

***NOTE THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION AT THE
NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE***

TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS' LIAISON COMMITTEE

10th April 2025

Present: Councillor Bright, Hudson and S Swinburn.

P Fieldgate
K Swinburn
B Barford
D Johnson
D Poucher

T Crofts
M Archer
A Moss

Healing Parish Council
Immingham Town Council
Laceby Parish Council
Laceby Parish Council
New Waltham Parish Council (in the
Chair)
Stallingborough Parish Council
Waltham Parish Council
Waltham Parish Council

Also in attendance:

PC Wilkinson – Humberside Police
Tom Clay – ERNLLCA
Neil Clark – Regulatory Services Strategic Lead (North East Lincolnshire Council)
Jade Hassan – Environmental Health and Housing Manager (North East Lincolnshire Council)
Paul Windley – Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager (North East Lincolnshire Council)

LM.29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Barnoldby Le Beck Parish Council, Councillor Dawkins (North East Lincolnshire Council), Councillor Holland (North East Lincolnshire Council) and Councillor Raper (New Waltham Parish Council).

LM.30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by any Committee Member in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

LM.31 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Town and Parish Council Liaison Committee held on 23rd January 2025 be approved as a correct record.

LM.32 POLICING MATTERS

The committee received an update from Humberside Police on policing matters within the Borough.

PC Wilkinson advised on current operations within North East Lincolnshire, including days of actions that had taken place in Immingham and Healing to address issues relating to anti-social behaviour and off-road motorbikes.

Councillor Fieldgate raised an issue with the positioning of a speed camera van close to a pedestrian crossing on Great Coates Road in Healing. The van had blocked a signal and was a potential hazard for pedestrians wanting to use the crossing. He had reported this to the police but had been told to contact North East Lincolnshire Council, who had advised that the police told them where to park the van.

PC Wilkinson advised that the only time that the police would advise on parking would be if there were special operations underway in a particular area. However, she was aware of this issue and would report back once she had received a response.

It was reported that there had been a strong smell of cannabis across the village of Habrough. PC Wilkinson responded that she would report this and encouraged residents to keep reporting such issues.

Councillor Moss noted that Waltham Parish Council had received a police report that stated no anti-social behaviour had been reported. He questioned this as he was aware that there had been reports. PC Wilkinson agreed to check the report as she was aware that some issues had been identified resulting in a conversation with a couple of children. This led to a discussion around the process for dealing with criminal behaviour by under 16-year-olds.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

LM.33 ABANDONED VEHICLES

The committee received an update on abandoned vehicles. This followed on from the issue being initially raised and considered at the meeting of this committee in October 2024.

Mr Clark explained that there was no legal definition of an abandoned vehicle and a number of different factors were involved but they would not investigate vehicles that had broken down, were dangerously parked or were untaxed. Abandoned vehicles could be reported via a dedicated page on the North East Lincolnshire Council website or via the main council telephone number. When reporting, photographs and detailed descriptions were requested but reports would be accepted without photographs. Vehicles that were burnt out or attracting anti-

social behaviour would be dealt with immediately but the general response time was 10 working days. In terms of demand, there were 435 reports of abandoned vehicles last year. Only 15% of those were deemed abandoned. 19% had gone when visited. 3% were referred to the DVLA. Mr Clark explained that the process for cost recovery was set out in statute. It was often difficult to identify the responsible party and one fixed penalty notice had been issued with regard to an abandoned vehicle.

Councillor Moss referred to the incident that had led to the issue being raised at this committee in October 2024 and noted that he had been told that the case would be closed unless a photograph was provided. Ms Hasan confirmed that this was not a requirement and agreed to make sure that this was clear in written correspondence and within advice provided when reporting via the telephone.

The committee discussed responsibility for dealing with issues arising from abandoned vehicles and it was noted that information was shared between the council, the police and DVLA.

Councillor Archer enquired whether this covered vehicles on private land.

Ms Hasan confirmed that they did deal with vehicles abandoned on private land but it was the landowner's responsibility to inform the council. A 15 day notice can be issued to the owner of the land but they can give permission for the council to remove the vehicle.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

LM.34 HIGHWAYS/TRAFFIC UPDATE

In the absence of a Highways Officer, the committee did not receive its usual update on highways/traffic matters. However, the committee was invited to raise any issues, which would then be reported back.

Councillor Bright raised an issue around works currently being carried out by Cadent at the Willows/Wybers junction. Buses were struggling to get around St Nicholas Drive and the situation wasn't being helped by a lack of appropriate signage.

A further general issue was raised about roadwork warning signs being put up some distance from the actual works but without information on where the works were taking place. This then led to drivers taking an alternative route when they could have reached their destination if it was prior to the roadworks. The recent works at Ashby Top were raised as an example.

RESOLVED – That the issues raised above be reported back to the Highways team for a response.

LM.35 ISSUES RAISED BY TOWN/PARISH COUNCILS

The committee considered the following issue raised by Waltham Parish Council:

The Parish Council would like to do more partnership work with NELC by improving communication between NELC and parish councils. The Council would like it to be a positive discussion about making improvements rather than singling out specific instances for NELC to explain.

What brought about this discussion at the meeting was a situation whereby the councillors noticed that a piece of play equipment had been removed from a play area in Waltham, leaving a large patch of empty safety surfacing. I enquired and found that it had been removed and would not be replaced. The budgetary reasons were explained by the NELC officer, and the councillors accepted this but at the same time expressed disappointment that the Parish Council does not get to hear about things like this that affect the village. In this instance, the Council wants to help and has asked me to obtain quotations for replacing the see-saw that has been removed.

The Council appreciates that a charter is in place but feels it does not always pave the way for the two tiers to work together as effectively as possible.

The Parish Council's question - is there scope for communication to be improved in both directions for the benefit of the Council, the Authority, the place and the community? Included in this would be the effectiveness of the Portal and the flow of information in both directions on local matters.

The committee discussed the issue and a general concern was raised about lack of communication around matters impacting on parish areas. It was noted that this also extended to ward councillors.

Mr Windley noted that communication was a key element of the Town and Parish Charter and he noted that any examples of non-compliance with the charter should be reported to him in the first instance. He agreed to recirculate the charter within North East Lincolnshire Council, noting the likelihood of staffing changes since the charter was last circulated. He also agreed to raise the issue with senior management of the council.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Town and Parish Charter be recirculated within North East Lincolnshire Council with a reminder about the importance of communication with town and parish councils on matters impacting on parish areas.

2. That the issue of communication with parish councils be raised with senior management at North East Lincolnshire Council.

LM.36 CONSULTATIONS

The committee received an update on current consultations being conducted by North East Lincolnshire Council.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

LM.37 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

There were no member development issues raised by committee members.

LM.38 REFERRALS TO SCRUTINY

There were no matters referred to Scrutiny.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.46 pm.