

Carlisle Parish Councils Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 5 October 2010, Lacy Thompson Memorial Hall, Hallbankgate

Present - 16 representing 11 parish councils, 1 representing Carlisle City Council, 1 representing Cumbria County Council and 2 representing CALC.

Welcome & Introductions. R Auld, CPCA chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Andrew Moss, CCC Assistant Director (Highways & Transportation).

Apologies for absence were received from Arthuret PC; A McCallum, Dalston & Stanwix R PC; D Rutherford, Irthington PC; A Scorer, Stanwix R PC; M Bowman & Z Sutton, Carlisle CC and J Mallinson, CCC.

Part 1 – Cumbria County Council Highways Maintenance

Better Highways. Andrew Moss gave a presentation and answered questions on the Better Highways model. A copy of the presentation is attached. Following a trial and full roll-out in Eden in August the new way of working was introduced in the Carlisle district on 6 September. Details of the scheme with full contact details (including the 4 area teams covering the district) were sent out to all parish councils on 10 September (copy attached).

This scheme will cover the county highways network (including A69) not included in the Carlisle City Council claimed rights areas. Discussions are ongoing about the arrangements for the claimed rights areas.

Some of the points made:-

- Each job will be given an individual ID, which will create an audit trail.
- Calls to the highways hotline will be redirected to the local team.
- The local team will take ownership of any local problems reported to them and pass on to the correct person.

Winter Maintenance Programme. In his presentation Andrew Moss gave statistics of the winter road conditions for the last few years and the amount of gritting and road clearance work that was required. The winter of 2009/10 was one of the most severe and prolonged for some years and challenged the resources of both the winter maintenance team and the budget.

A report on the annual review is made to the Cabinet each September. A proposal was made this year to add an additional layer to the programme to ensure that one road in to each community would be kept open in adverse weather conditions. Unfortunately this was not agreed due to the additional cost it would incur, but it can be recalled by the cabinet for further discussion. Approval was given to the continuation of a core team that was set up last year to be reactive to extreme weather conditions. This team will meet as and when needed.

A target this year will be to establish closer working relationships with parishes in the more remote areas to be better able to respond to the problems encountered in severe weather conditions.

Some of the points made:-

- Grit bins are being refilled now. These, and grit heaps, are normally replenished when the need arises. It has been found unwise to fill them too early as the grit gets used when it is not always necessary. It is intended to make use of area teams thus making the supply more responsive to what is needed.
- Where does an individual stand if he/she clears the area outside their own property? Legal advice is that there is no risk to them if a third party is hurt as long as the clearance was carried out in good faith, and particularly if using grit supplied by the County Council.

Carlisle Parish Councils Association

Part 2 – Annual General meeting

1. **Minutes of the previous AGM held on 6 Oct 09** were agreed as a true record.
2. **Matters arising from the minutes:-**
Pt 3 Open Forum, Item 3 . proposal that some parking areas with no return within 1 hr be changed to no return within 24 hrs
ACTION: D Sheard to provide an update to the next CPCA Executive Committee meeting.
3. **Chairman's Report** . A copy of the chairman's report is attached.
4. **Treasurer's Report** for the financial year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 was accepted.
5. **Report of Representatives**
 - a. Environment Forum . no report given as rep. has received no details about meetings.
 - b. Carlisle Local Strategic Partnership . report attached.
 - c. Carlisle & Eden Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership . rep. not attended any meetings but has found the amount of supporting paperwork for meetings quite excessive.
 - d. Carlisle City Council Standards Committee . report attached.
 - e. CALC Executive . thanks were given to Ronnie Auld for his hard work for the CPCA over the year.
6. **Election of Officers** - The following officers were elected:-
 - a. Chairman . Ronnie Auld (Dalston PC). Proposer J Holland, seconder M Ridley
 - b. Vice Chairman . Craig Nicholson (Stanwix Rural PC). Proposer K McIntosh, seconder M Robinson.
7. **Election of CPCA Executive Committee** (10 parish council and 1 clerk representatives).
The following were elected:-
Ronnie Auld - Dalston PC
Jocelyn Holland - Wetheral PC
William Little - Orton PC
Craig Nicholson - Stanwix Rural PC
Mike Ridley - Irthington PC
Judith Pattinson - Brampton PC
Keith McIntosh . Cummersdale PC
Brian Craig . Dalston PC
Sue Tarrant . Wetheral PC . clerk rep.

