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THE 'CALL-IN' PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2009. MINUTE NOS. 33, 34 AND 36 TO 43 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO 'CALL-IN'.

FORMBY AREA COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD AT THE FORMBY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, PARK ROAD, FORMBY ON THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Ibbs (in the Chair)
Councillors Cuthbertson, Griffiths and Storey;
Parish Councillors:
Mr. RJ Cawley, Mr. R. Jenkins and Ms PM Starkey;
and
Local Advisory Group Members:
Mr P G Thornton and Mrs B Yorke M.B.E.

ALSO PRESENT: Inspector J. McLoughlin, Merseyside Police and 8 members of the public.

30. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Mrs. Caroline Elwood, Legal Director, who would be attending future meetings of Formby Area Committee as a representative of the Council's Strategic and Service Directors; and Ms Ruth Appleby, who, further to a reshuffle of duties giving Committee Administrators the experience of working on new committees / areas, had been allocated the role of Formby Area Committee Administrator in place of Ms Lyndzay Roberts, who would now be servicing St Oswald, Netherton and Orrell Area Committee.

Members paid tribute to Ms Lyndzay Roberts's hard work and commitment during her time as Administrator to Formby Area Committee.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) welcome be extended to Mrs. Elwood, Legal Director and Ms Ruth Appleby, Committee Administrator to their inaugural meeting of Formby Area Committee; and
- (2) thanks be extended to Ms Lyndzay Roberts for her hard work and commitment as administrator to Formby Area Committee.

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Platt.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was received:

Member	Minute No.	Interest	Action
Parish Councillor RJ Cawley	35 – 'One Vision Housing'	Personal – One Vision Housing tenant	Took part in consideration of the item.

33. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2009

The Committee considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2009 and the following issues were raised:

The Chair referred to Minute No. 19 (a) in respect of the Open Forum question from Parish Councillor Thornton, indicating that there had been no response from Lancashire Wildlife Trust regarding the replacement of the stile with a kissing gate at the entrance to Freshfield Dune Heath from the bridal path at West Lane; and also the removal of the hazardous razor and barbed wire along the West boundary.

Reference was also made to Minute No. 22 – Litterbin report, indicating that there had been no response to date from Mr. Phil Stirk, Street Services Manager, Cleansing Services regarding the following litterbins:

- West Lane – not emptied;
- Formby Village – lost cover;
- Pathway at Gores Lane along St. George's Road – request for increased frequency of emptying; and
- Pancho's, Victoria Road – request for increased frequency of emptying.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2009 be confirmed as a correct record; and
- (2) the Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods) be requested to chase up the following outstanding issues:
 - (a) contact Lancashire Wildlife Trust about the replacement of the stile with a kissing gate at the West Lane entrance to Freshfield Dune Heath and the removal of barbed and razor wire along the West boundary; and
 - (b) liaise with Mr. Phil Stirk, the Street Services Manager, Cleansing Services, regarding the following litterbin issues.
 - West Lane – not emptied;
 - Formby Village – lost cover;
 - Pathway at Gores Lane along St. George's Road – request for increased frequency of emptying; and

- Pancho's, Victoria Road – request for increased frequency of emptying.

34. OPEN FORUM

The following matters were raised during the Open Forum:

- (a) Mr. P. Caine had written regarding a previous request for a pedestrian crossing between the by-pass and Formby Station stating that he had received a letter from the Traffic Services Manager indicating that traffic surveys undertaken had shown that Altcar Road/Duke Street were high on the list for pedestrian crossings but not high enough.

Mr. Caine stated that

‘this completely missed my point that this route divides Formby and cuts off those living to the south from all essential services, i.e., doctors, dentists, clinics, the library, shops and so on. Essentially, pedestrians are children, the elderly and disabled, i.e. non-driver categories. Surveying traffic volumes doesn't address the danger to these groups when trying to cross this busy road. Maybe the survey should examine the numbers of Formby residents living on the 'wrong side of this route and not just compare traffic volumes'.

The Chair indicated that two responses had been sent to Mr. Caine from both the Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods) and the Traffic Services Manager and that copies of these responses would be enclosed with the agenda for the next meeting.

- (b) A local resident (who gave his name, but did not wish to be named in the Minutes for fear of repercussions), expressed concern at the anti-social behaviour in Formby Village between midnight and 2.00 a.m. and the apparent lack of Police presence in the village to deal with licensed premises linked to such behaviour and also during the Formby Music Festival.

Inspector McLoughlin indicated that 2 regular Police Officers, 4 Special Constables and 2 PCSOs had been on duty at the Formby Music Festival.

Lengthy discussion ensued with the following points arising from the discussion:

- Problems with noise nuisance from bars and restaurants could be referred to the Council's Environmental Protection Department.

