that flooding problems were overcome. Rick Petecki spoke about legacy grant scheme that had been proposed by United Utilities and asked whether parishes outside the national park had been involved Ian Hinde (Allerdale BC) said they had been contacted.

11 Items for the next Meeting

Chris Shaw said that a meeting in December had been provisionally arranged for Allerdale house on the 8th December 2016. Paul Titley said that his council would like to have a presentation from Cumbria Tourism on their plans for 2017 and it was noted that consultation on the two principal authorities budget proposals for 2017/2018 would be underway.

The meeting closed at 8.35