

DRAFT MINUTES/ACTIONS

Ribble Valley Area Committee

Wednesday 25 March 2026 @ 6.30pm Foxfields Hotel

Whalley Rd, Billington (near Clitheroe), BB7 9HY | 01254 822 556

Attendance

RV Area Committee Executive: Cllr Jacqueline Hampson (Simonstone), Cllr Stephen Houghton (Wiswell), Cllr Maggy Howells (Salesbury)

Cllr Attendees: Cllr Richard Vickers (Whalley), Cllr Alan Scholfield (Wiswell), Cllr David Peat (Simonstone), Cllr Tony Austin (Billington), Dennis Johnson (Billington & Langho), Mark Gornhall (Longridge TC), Isaac Nutter (Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley – Hurst Green)

Clerk Attendees: Liz Howarth (Whalley), Wendy Backhouse (Hothersall), Fran Ahearne (Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley – Hurst Green)

Guests: Sarah Wells (Partnerships Officer, Ribble Valley Borough Council)

Minutes taken by: Jacqueline Hampson

Minutes and Action Notes

1. Welcome and Apologies

Laura Worden (LCC Communities Manager) apologised for not being able to attend and sent assurances she would definitely attend the May meeting, where she would also bring the new *Parishes Officer* who starts in April.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

As the Area Secretary has been unavailable no minutes are available for sharing.

3. Chair's Announcements

Discussed running order of topics and introduced Sarah Wells of Ribble Valley Borough Council (RVBC).

Chair announced, in the absence of an Area Secretary, she would do the minutes for the meeting and circulate within a fortnight.

Future Meetings **2026: 27 May (AGM)**, 22 July, 23 Sept **2027: 20 Jan, 24 Mar, 19 May (AGM)**

Ribble Valley Area Executive: Chair Jacqueline Hampson, Stephen Houghton, Maggy Howells

Area Secretary: Email: RibbleValley@LALC.org.uk

Additional responsibilities: *Jacqueline Hampson (LALC Executive: Finance & Management)*

Stephen Houghton (Forest of Bowland NL Joint Advisory Committee)

4. Sarah Wells: Overview of Funding Opportunities and Partnerships Work

Sarah provided an overview of the work she does leading the Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing Partnerships to meet the needs of residents by co-designing improvements with local people. Sarah generates opportunities and funding for parishes and towns within the Ribble Valley. Fortunately for the Ribble Valley, Sarah's post has been converted to full-time enabling her to dedicate more to helping people access the resources they need.

Social Prescribing	The RVBC work with the local CVS (Community Voluntary Support) to advise and assist with helping isolated people overcome transport barriers. They can be contacted directly here: Home - Hyndburn & Ribble Valley CVS
Transport problems	<p>Sarah Wells and Tony Austin, in his borough councillor role, had combined to help secure the Clitheroe to Settle bus route which was bringing additional transport options to residents and facilitating extra tourism opportunities for tourists and visitors.</p> <p>Transport remains a barrier to residents accessing services and Sarah continues to work with parishes, local providers and LCC to rectify this where possible.</p> <p>Some form of local voluntary service for those in rural areas may be beneficial in the long term where the Little Green Bus cannot facilitate journeys.</p> <p>Little Green Bus Creating Sustainable Transport</p>
Funding Bids	<p>If you would like support to complete funding applications or understand the span of grants available, the CVS is a good source of advice and support for this. If you would like to know more about grants from RVBC please contact the relevant department or Sarah Wells for more information.</p> <p>Post-meeting note: Is this an area members would like a guest speaker to dedicate some of our time to?</p>
Grants	RVBC have a number of different grants available to individuals, councils and community groups. Such as Sporting Excellence (assists talented residents of a variety of ages to progress in their sport, previously

Future Meetings 2026: 27 May (AGM), 22 July, 23 Sept 2027: 20 Jan, 24 Mar, 19 May (AGM)

Ribble Valley Area Executive: Chair Jacqueline Hampson, Stephen Houghton, Maggy Howells

Area Secretary: Email: RibbleValley@LALC.org.uk

Additional responsibilities: Jacqueline Hampson (LALC Executive: Finance & Management)

Stephen Houghton (Forest of Bowland NL Joint Advisory Committee)

	<p>helped a resident become a 2024 Olympian) and Christmas Tree Lights Fund (grants up to £150 per council).</p> <p>Lunch Club (redirecting money from the Government's Meals on Wheels cancelled funding) has expanded a little to incorporate funding for Warm Spaces. If you have a space available and would like to discuss funding (up to £800 per venue) please contact Sarah.</p> <p>Grants – Ribble Valley Borough Council</p>
Housing grants	Lots of funding available via different grant options, such as Energy Efficiency Grants, help with oil and heating costs. <i>Check RVBC website and its Housing section.</i>
Disabled Facilities Grants	Now includes Neurological Grants (up to £2,000 per home) for residents living with neurological conditions.
Oil & Gas Relief	RVBC will be releasing funds to support those in crisis due to the increased cost of oil. Available via the Crisis & Resilience Fund- RVBC hope to have this fund live on the website by Friday 17 th April.
Homelessness	RVBC's Homeless Prevention Officer is currently supporting around 35 people and has very quickly established herself as a compassionate and efficient first port of call for those in their moments of crisis, a wonderful addition to the RVBC team.
Domestic Abuse	Residents don't have to start their request for help with the Police, they can approach HARV as our dedicated domestic abuse support provider in the first instance and contact RVBC should they need emergency housing support. They can be supported from the start to receive the help, protection and support they need. The wide range of help offered varies according to each person's need and covers a lot more than many people would anticipate they could be helped with. So please encourage residents to ask for help when they need it. HARV
Transport	Lancashire Combined Authority is currently writing their next 3/5-year transport policy, please stay alert to requests for information.

