

Ribble Valley Area Committee – Draft Minutes

Date:	29th January 25		
Venue:	Clitheroe Council Chambers		
Present:	<p>Parish Clerks: Mike Hill ((LALC Chair), Longridge TC) Cllr Greera Stevenson-Norse (Wiswell (LALC Secretary & Simonstone PC)) Chris Towers (Waddington) Wendy Backhouse (Hothersall)</p> <p>Parish Cllrs.: Cllr Jacqueline Hampson (Simonstone, (LALC Exec)) Cllr Steve Houghton (Wiswell, (LALC Exec)) Cllr Gary Scott (Chatburn) Cllr David Peat (Simonstone) Borough Cllr Tony Austin (Billington & Lango) Cllr Maggy Howells (Salebury)</p> <p>Guests: Lesley Rae (LVP) Laura Warden (LCC) Debra Platt (LALC)</p>		
Meeting started:	18:30	Meeting closed:	20.23

Minute Reference 250129/RVAC/

Chair greeted everyone to the meeting

1. Apologies for absence

Melanie Russel (Mellor Parish Council Clerk) & Richard Vickers (Whalley & Wiswell, LALC Exec)

2. Approval of minutes of the meeting held on the 21st November 24. **APPROVED**

3. SPEAKERS

Laura Worden: *Partnership Development Team LCC: Discussing LCC's offer of support to Parish and Town Councils.* Laura addressed the meeting with a great insight into LCC's partnership team, and discussed with the meeting the support offered to Parish and Town Councils. items discussed where

- Match funding
- funding portal
- importance of reporting changes to clerk and councillors
- Highways district head emails

- Report it app
- Community Team email for anything to do with PC's
- Parish Championship fund, 5k pot, open to small budget grants of £500 or less
- Parish Charter

Lesley Rae: *Lancashire Volunteer Partnership LCC: To give information about their service and volunteering opportunities.*

This has been established since 2016.

Looking for people who wish to be involved in volunteering, and community projects. The main areas for volunteering are:

- Community Support,
- Adult Services,
- Children and Family Wellbeing,
- CFW and more.

Direct potential volunteers within our Parishes to LVP, they will then fill in a questionnaire where they will give full training and a DBS check. minimum volunteer commitments are for 6 months, with a minimum of 3 hrs a week.

Jacqueline Hampson offered to link with Accrington College Volunteer Pool.

Laura Warden & Lesley Rae left the meeting at 19.07

Debra Platt

Member Services & Engagement Officer: Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC) Support for Area Committees and Secretaries.

It was proposed to members to vote on the suggested secretaries honorarium of a yearly retainer of £500, with an additional contribution from each parish within the secretaries areas of £10 each. This is to increase the retention of secretaries for NALC and LALC. Debra thanked Greera (LALC RVA secretary) for being one of the good.

AGREED

Membership benefits & proposals for the administrative parishes.

Greera reported that Borough Cllr David Birtwistle was speaking with RVBC about the possibility of a small pot of funding for Administrative parish councils to be able to access training. LALC will offer administrative councils reduced access membership for training purposes.

Debra informed the members of the benefits from LALC membership

- monitoring for troubled councils
- code of conduct training
- advice on the lengthsman scheme
- policies and documents
- reduced training costs
- invitations to the LALC conference (7th June 25) @ Marriott Hotel, Preston
- NALC membership and support
- nominated executive members to sit on LALC and NALC committees

Debra informed the members that LALC is looking into its constitution and ensuring it meets the same standard as other areas.

Jacqueline talked about making parish councils more professional which goes along with the principles in the devolution paper. This involves standardising standing orders and other policies, paying their proper officers and responsible financial offers properly, and codes of conduct.

4. Update on actions from previous meeting

- **Mike** - is looking into setting up a Clerks support group for LALC members. **ONGOING (to be added to agenda for next meeting)**
- **All Members** - Consider good practice sessions, to bring back thoughts to the next meeting. examples are internet banking, email hosting, websites, planning training (available through LALC), grant applications, clerk training, legal requirements, policies and procedures, pecuniary and non pecuniary interests
DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT MEETING, ALL MEMBERS (to be added to agenda for next meeting)
- **Devolution/white paper**
An intensive discussion between members on the effects of the white paper on parish councils, as far as we can see, parish councils will still be needed and may be expected to take on more responsibility. Tony Austin, Gary Scott and David Pete spoke about their interpretation of the devolution. Parish councils should look into taking control and responsibility for parish assets, for example: playgrounds, green spaces, buildings etc that are currently managed by RVBC or LCC. Members asked about common ground in their parishes. **COMPLETE**
- **Speakers at planning applications**
to enquire how parish councils know how many speakers are allowed at planning meetings, and what dictates this. MIKE.
Mike reported that 2 parish council speakers are allowed to attend a planning meeting at which a planning application in their area is being discussed. residents can also speak and are not included in the figures.
Tony Austin suggested to mike that he take to take the time allowed at planning meetings to Parish Liaison Meetings **COMPLETE**

19.53 Gary Scott Left the meeting due to other engagements

5. Grants/Sources of funding

Cllr Stephen Houghton to give an update - Stephen contacted Sarah Wells at RVBC who pointed parish councils towards ~RVBC and LCC websites who already have all funding streams online to view. you just set up an account and put what you are looking for in the search box. you can either search for specific funding for a project or general funding.

Cllr Maggie Howells to forward funding information emails to Greera

6. Open forum - ALL MEMBERS

To ask that agendas are emailed at least a week before a meeting. **Action** - LALC RVA Secretary Greera Stevenson-Norse

7. Suggestions for the next meeting

None

8. Date and Time of next meeting

Wednesday 26th March 25. Venue to be confirmed

Signed by Chair:

Date: