

LEA & COTTAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH HALL, BLACKPOOL ROAD, LEA, PRESTON AT 7.30 PM on MONDAY 13th OCTOBER 2008

PRESENT: Cllrs L Talbot (Chairman) M Clegg, V Clarke, P Helvin, P Oliver, N Ward, J Coward, V Clarke, D Lambert. S Edwards & H Noble

3 Members of the public were present.

Gill Ashall and Mark Gutteridge from Community Futures were also present by invitation to make a presentation to the Council concerning Parish Plans.

89/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs T Hart & P Jones

Apologies were also received from Cllr A Dickinson who was still unwell.

It was resolved that the reason for absence relating to Cllr A Dickinson should be approved.

90/08 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS

None

91/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 1st September 2008 should be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

92/08 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting was adjourned for public discussion

Gill Ashall made a presentation and handed out notes concerning Parish Plans. Gill and Mark Gutteridge then responded to questions and each member was provided with a hard copy of the presentation. It was emphasised that the Parish Plan was a Community initiative, that it would be necessary to gauge interest and that there was no longer any funding for such initiatives. It was mentioned that Principle Authorities were becoming more receptive to such plans all be it they had to conform to existing development policies and hence it was important to engage with not only the key people within the parish but also City and County Councillors, the Local strategic Partnership and Local Development Framework officers. Parish Plans were useful in terms of applying for grant funding since they were evidence of local needs. Mark was able to advise that the ball park cost of producing a plan for a parish of this size was £4k although much depended on available skills within the community and the level of type, quality and distribution of the finished product. It was emphasised that the plan was the beginning and not the end since actions needed to be carried through either by the Parish Council or Community groups or preferably both.

The meeting was re-convened

93/08 PARISH PLAN

Members had been asked to consider the next steps following the presentation by community futures during public participation.

It was resolved that in principle this Council was in favour of facilitating the creation of a Parish Plan and Cllrs Edwards, Coward and Lambert should form a working group to look into the question of how this might be started.

94/08 FINANCIAL MATTERS

It was resolved that the following payments should be approved

CHQ NUMBER	PAYEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
500475	2 ND LEA SCOUT GROUP	DONATION LGA S137	100.00
500476	MWK CONTRACTORS LTD	MILLER GREEN GRASS CUTTING 50% CONTRACT PAYMENT	1145.62
500477	CPRE	SUBSCRIPTION 2008	28.00
500478	GREENWOOD GARDEN SERVICES	LENGTHSMAN	546.25
500479	W V MCWHITTLE	SALARY AND EXPENSES QTR TO END SEPT 2008 Salary 2212.16 Office Allowance 125.00 Postage 19.44 Telephone & Internet 43.71 Mileage 53.40	2453.71
500480	INLAND REVENUE	QTR ENDING 30 TH SEPT 2008	986.05
500481	LONGTON PARISH COUNCIL	PHOTOCOPYING COSTS QTR TO 30/9/2008	49.92
500482	THOMAS FATTORINI	CHAIN OF OFFICE PENDANT	41.89
500483	PRINTING WORLD LTD	SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER	245.00
500484	ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH	ROOM HIRE OCTOBER 2008	25.00
500485	CA TRAFFIC LTD	SPID ACCESSORY REPLACEMENT	76.38

95/08 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2008

It was resolved that the Financial Statement as at the 30th September 2008 should be approved

96/08 LANCASHIRE LOCALS (For information only)

Cllr Ward mentioned that her experience at the last LL meeting was poor in that confusion had existed with regard to whether she was able to speak on behalf of the Parish Council particularly relating to the 87 bus service which had been withdrawn. Cllr Ward and the Clerk to this Council had made enquiries the day after the meeting and it was established that a protocol did exist but that it had been ignored. A verbal apology has since been received.

It was noted that LL had made a recommendation to LCC with a view to reinstating bus service 87 for a 3 month trial period. Final outcome from this recommendation is still awaited.

97/08 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE IN THE COTTAM AREA

Members had been asked to consider the following motions:

- That this Council actively bring pressure to bear on Preston City Council to meet its own quality standards and improve the level of service in Cottam
- That this Council should increase the lengthsman's hours by 8 per week with immediate effect (the costs for this year to be taken from existing reserves and in future years to be included in the budgetary process) in order to initially commence works on priorities identified in the maintenance report enclosed, future planned maintenance of these and other areas on an ongoing basis to supplement PCC existing services and additional works as may be identified from time to time all of which will enhance the level of services in the Cottam area for the benefit of residents.

A detailed report had already been circulated in support of the above motions and a lively debate then ensued. Concern was raised that this Council should not duplicate works which were the responsibility of other authorities and that any increase in the hours of the lengthsman should not be solely for the use of the Cottam area. There seemed however to be a general consensus that additional maintenance was justifiable in the same way that enhanced services were provided by the lengthsman to other parts of the parish. It was also mentioned that hard landscaping areas currently the responsibility of English Partnerships were scheduled to be transferred to Preston City Council and that these areas were to be brought up to scratch prior to this transfer.

An amendment to the resolution was put forward and accepted.

It was then resolved:

- **That this Council actively bring pressure to bear on Preston City Council to meet its own quality standards and improve the level of service in Cottam**
- **That this Council should increase the lengthsman's hours by 8 per week with immediate effect (the costs for this year to be taken from existing reserves and in future years to be included in the budgetary process) in order to initially commence works on priorities identified in the maintenance report enclosed, future planned maintenance of these and other areas on an ongoing basis to supplement PCC existing services and additional works as may be identified from time to time all of which will enhance the level of services in the Cottam area for the benefit of residents subject to the general proviso that all works carried out are considered 'low level maintenance' and that any 'hard landscape' areas presently owned by English Partnerships are excluded at this time on the basis that full remedial and maintenance works are expected to be required prior to a planned transfer of ownership to Preston City Council.**

98/08 LCC DRAFT CHARTER

It was resolved that this Council respond to the above Draft Charter stating that this Council welcomes the Charter and hopes that the full force of LCC will be put behind the commitments that it has made.

99/08 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2008

It was resolved that due to the unavailability of the Chairman the Vice Chairman (Cllr Clegg) should attend the Preston City Remembrance Service and lay the wreath on behalf of Lea and Cottam Parish Council

100/08 CHRISTMAS TREE 2009

Members had been asked to consider whether in future years and in line with existing arrangements for Lea a Christmas tree should be erected annually in Cottam on a site to be negotiated and agreed.

It was resolved that in principle this Council supported the provision of a Christmas tree in the Cottam area and that enquiries should be made relating to the costs and a suggestion that use should be made of an existing permanent tree in Cottam which was situated within the school grounds.

101/08 LANCASHIRE LOCALS CONSULTATION

Members had been asked to consider whether any comments should be made in response to the above consultation documents which are enclosed concerning the further development of Lancashire Locals.

It was resolved that no comments should be made to the above consultation and that it should be noted that provision is set out in the documents concerning the provision for the public to speak at LL meetings and also the ability for Parish Council representatives to make representation on any item on the agenda which affects their area.

102/08 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday the 24th November 2008