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THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON TUESDAY 27 JULY 2010. MINUTE NOS 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 AND 28 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO 'CALL-IN'.

FORMBY AREA COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD AT THE FORMBY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, PARK ROAD, FORMBY ON THURSDAY 15TH JULY, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Cuthbertson (in the Chair)
Councillors Doran, Dutton, Griffiths, Ibbs and McIvor.

ALSO PRESENT: 5 members of the public and Inspector Jim Atherton, Dedicated Neighbourhood Police Officer, Merseyside Police.

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Cawley, Parish Councillor Jenkins, Parish Councillor Starkey and Mr. P.G. Thornton, Advisory Group Member.

Apologies had also been received from Hannah Chellaswamy, NHS Sefton and Mr. David Adams, Chair of the Woodland Monitoring Group, who had submitted their annual report to the meeting.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to the inclusion of Parish Councillor Starkey on the list of those present, the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

19. ACTION FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Steve Honess, Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes was standing in for Sue Ashe and Janette Maxwell who were unable to attend the meeting. He indicated that there were no actions to update on at this time, but Sue Ashe and Councillor Cuthbertson had arranged to meet separately on 21 July 2010.

20. OPEN FORUM

The following questions were received for consideration during the Open Forum:

- 20 (a) A request had been received from Mr. Coles, Chairman of Formby Parish Council (FPC) regarding parking problems in various parts of Formby, but in particular near to the train stations, the Chapel Lane area and the satellite shopping areas, specifically those close to schools and requesting that the Council undertake a survey of areas listed and for the Committee to lend its support for this work.

The Committee felt that as the FPC had already met with Mr. Marrin, Traffic Services Manager, together with Formby Councillors and Officers from Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes, on 11 June 2010, this issue was already being dealt with and it was agreed that the Area Committee could take no further action on the matter.

- 20 (b) A request had been received from Parish Councillor Powrie on behalf of Formby Parish Council requesting an additional contribution of £3,000 towards the improvements in Chapel Lane, such as guard rails and also planters for the Neighbourhood in Bloom Competition in July.

The Chair indicated that she had already been sent the FPC's request and had asked for further information in the form of an itemised list of costs before the Committee could consider it.

Parish Councillor Powrie indicated that in 2008, the Area Committee had already agreed to contribute towards funding the improvements at a rate of £3,000 per year subject to funding being available.

It was agreed that the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director be requested to locate any documentation relating to approval of funding and report back to the Chair.

- 20 (c) Inspector Atherton had submitted 2 requests from Merseyside Police for funding:
- (i) As part of Operation Beachsafe, a request for £1,350.00 for signs to be attached to lamp posts conveying a message of zero tolerance towards alcohol consumption on the beach and around Formby; and
 - (ii) £1,600 to provide diversionary activities in the form of generic passes to Rampworxs Aintree for local youths skateboarding and riding BMX bikes.

The Chair indicated that the requests had been received too late for the Committee to consider them on this occasion, and it was agreed that Members would meet with Inspector

Atherton immediately following the meeting to discuss the requests.

21. POLICE ISSUES

Referring to the crime statistics provided with the agenda, Inspector Jim Atherton updated on crime and policing in the Formby area during May and June 2010 compared with the same months in the previous two years (2008 and 2009).

* He pointed out one amendment to the statistics in respect of 'Burglary Dwelling' which had been 2 in June 2010 not 1 as indicated on the agenda version.

	May 2008	May 2009	May 2010	June 2008	June 2009	June 2010
All crime	67	50	47	49	77	51
Violent crime	10	9	5	6	10	6
Robbery	0	1	1	0	0	0
Burglary dwelling	2	1	3	0	4	* 2 (amended)
Theft of motor vehicle	1	0	0	5	0	1
Theft from motor vehicle	6	7	10	4	13	7
Criminal damage	11	6	8	10	13	2

Inspector Atherton reported and answered questions on the following issues:

- the reported 'All crime' figures of 51 for June 2010 included 13 for possession of cannabis which was the result of proactive policing, and had incurred charge, caution reprimand with Fixed Penalty Notices issued;
- four offenders had been arrested in relation to 4 of the 7 thefts from vehicles. These offenders had been caught on the night concerned as the result of proactive patrolling by a traffic officer and patrol colleagues. The arrests had been reported in the local press and

enquiries were still ongoing with the offenders being placed on bail with conditions not to enter Formby;

