

Minutes of the Fylde Area Committee Meeting held on 11/9/23

Present: Angela Normanton (Bryning with Warton), Elizabeth Squires (Kirkham TC), Maggie Ledger(Kirkham TC), Laura Worden (LCC), Debra Platt (LALC), Peter Bull (Little Eccleston), Allan Oldfield (Fylde B.C.), Peter Collins (Newton with Clifton) Alex Walton (Westby with Plumpton), Gordon Smith (TRW), Paul Rigby (LCC) John Ashurst (LALC)

Item 1. Present and Introductions. Please see Attendance List above.

The new Area Committee Support Officer John Ashurst gave a brief introduction as regards the purpose of the meeting and introduced the Guest speakers, Allan Oldfield, Chief Executive of Fylde BC , Debra Platt LALC Members Services and Engagement Officer and LCC Councillor Paul Rigby, LCC Parish Champion

Item 2. Apologies from Councillor Glyn Stead

Item 3. Appointment of Fylde Area Committee Chairman

Councillor Glyn Stead was nominated by Peter Collins (Newton with Clifton) and seconded by Peter Bull (Little Eccleston) and elected unopposed as Chairman. In his absence John Ashurst continued as Chairman for the rest of the meeting.

Item 4. Allan Oldfield, Chief Executive of Fylde BC addressed the meeting giving an extensive insight into the responsibilities and challenges facing the Borough ranging from the threats to continuing levels of service provision, active/healthy lifestyle initiatives, the regeneration projects scheme to the problems of recruitment of various professionals and the possibility of sharing professional expertise and services. His input was much appreciated by members.

Item 5. Debra Platt outlined the role of LALC, offering extensive advice and services to members, distributed leaflets regarding Advice on Finance and VAT, brand new training courses available to Councillors and Clerks and other specialist advice such as recruitment, Legal etc. Debra also agreed to distribute a copy of the current Parish Charter.

Item 6. LCC Councillor Paul Rigby in his address, expressed the view that all Parishes should be members of LALC which exists primarily to provide help and support Parishes particularly their Clerk. He went on to explain his role as Parish Champion and that there were limited funds for distribution to the 214 parishes in Lancashire but all applications to him for funding would be considered.

Also, the current Parish Charter is being reviewed following an initiative by the LCC to encourage more engagement with the sector.

Item 7. Councillor Peter Collins agreed to forward copies of the reports on the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals and the Electricity Transmission Route for distribution to members for their consideration. He also indicated the difficulties regarding the reporting of problems to the Highways Dept, which LCC needs to address.

Item 8. Future Agenda Items/ Topics

Highways Performance Standards

Public Rights of Way

Training of new Councillors and Clerks

Item 9. It was agreed that Area Committee meetings would meet 4 times a year and one month before the Parish Liaison Group meetings to avoid any duplication of effort.

Date of next Fylde Area Committee Meeting is in early December 2023 at a time date and location to be confirmed. (Suggest Monday 4th December at Kirkham).

Meeting closed at 9 pm