- The police would become involved if the noise was linked with criminal / disorderly behaviour.
- Local residents could request the Licensing Authority to undertake a 'Review of a Premises Licence', if the premises was failing to promote the Licensing Objectives of:
 - Prevention of Crime and Disorder;
 - Public Safety;
 - Prevention of public nuisance; and
 - Protection of children from harm;

under the Licensing Act 2003.

- Sefton Security maintained CCTV cameras and retained tapes. Therefore, anyone witnessing an incident in an area covered by CCTV could ask Sefton Security to look back through the tapes – on provision of a time, date and location.

RESOLVED:

That Inspector McLoughlin meet with the local resident to hear his concerns about anti-social behaviour in Formby Village and discuss a way forward.

35. POLICE ISSUES

Inspector McLoughlin presented and reported on Crosby's crime statistics for September 2009, comparing them with the statistics for the same period in 2007 and 2008.

	Aug 07	Aug 08	Aug 09	Sept 07	Sept 08	Sept 09
All crime	66	47	38	37	44	39
Violent crime	4	1	8	5	6	3
robbery	1	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary dwelling	4	2	5	5	1	1
Theft of motor vehicle	2	2	5	1	1	1
Theft from motor vehicle	6	7	5	3	2	8
Criminal damage	14	14	7	4	10	6

Inspector McLoughlin indicated that Operation Beachsafe which had operated over the summer months had now ended with encouraging outcomes, the figures for which he would forward to Members.

Discussion took place and the following issues were raised:

- anti-social behaviour and persons buying and selling drugs in Deansgate Lane, Duke Street Park and Smithy Green;
- reduced staffing levels due to staff sickness impacting on the work of fellow police officers;
- comparatively low police levels in the Formby area – it was suggested that it might be worthwhile for Councillors to take this up with Chief Superintendent Pilling, Merseyside Police;
- statistics only list reported crimes;
- Councillors requested that they be given telephone numbers for neighbourhood police officers – Inspector McLoughlin said he would pass on the numbers as requested but urged Councillors to contact the Emergency Services on 999, for serious incidents; and
- Arising from the discussion, Mrs. Yorke, Advisory Group Member conveyed thanks for the improvements made in Duke Street Park, but asked when the trees which had been removed to make way for the new play area would be re-planted.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Inspector McLoughlin be thanked for his attendance;
- (2) the Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods) be requested to liaise with Inspector McLoughlin to obtain the mobile telephone numbers of the Formby neighbourhood police officers for Councillors; and
- (3) the Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods) be requested to contact the Leisure Services Director to find out when the trees in Duke Street Park which had been removed to make way for the new play area were to be re-planted.

36. ONE VISION HOUSING

The Committee received a presentation from Mr. Roy Williams, the Chief Executive of One Vision Housing updating on initiatives in the Formby area.

He indicated that there were 248 One Vision Housing properties in the Formby Area and 42 in the Ince Blundell area; and that the following works had been completed under the 'Decent Homes' initiative:

- 163 kitchens
- 146 bathrooms
- 219 rewires and electrical upgrades

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- 79 heating installations
- 37 new roofs
- 163 new water mains
- 2% of homes were still recorded as non-decent due to non-access/refusal
- 3% of properties were on a separate programme for new roofs
- The Decent Homes contract was now completed, but attempts were still being made to carry out decency work as and when due
- The total spend on the works had been just under £2 million.

Work to be completed under the Decent Homes initiative were:

- 6 bathrooms
- 6 kitchens
- Security lights
- 8 roofs (programme for these was likely to commence in 2010).

Mr Williams further informed the Committee that the derelict garages in Alderson Crescent were to be disposed of and the garages at 1G to 7G Smithy Green were to be demolished with the area being resurfaced for parking. Also, security lights were to be installed over the rear doors of 43 bungalows in the area.

He concluded by stating that environmental works in the Formby area would be rolled out some time after 2013, with an anticipated total spend of £250,000, mainly on fencing; and on the Ince Blundell Estate in early 2010 with an anticipated total spend of £50,000, mainly on fencing.

A number of questions were raised by Committee members and members of the public, with particular concern being expressed by Smithy Green residents about the closure of the local community centre. Mr. Williams explained that unfortunately the building had had to be closed because it did not meet Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements and presented a health and safety risk including exposure to asbestos. The building would require approximately £300,000 to be brought up to standard – monies which would come from tenants rental payments and was therefore not considered to be a viable option. However, he indicated that in consultation with the Residents' Association he had approached the Council and alternative options were being explored, including the possibility of using an unoccupied flat in the area.

