

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