Details are awaited of the representative from Arthuret PC, which leaves a vacancy for 1 parish council representative.
8. **Election of nominees to the CALC Executive** . The meeting agreed that the CPCA chairman would automatically be one of the representatives. Jocelyn Holland was agreed as the 2nd representative.
9. **Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies** . the following were agreed:-
 - a. Carlisle City Council Standards Committee . current representatives of William Little (Orton PC), Brian Dodd (St Cuthbert W/Out PC), Craig Nicholson (Stanwix R PC) and Arthur Scorer (Stanwix R PC) to continue.
 - b. Carlisle & Eden Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (rep. role shared with Eden Association of Local Councils) . Maggie Robinson (Wetheral PC).

Carlisle Parish Councils Association

- c. Carlisle Local Strategic Partnership Groups:-
 - i. Executive & Convenors . the meeting agreed that the representative would automatically be the CPCA chairman.
 - ii. Economic Development & Enterprise . Ronnie Auld (Dalston PC)
 - iii. Healthy Communities & Older People . to be discussed by the CPCA Executive Committee
 - iv. Rural Support . The meeting agreed that the CPCA chairman and secretary would automatically be the representatives.
 - v. Children & Young People . to be discussed by the CPCA Executive Committee
- d. Environment Forum . Craig Nicholson.

10. **CPCA Locality Working Activity** . R Auld advised the meeting of a grant of £5,000 that the CPCA has received from North West Together We Can to continue to progress Locality Working in the district. He also presented a further report from the current CPCA Locality Working project, entitled Developing Issue Based Locality Working in Rural Carlisle which was adopted by the meeting (copy attached). This will now be distributed to parish councils, Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council and other relevant organisations.

11. **Concessionary Surface Water Drainage Charges for Community Groups**. C Nicholson introduced a paper written by Stanwix Rural PC (copy attached) regarding their response to the consultation on the above surface water drainage charges. The meeting agreed that the CPCA would support the resolution agreed by Stanwix Rural PC and that all parish councils be encouraged to make a formal response to the consultation (response template attached). Further information on the subject and on the consultation, which closes on 22 October, can be found at [Guidance on Concessionary Schemes for Surface Water Drainage Charges](#).

ACTION: Secretary to send CPCA response to consultation.

12. **Date of the next meeting** - joint with Carlisle City Council at 1900 on Monday 29 November in Carlisle Civic Centre.

Part 3 - Open Forum

1. D Claxton, CALC Chief Officer, referred to government policy statements regarding the many proposed changes which will have an impact on parish councils, namely:-
 - a. The Community Right to Build if there is support from 75% of the community. The role that parish councils will have is as yet uncertain.
 - b. Abolition of Standards Committees and the Code of Conduct. What, if anything, will replace this?
 - c. Abolition of the Audit Commission who currently carry out audits for parish councils for a low fee. NALC are highlighting to the Government the need to have a similar scheme.
 - d. The Localism Bill due out in November.

NALC and CALC are making representations to the Govt for support for local councils.

CALC are involved in consultations on County and District Councils budget proposals.

The CALC AGM is at 1030 on Saturday 6 November at Westlakes Campus, Whitehaven.

2. D Sheard gave details of the Cumbria County Council consultation on the Council Plan. This can be found on the County Council website at [Have Your Say on 2011-14 Council Plan](#). A large Forum meeting to discuss this, covering all of the Carlisle district, is to be arranged in November.
3. The meeting agreed, with 2 abstentions, to a proposal made by J Holland that in view of the proposed cuts a letter should be sent to the chairman of the Joint Management Committee

Carlisle Parish Councils Association

requesting justification for the £1m given to Carlisle City Council for retained rights, and asking whether a more effective use of this money could not be made.

ACTION: Secretary to write letter.

The meeting closed at 2140.