

# Carlisle Parish Councils Association

## Minutes of the joint meeting between Carlisle City Council and Carlisle Parish Councils Association

Monday 14 June 2010, Nicholforest Village Hall

**Present** – 17 representing 12 parish councils, 14 representing Carlisle City Council, 1 representing Cumbria County Council and 2 representing CALC.

### **PART 1** – Joint Business Meeting

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** R Auld, CPCA chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the senior management team from Carlisle City Council; and David Claxton, the new CALC chief officer.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from G Richardson, CALC; R Bloxham & P Gray, Carlisle CC; K McIntosh, Cummersdale PC; A McCallum, Dalston & Stanwix R PCs; D Hammond, Nicholforest PC; J Holland & S Tarrant, Wetheral PC.
3. **Minutes of last joint meeting** held on 30 November 2009 (previously circulated) were agreed as a true record.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes** –
  - 1) Item 9, Area Maintenance Team document – the parish council information pack ‘Carlisle ... cleaner than ever’ has been updated (Jun 10) and sent out to parish councils.
  - 2) Item 10, Affordable Housing in Rural Communities – the City Council bid to the Rural Masterplan fund has been successful. Preliminary work will take place on assessing needs and parish councils will be visited for individual discussions.
5. **Development Projects** – update from City Council.
  - 1) Work on the Castle Street scheme has started.
  - 2) Carlisle Renaissance – a report is going to the City Council Executive on 4 June. The proposal is to integrate the team into the City Council Economic Development function.
  - 3) Court Square development – at their last meeting the Local Area Committee approved a report on the proposed development. This is a £2m project so will only go ahead if the budget is available. The police would be involved in any traffic management/ pedestrian safety issues.
  - 4) The Sands Centre development is in partnership with University of Cumbria. The University has an agreed business plan which the Sands Centre facility is central to. The planning application is about to be submitted with the decision to be made in October. If agreed the scheme will then go to the City Council for approval. Target for completion is Autumn 2012.
  - 5) Tullie House Trust – if formed the City Council will have a seat on the Board. Roger Cooke was appointed on 1 Apr 10 to chair the new shadow Board.
6. **CPCA Locality Working.** R Auld gave a summary of the activity that has taken place since the subject was first discussed at the chairman’s meeting held in Dalston on 1 Jun 09. Over 90 individual issues offering the opportunity for joint working were identified at a series of meetings which took place in May at a variety of venues around the district. The meetings were attended by representatives from 17 parish councils, representing over 77% of the households in the rural areas of the district. The CPCA is currently writing a detailed report and developing an action plan, in consultation with the Carlisle City Council Rural Support

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Officer and the Cumbria County Council Neighbourhood Development Officer. Once the report has been produced a 3-way meeting will be held with the City Council and the County Council to discuss the way forward.

## 7. Road Maintenance Activity in the district – update by D Sheard.

- 1) The correct procedure for giving feed back on winter maintenance activity is through Neighbourhood Forums.
- 2) A proposal will be going to the County Council Cabinet for improvements to the winter maintenance programme for next winter.
- 3) The contract with Capita ends at the end of January, and with Amey next March.
- 4) A trial of the new 'Area Teams' system is currently taking place in part of the Eden district.
- 5) Issues with maintenance work within 30 mph zones – the City Council and the County Council need to have a joint discussion to resolve the problems.
- 6) Salt bin provision by the County Council – parish councils to contact D Sheard and he will look into it.

**ACTION:** Secretary to invite Marie Fallon (Corporate director, Environment) to present a report on Area Teams to the CPCA AGM, or to the joint meeting next year.

## 8. Green Box Collections. A new system started on 1 June with new rounds and new crews. 98% of the district now has collection of cardboard and plastic. There are some FAQs on the City Council website at the following link - [Green Box FAQs](#).

## 9. Review of the Parish Charter. The Parish Charter for the Carlisle district was launched in Mar 07; encompassing the City Council, the County Council and Parish Councils; and is due for review in 2011. On 5 Feb 10 a review of the effectiveness of the 4 district Parish Charters was discussed, following which a questionnaire for parish councils has been developed by a countywide group and is now available on the CALC website (<http://www.calc.org.uk/>), ending on 10 Sep 10. A similar, though smaller scale, survey will follow with staff from the principal authority who have most dealings with parish councils. Based on the results the countywide group will recommend a line of approach to the Carlisle Parish Charter review. It is expected that this will be available for discussion at the next joint CPCA/ Carlisle City Council meeting on 29 November.

## 10. Any Other Business.

- 1) M Mooney talked about the Government's message to cut the public deficit. £6.2b savings are to be made. The County Council has received much more information but the main summary points are:-
  - The revenue support grant is not to be touched.
  - In Cumbria the overall cuts are £3.4m; Allerdale & Eden – no cuts, Carlisle - £18k, Copeland - £98k.
  - In 2013 as well as the £18k savings the City Council need to make £3m savings plus any future savings figures. This may mean 15 – 20% cuts.
  - Queen's speech referred to decentralisation of services, and the Localisation Bill which would give devolved powers to local councils. This could prove more costly locally.
  - Standards Board may be abolished.
  - Review of local government finance, to be set in place by Eric Pickles.
  - RDA bids for funds being cut back if not already approved. The future of the NWRDA is at risk.
  - Local Enterprise Partnerships are proposed – made up of local businesses, local councils and communities.

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- Audit Commission assessments to be cut.
- Regional Housing Strategy is cut, local government will be responsible.
- Spending by local councils over £500 to be made visible on-line.

The City Council will communicate information as it becomes available but as things are happening very quickly it soon goes out of date.

Parish Councils will also need to look at their own finances in order to make savings.

- 2) Maintenance of Rural Footpaths – J Gooding has some notes on this topic.

**ACTION:** J Gooding to e-mail copy of notes to secretary to go out with meeting minutes.

- 3) M Bowman asked that 'Lakes Alive' programme be circulated to parish councils.

**ACTION:** M Mitchelson to action.

11. **Next joint CPCA/Carlisle City Council meeting** – 1900 on Monday 29 November 2010 at the Civic Centre, Carlisle to be hosted by Carlisle City Council.

## **PART 2** – CPCA business meeting chaired by R Auld, CPCA chairman.

1. **Minutes** of the last meeting held on 23 March 2010 were not available.  
Post meeting note: these were sent out to parish councils on 14 Jun 10.
2. **CPCA Parish Council & Village Hall Grants 2010/11, round 2** – the recommendations were agreed. The grants sub-committee comprises CPCA chairman (R Auld), CPCA secretary (G Dumbleton), J Holland (substitute), W Little, C Nicholson & J Gardiner.
3. **Representative on Carlisle City Council Standards Committee** – as 2 nominations were received a paper ballot was held.  
Ballot result:        Brian Dodd, St Cuthbert Without PC - 11 votes  
                              John Kelsey, Dalston PC - 4 votes  
                              Spoilt paper - 1  
Brian Dodd was accordingly nominated as the representative to the Carlisle City Council Standards Committee.
4. **Brampton Economic Partnership (BEP)**. Mike Fox summarised the aims and priorities of the BEP and stressed how important it is that parish councils in the area covered by the BEP plan should take an active role in activities. Information on the BEP and notes of meetings can be found at the following link - [BEP](#).
5. **Any other business** – none
6. **Next meeting** – CPCA AGM at 1900 on Tuesday 5 October 2010 at Lacy Thompson Memorial Hall, Hallbankgate.

The meeting closed at 2100.