Future Meetings 2026: 27 May (AGM), 22 July, 23 Sept 2027: 20 Jan, 24 Mar, 19 May (AGM)

Ribble Valley Area Executive: Chair Jacqueline Hampson, Stephen Houghton, Maggy Howells
Area Secretary: Email: RibbleValley@LALC.org.uk

Additional responsibilities: Jacqueline Hampson (LALC Executive: Finance & Management)
Stephen Houghton (Forest of Bowland NL Joint Advisory Committee)

For more information about any of the above, please visit the council's website or contact Sarah for more details.

Contact: Sarah.Wells@RibbleValley.gov.uk | 01200 414506 |

<https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/people-communities>

[Partnerships – Ribble Valley Borough Council](#)

Post Meeting note : Our thanks to Sarah for providing direct links to the resources mentioned in her presentation and for reviewing our notes from her section to ensure we had covered everything from her comprehensive presentation.

5. LALC Update

Chair and Executive Delegates provided an update on the work being outlined for LALC's potential restructure and change of legal status.

The legal status check was instigated by LALC Secretary, Jess Dibble, who as part of her introductory discussions with LALC became curious about the legalities of our current structure, in part due to her previous experience as a para-legal. Having consulted with other regional associations of local councils (also referred to as *RALCS* or *regional ALCs*) Jess put a discussion document forward to the Executive that also raised questions about the personal liability of Executive members under the current structure. Subsequently, the Executive have agreed to take legal advice on the options available to LALC so all members can have an informed discussion about which steps to take next.

Work on the Constitution and changes to election processes for the LALC Chair are presently on hold whilst the legal processes are considered. The aim is still to have everything in place for the November AGM.

RV Chair has been assured by the LALC Chair and Chief Officer that there is adequate insurance in place at present, and that a copy of the insurance will be circulated to members.

All members and clerks encouraged to attend LALC meetings that will be held to announce and discuss potential changes in coming months. LALC Secretary will be emailing parish and town councils with details when dates are known, so please ensure Secretary@LALC.org.uk and RibbleValley@LALC.org.uk have the correct details for all councillors and clerks.

Future Meetings **2026: 27 May (AGM)**, 22 July, 23 Sept **2027: 20 Jan, 24 Mar, 19 May (AGM)**

Ribble Valley Area Executive: Chair Jacqueline Hampson, Stephen Houghton, Maggy Howells

Area Secretary: Email: RibbleValley@LALC.org.uk

Additional responsibilities: Jacqueline Hampson (LALC Executive: Finance & Management)

Stephen Houghton (Forest of Bowland NL Joint Advisory Committee)

If you're unable to attend please read the discussion documents and either share your details with Jacqueline Hampson, your Area Chair, and/or LALC Secretary Jess Dibble (*details for both above*).

6. RV AGM

Chair reminded everyone that all positions are up for their annual election at our May AGM and members are encouraged to speak to the Chair or Executive Delegates if you would like to discuss any of the roles and learn more about what's involved.

Roles to be elected at AGM

- Chair (need to confirm if Chair has to be from Executive Delegate pool)
- Vice-Chair
- 4 Executive Delegates
- Area Secretary

Terms of Reference for the roles will be circulated with the official AGM Notification and Invitation for Nominations.

7. Open Forum

Diary dates agreed for May and September (please see footer, where some provisional dates for other months are also included).

27 May	AGM and LCC Special
22 July	<i>RV Area Summer Social (proposed)</i>
23 September	Topics and/or Speaker to be confirmed at a later date

LALC Dates for the Diary

13 June	LALC Spring Conference
14 November	Provisional date for LALC AGM

All encouraged to suggest any topics or speakers you would like for future meetings.

8. Social Time

Enjoyed by all

9. Date of next meeting

6.30pm 27th May at Foxfields, Billington (Teas & Coffees from 6.15)

Future Meetings 2026: 27 May (AGM), 22 July, 23 Sept 2027: 20 Jan, 24 Mar, 19 May (AGM)

Ribble Valley Area Executive: Chair Jacqueline Hampson, Stephen Houghton, Maggy Howells
Area Secretary: Email: RibbleValley@LALC.org.uk

Additional responsibilities: Jacqueline Hampson (LALC Executive: Finance & Management)
Stephen Houghton (Forest of Bowland NL Joint Advisory Committee)