Ms Claire Tinsley, representing the Youth Service, suggested that the residents might be able to use the Redgate Centre as a meeting place for Smithy Lane residents.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Mr. Williams be thanked for his presentation and for the excellent work carried out by the Decent Homes initiative; and
- (2) Mr. Williams be requested to continue to explore alternative options to replace the community centre in Smithy Green, including the possibility of utilising an unoccupied flat in the area and / or use of the Redgate Centre.

37. SEFTON PRIMARY CARE TRUST (PCT) - 'OUT OF HOURS SERVICE'

The Committee received a presentation by Ms Liz Melia, Assistant Director to Primary Care on the Sefton Primary Care Trust's 'Out of Hours' service in Formby.

Ms Melia indicated that the Formby Integrated Care site had opened on 1 March 2009 and operated from 11 pm to 8 am the next morning, 7 days a week. She stated that overnight activity was very low. Other sites were in operation in Litherland and Southport. GPs could operate from Formby site, but GPs on the different sites could cover for each other if necessary. District nurses were now based at Formby overnight and District Nurses and GPs were now able to work more closely.

To contact the 'Out of Hours' Service patients should take the following steps:

1. Telephone their usual GP surgery.
2. They will hear a recorded message giving an 'Out of Hours' telephone number
Or
3. Their call will automatically be transferred to the 'Out of Hours' service.
4. A call handler will answer the call.
5. The call handler will ask a series of questions, take down details, identify the patient's condition and assess whether an ambulance will be needed.
6. If an ambulance is not needed the call handler will contact a GP who will telephone the patient and take appropriate action.

RESOLVED:

That Ms Melia be thanked for her useful and informative presentation.

38. PLAYIN' OUT PROJECT - STORAGE FACILITY

The Committee received a presentation from Ms Vicki Russell, the Playin' Out Co-Ordinator, Sefton CVS, who was looking for somewhere to store the 'Playin Out' equipment.

Ms Russell explained that Playin' Out was a three year Big Lottery funded play programme which developed and delivered a wide range of play activities using local parks, green spaces and the appropriate streets and community spaces across the Borough, at no charge to users. The programme had been implemented as part of the Sefton Play Strategy – 'play naturally in Sefton' which allowed children and young people between the ages of 4 to 16 years in 12 wards across Sefton, including Ravenmeols Ward in Formby, to have access to free natural outdoor play opportunities.

Since its launch in July 2009, the project had attracted 5,000 children playing across the Borough, with over 800 children presently attending, in Formby; the programme also provided employment and volunteering opportunities for those over 16 years of age.

Duke Street Park was the current venue for Playin' Out in Formby and had proven to be extremely popular. However, the play organisers were now having a problem regarding storage space for the Playin' Out equipment (goals, balls, books, skipping ropes, a gazebo, etc), which was presently being stored in a storage unit within the park. Unfortunately, now the local football teams were using this area again, the organisers had been told that the Playin' Out equipment could no longer be stored there and the Senior Worker was storing it at her house which was not only unsuitable but also created problems with accessing the equipment.

To this effect, Ms Russell asked the Committee for help in finding alternative, suitable storage, which was accessible and in the vicinity of Duke Street Park.

Discussion took place and a number of suggestions were made as to possible storage spaces, including local schools, the library, etc.

RESOLVED:

That the Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods) and the Leisure Director be requested to liaise to see if suitable storage facilities can be found for the equipment associated with the Playin' Out scheme in Duke Street Park, Formby.

39. PARK ROAD TREE PLANTING SCHEME

Further to Minute No. 12 of 21 May 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Leisure Director which requested a contribution towards the funding of a tree planting scheme along Park Road, Formby.

The report indicated that over the last few years a number of street trees had had to be removed from Park Road for various reasons such as death or decline and recent inspections of the remaining tree stock on Park Road had identified a further four trees that would need to be removed before the end of 2009. The planting of 11 new street trees would help to maintain the tree lined character of Park Road and the new trees would be selected and located to ensure a healthy, well balanced tree stock in this area for years to come.

The overall cost of the tree planting scheme was £2,950, which broke down into approximately £268 per tree, and included the cost to supply, plant, tree support and after care. The newly planted trees would receive initial maintenance for a period of two years to ensure that the young trees established; and if the trees were to die in this time (for reasons other than vandalism), the trees would be replaced at the contractor's expense. Maintenance after this period would be met by the highway tree management budget.

The report concluded by indicating that residents would be consulted before any work was done and that tree planting should be completed by the end of March 2010.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) funding of £2,950 from the Committee's delegated budget for the planting of trees along Park Road, Formby, be approved; and
- (2) the Leisure Director be requested to undertake a survey of the condition of trees in Windsor Road, Park Avenue and Balmoral Drive.

40. QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE WOODLAND MONITORING GROUP

The Committee considered the quarterly update report from the Woodland Monitoring Group.

The report indicated that over the last three months, group members had carried out numerous visits to the woodlands and found no evidence of unauthorised felling taking place.

Mr. David Adams, the Chair of the Woodland Monitoring Group advised that the group had been promised the essential maps and information required to ensure accurate identification of locations and details of the Woodland Plan, which would ensure continuity of information between that held by the group and that held by Leisure Services. It was hoped that such information would be available within the next 2-3 weeks.

The report also indicated other activity undertaken by the group over the past three months, namely:

- A meeting with Sefton Coast Watch together with representatives of the Mersey Forest where concern had been expressed over the future of the coastal woodlands;
- Attendance at the Coastal Forum by the Group Secretary, Ms Jan Stirling; although concern was expressed that the Woodland Monitoring Group had not been included on the invitation list for this event;
- A useful meeting between Woodland Monitoring Group Member, Mr. Terence Maloney and Ms Alice Kempton a senior Natural England Warden; and
- A visit to the Lancashire Wildlife Trust's Freshfield Dune Heath site.

RESOLVED:

That the Woodland Monitoring Group be thanked for their update.

41. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

Further to Minute No. 28 of 2 July 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director indicating that the balance of the budget available for allocation during 2009/10, including sums set aside for the provision of litterbins and street signs, was £15,093.92.

There had been no requests for funding allocations of under £1,000 since the last meeting.

Contained in the report was a proposal put forward by the Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods) to make it easier and quicker for elected members to respond to requests for funding by local residents. Currently, if an elected member wished to fund anything costing under £1,000 then they had to complete an Area Committee Budget Request form and get it signed off by a senior officer in the Council. Further, anything over £1,000 required the sponsorship of a Council Department and a formal report submitted to the next Area Committee meeting.

In paragraph 2.2.3 of the report the Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods) therefore proposed that the Neighbourhoods Division take over the management of the budgets, whereby elected members could put forward a request to the Neighbourhoods Division within the total amount to spend in the Formby area, wherever they wished to do so; and the Neighbourhoods Division could action this request on their behalf. The amount spent and progress on the item would then be reported back to the Area Committee in the Budget Monitoring Report. Requests for support could still be raised at the meeting and agreed, but no formal reports or

forms would be required. The Neighbourhoods Division would be in attendance at the meeting and would action these additional requests.

Further to Minute No. 11 (3) of 21 May 2009, Councillor Cuthbertson expressed concern that the street nameplate for Larkhill Lane (on the west side of Larkhill Lane with its junction at Victoria Road) had not yet been installed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the balance of £15,093.92 of the budget available for further allocation for the rest of the year be noted;
- (2) the remaining Area Committee budget be allocated to the Neighbourhoods Division with elected members maintaining control of the decision making as indicated in paragraph 2.2.3 of the report; and
- (3) the Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods) be requested to action the installation of the street nameplate for Larkhill Lane (on the west side of Larkhill Lane with its junction at Victoria Road).

42. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee received a brief presentation from Ms Claire Tinsley, Youth Worker, indicating her intention to submit a report to a future meeting to request funding for a project aimed at 'at risk' pupils with emotional, social and behavioural problems, who were likely to or had become involved in anti social behaviour and/or criminal activity.

The project, initiated by the Criminal Information Bureau (CIB), would involve groups of youths finding out what life was like in prison as part of a special three to nine day course.

Ms Tinsley explained that the CIB had a good track record with this initiative having previously given groups of youths the opportunity of experiencing the 'short, sharp shock' of a spell in Doncaster Prison. This had involved being given a tour round the jail, eating the prison food and spending time in a prison cell. The participants had been given the opportunity of talking with 'ex-cons' and meeting victims of crime and their relatives. At the end of the course the youths had received a certificate of participation. The participants had come back from Doncaster stating that they never wanted to go to prison.

The cost for 15 youths to participate in this course was £350 per day.

RESOLVED:

That Ms Tinsley be thanked for her presentation and her intention to submit a request for funding for youths to attend this course to a future meeting of the Area Committee be noted.

43. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee discussed the long gap between the next scheduled meeting on 29 October 2009 and the following meeting on 7 January 2010. Also, that the October meeting fell during school half term which meant that the centre would have to open especially for the Area Committee meeting.

It was therefore suggested that the meeting on 29 October 2009 be cancelled and that the next meeting take place on 26 November 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the meeting of Formby Area Committee scheduled to take place on 29 October 2009 be cancelled; and
- (2) the next meeting be held on **Thursday 26 November 2009, at the Professional Development Centre, Park Road, Formby, commencing at 7.00 p.m.**