- Operation Beachsafe had been in place since 24 May 2010 and was working well and would continue until September 2010;
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Taskforce were assisting at Formby, Freshfield and Ainsdale railway stations, seizing alcohol and turning youths away;
- with help from media coverage (radio, TV, newspaper) a 'Zero Tolerance' message was being conveyed;
- intelligence had been received about a proposed 'rave' along the Formby to Ainsdale coastline over the coming weekend (16/17 and 18 July); and the Police working in partnership with the Council and other local agencies were working together to prevent it happening, including a proposal to close the beaches to vehicles;
- Superintendent White was organising the presence of 2 teams of PCSO's and a mobile police station to be located in the area over the weekend.
- In respect of reports of skunk cannabis being dealt and used in Formby – not necessarily on the beach areas; and syringes found near the War Memorial Inspector Atherton urged Councillors and members of the public to report any sightings/incidents to the police or Crimestoppers;

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Inspector Atherton be thanked for his attendance at the meeting and for the visible proactive policing of the Formby area; and
- (2) the proposed actions in closing the beaches to vehicles and high visibility at railway stations and other key areas in response to an expected 'rave' be commended; and
- (3) Inspector Atherton be requested to report back to the Chair on the outcomes of 16/17 and 18 July in respect of the rave.

22. PROTOCOL FOR LIFTING THE MORATORIUM ON THE SITING OF MOBILE PHONE MASTS ON COUNCIL LAND

The Committee considered the report of the Environmental and Technical Services Director on the draft protocol to govern the lifting of the current moratorium on siting telephone masts on Council owned land, prior to reconsideration of the matter by Cabinet.

Mr. David Packard (Assistant Director, Environmental and Technical Services) presented the report and answered questions thereon.

Arising from the discussion, concern was expressed that lifting the moratorium might prove costly to the Council in helping the mobile phone operators find suitable locations for the masts and other associated costs; and Members stressed that any proposals must ensure that mobile phone operators were charged for the Council's services.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet be informed that this Area Committee has considered the protocol document and wishes to comment that any costs incurred should be charged not to the Council but to the respective mobile phone companies.

23. PARK RANGER SERVICE REVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Committee considered the report of the Leisure and Tourism Director that provided an update on the recent review undertaken in respect of the Park Ranger Service. The report explained that the review had been undertaken as a matter of good practice following its first full year in operation.

Tony Hearn, Head Park Ranger, together with Stella Fairhurst and James Leese, dedicated Park Rangers for Formby and Southport, presented the report, highlighting both successes and directions for the future of the Park Ranger Service and answered questions thereon.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Tony Hearn, Stella Fairhurst and James Leese be thanked for their attendance at the meeting and be congratulated for their excellent work as park rangers;
- (2) the successes and achievements of the Park Ranger Service be commended; and
- (3) the intention for the Park Ranger Service to continue to promote and develop a network of volunteer Park Rangers be noted.

24. WOODLAND MONITORING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive on whether the Woodland Monitoring Group (WGM) should be allowed to widen its membership to persons from outside the Formby area, as the group were experiencing difficulties recruiting Formby residents.

The report indicated that as the WMG had been established as a specific group of the Area Committee it was felt that membership should be restricted to residents of the two wards covered by the Area Committee. Further, as there were other Groups established on a Borough-wide basis (such as the Sefton Coast Partnership Board and the Nature Conservation Forum) it was felt that widening the membership of the WMG would duplicate this work.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Woodland Monitoring Group be commended for their work and commitment to date in monitoring the Sefton Coast Woodlands Plan, particularly in relation to Formby Woodlands; and
- (2) membership of the Woodland Monitoring Group continues to be drawn from residents of the two wards covered by the Committee – Harington and Ravenmeols.

25. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WOODLAND MONITORING GROUP

The Committee considered the report of the Woodland Monitoring Group which provided an annual overview of its work.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

26. BUDGET MONITORING

Further to Minute No. 12 of 27 May 2010, the Committee considered the report of the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director advising that the balance of its budget available for allocation during 2010/2011, including amounts set aside for litterbins and street signs was £21,192.92.

No budget requests had been received since the last meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the balance of the Area Committee's budget, £21,192.92 available for allocation during 2010/2011 be noted.

27. CANCELLATION OF AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the schedule of meetings for the 2010/2011 Municipal Year be altered to allow for the cancellation of meetings as indicated below:

2010/2011 MEETING DATES

Thursday 26 August 2010 **Cancel**

Thursday 30 September 2010

Thursday 28 October 2010 **Cancel**

Thursday 6 January 2011

Thursday 10 February 2011 **Cancel**

Thursday 17 March 2011

Thursday 26 May 2011

and

- (2) the Committee Administrator inform appropriate bodies of the revised schedule.

28. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

In accordance with the revised schedule of meetings indicated in Minute No. 27 above, the next meeting of Formby Area Committee would be held at **7.00 p.m. on Thursday 30 September 2010, at the Professional Development Centre, Park Road, Formby.**

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