

PARISH REVIEW WORKING PARTY

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31 MAY 2005

Present: Councillors G Clements; AJ Johnston; N Williams; A Wonnacott

An apology for absence was received from Councillor PD Tyson

Officers: T Chilcott, Corporate Director (Quality of Life); T Capper, Principal Officer (Secretariat)

Also in attendance: T McMullen, CALC.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12 September 2003 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Appointment of Chairman

It was moved by Councillor G Clements, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – that Councillor N Williams be appointed Chairman for the current year.

Quality Parishes

Tom McMullen, Quality Parishes Co-ordinator for CALC, gave a presentation on the Quality Parishes Development Programme in Cumbria, and how partnership working between CALC and the Borough Council might assist parishes in the Borough to achieve Quality Parish status. The aims of the QPDP were noted, together with the criteria for Quality Parish Status against which aspiring parishes would be assessed. It was noted that improved interaction between Borough and Parish Councils would be directly relevant to the Borough Council's key objectives for the current year.

It was noted that Lamplugh Parish Council was expected to be assessed for Quality Parish Status (as a pilot scheme) in the near future and consideration was given to recommending the Executive to assist Lamplugh in achieving the electoral mandate criteria (80% of Councillors to be elected). Assistance would be in the form of financial support for additional election costs and would be without prejudice to consideration of similar requests from other parishes in the future. It was agreed that, as Quality Parish status would bring the opportunity for devolvement of services from district to parish level, early discussions with Lamplugh on the detail of how devolvement of services could

be approached would be mutually beneficial. Publicity on the Council's support for the pilot would also be needed.

The Working Party considered other areas in which partnership working between the Borough Council and parishes might assist the Quality Parishes Development Programme, and improved interaction between district and parishes generally.

RESOLVED – that Executive be recommended that

- (a) Assistance be provided to Lamplugh Parish Council towards increased election costs in connection with achieving the Electoral Mandate for QP status, on the basis of meeting up to 75% of costs of contested seats and 50% of uncontested seats.
- (b) Whenever possible and appropriate, training opportunities provided for Borough Council members and officers be extended to representatives of Parish Councils.
- (c) Wherever possible space be provided in Copeland Matters and the Copeland Web Site for Parishes.
- (d) Consideration is given to designating a named officer of the Borough Council to act as liaison officer for parishes.

Parish Charters

The Working Party considered a first draft of the parish charter produced by CALC, proposed as a basic agreement between district and parishes (both QPS accredited and non accredited parishes) to clarify and improve working arrangements.

It was agreed that the first draft be accepted in general terms as a basis for consultation and further discussion.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm

Chairman