

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC)

Chorley Area Committee

MINUTES of meeting held on Monday, 4 November 2024 at 7pm in Committee Room 1, Chorley Town Hall, Market Street, Chorley, PR7 1DP

Attending: Darren Cranshaw (Brindle) Chairman
Alan Platt (Heapey, Ulnes Walton, Eccleston)
Katrina Reed (Euxton)
Caroline Turner (Croston)
Dedrah Moss (Whittle)
Laurence Elphick (Heskin)
Alan Cornwell (Charnock Richard)
Mike Miller (Eccleston)
Lyn Moores (Coppull)
Colin Grunstein (Heapey)
Debra Platt and John Ashurst from LALC
Ann Alty, Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition
John Scott, Geographic Inspector, Chorley & South Ribble Constabulary

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

County Councillor Paul Rigby sent his apologies along with members from Adlington, Bretherton, Coppull and Wheelton.

2. Policing of Chorley Parishes – Inspector John Scott, Geographical Inspector for Chorley & South Ribble – Lancashire Constabulary

John discussed in detail his role for our areas, overseeing crimes and looking for patterns. The initiatives the Police run and trends in burglaries, retail crime. He covered orders such as civil orders and anti-social behaviour orders and seasonal work projects such as bright sparks for fireworks.

The New Police Station will be coming soon which will cover the area better.

He can produce monthly crime reports for parishes and these can cover areas such as car crime, break ins, damage etc. and includes some outcomes and detections.

John wants to communicate with the parishes and asked for best ways to tell the public relevant information and crime prevention advice. This could be done through noticeboards, newsletter articles and social media posts.

Everyone thanked John for the information and his time.

3. Lancashire County Council engagement – County Councillor Paul Rigby, Parish Champion

Cllr Rigby could not attend but he does regular newsletter for the parishes, circulated through the parishcouncils@lancashire.gov.uk email channel.

Cllr Rigby has a grant pot which parishes can apply to – see all the info on the grant: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/parish-and-town-councils/parish-champion/>

4. Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition – benefits of entering, how it works and recent local successes

Ann Alty attended to discuss the competition with councils and how the organisation has been updating categories to make the competition 'more relevant'. There are some new categories and an awareness on sustainable solutions. Volunteer judges are always needed. Ann thanked LALC for its sponsorship of the competition.

All information on the competition: www.lancashirebestkeptvillage.co.uk and Ann available on mail@lancashirebestkeptvillage.co.uk

5. LALC Update and Round-up

Darren Cranshaw is on the LALC Executive and there are 3 seats all together, so there are 2 vacancies. He updated on LALCs changes in recent times. LALC has transformed and modernised itself since December 2022. Membership is rising and this results in better services for members without the need to raise membership fees too much each year.

LALCs improved relationship with Lancashire County Council was an objective achieved in the initial months and this improved relationship has meant we now work together on projects for parishes in the county area, such as the Charter, new service level agreement funding bringing forward grants to parish councils for training and Clerk development.

LALCs AGM was on Saturday the 2nd November and Debra Platt, LALCs Membership and Engagement Officer reported on the new initiatives coming from the meeting.

The AGM approved budgets for projects to assist parish councils in a number of areas which Councils have been requesting help with: Local Council retention (Councillors & staff); Mentoring for Councils in difficulties; Support for the smaller sized Local Councils; 'Task & Finish' groups to tackle issues in the sector; also Networking and building and support for Area Committees and Recruitment and retention of membership.

John Ashurst, LALCs Area Support Officer updated on his role which is to support Area Committees around the county to run and function, bring to members up to date subjects and materials and best practices.

6. Information Exchange – opportunity for councils to swap ideas, share hints and challenges

Members discussed how the Council were above to gift prizes for competitions.

A project was explained to members which Euxton undertook to create a village calendar with photos supplied by residents, a competition for winners photos appearing in the calendar, local groups selling the calendars to raise funds for their group.

A member raised an issue of the lack of suitable housing for family members with disabilities.

7. Any Other Business
8. Items for future meetings

Members discussed some subjects which could be topics for future meetings:

- Highways England - route planning manager
- Laura Worden from LCC Partnerships section
- Trading Standards at LCC
- Website compliance and accessibility legislation
- Banking arrangements
- Bus routes and stops

9. Date and time of next meeting

It was agreed that these Area Committee meetings should avoid clashing with the Chorley Liaison meetings which cover different subjects that Chorley is bringing forward to Parishes. Possibly a month or two apart.

Members present expressed they were happy with the LALC Chorley Area Committee meeting and how valuable they thought it was and needed, so parishes can talk and share ideas with their neighbouring councils, seek best practices and ideas for projects.

Chair closed the meeting.