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THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2010. MINUTE NOS 77 AND 79 TO 83 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL-IN".

FORMBY AREA COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD AT THE FORMBY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, PARK ROAD, FORMBY ON THURSDAY 18TH MARCH, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Ibbs (in the Chair);
Councillors Cuthbertson, Griffiths and Storey;
Parish Councillors Cawley and Starkey; and
Local Advisory Group Members Mr. P. Thornton and Mrs. B. Yorke.

ALSO PRESENT: 7 members of the public.

73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Platt, Parish Councillor Jenkins and Inspector Jim McLoughlin, Merseyside Police.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declaration of Interest was received:

Member	Minute No.	Interest	Action
Councillor Storey	77 (d) – Open Forum question regarding damage caused to trees in Deansgate Lane.	Personal - His daughter lives in Deansgate Lane.	Took part in consideration of the item.

75. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

76. UPDATE ON ACTION FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Ms Sue Ashe, Resource Co-ordinator – Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes, provided a progress report on action taken in respect of the previous meeting.

- Minute No. 62 (v) – Request for Environment Agency to attend a future meeting of the Area Committee to give a presentation on flood protection / pumping equipment at the Altmouth Pumping Station.

The Environment Agency had not yet responded to this request, but it was noted that they would be giving a presentation at the next meeting of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) on 'Flood Risk Management for the Lower Alt with Crossens Pumped Drainage', on 13 April 2010 at 6.30 p.m. in St Stephen's Church Hall, St. Stephen's Road, Hightown. Dr Brennan, who had raised the matter at Formby Area Committee's Open Forum on 26 November 2009 (Minute No. 48 (a) refers), had been invited to this meeting.

The Committee welcomed this development, but indicated that their invitation for the Environment Agency to speak at a future meeting of Formby Area Committee, on flood risk management in the Lower Alt area, should still be progressed.

RESOLVED:

That the Assistant Director – Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes be requested to progress this Committee's invitation to the Environment Agency to speak on flood management in the Lower Alt area, at a future meeting.

77. OPEN FORUM

The following matters were raised during the Open Forum:

- (a) A question had been submitted by Mrs M. Gallen regarding the lack of hygiene at Formby Swimming Pool caused mainly by a failure to enforce the removal of outdoor shoes in the shower and locker areas.

It was noted that the pool does not belong to Sefton Council.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) a letter be sent from the Committee to Mr. Ascroft, Chief Executive Officer, Formby Swimming Pool, regarding Mrs. Gallen's concerns about the apparent lack of hygiene at Formby Swimming Pool;
- (2) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to provide a written response to Mrs Gallen setting out any proposals to rectify the situation; and
- (3) a copy of the written response indicated in (2) above, be

sent to the Committee Administrator for publication on the agenda for the next meeting.

- (b) Mr. K. Gallen had submitted a question requesting that the Council give consideration to installing a pelican crossing on Liverpool Road, close to the junction with Birkey Lane and Coronation Avenue. He indicated that Liverpool Road was an extremely long, busy road, running from the Lighthouse Pub to Cross House roundabout, the only safe place to cross being at one end of the road at the Alt Road shops and therefore a second crossing point half way down the road would seem appropriate.

RESOLVED:

That the Traffic Services Manager be requested to respond to Mr. Gallen in writing regarding his request for the installation of a pelican crossing on Liverpool Road.

- (c) Mrs. J. Stirling had submitted a question on behalf of the Woodland Monitoring Group (WMG) for which she was secretary, requesting that it be allowed to expand its membership to include Sefton residents living outside the Formby area, '...with a keen interest in nature conservation on the coast and Formby pinewoods'. The WMG's current Terms of Reference specified that only Formby residents could be accepted as members.

Mrs. Stirling, who was present at the meeting, indicated that the Group had experienced difficulties recruiting new Formby members to monitor the area but had received expressions of interest in the Group from former residents now living in other parts of the Borough.

RESOLVED:

That the Assistant Director, Democratic Services, be requested to submit a report on the future of the Woodland Monitoring Group.

- (d) Mr. D. Adams had submitted a question on behalf of the Deansgate Lane Residents' Association about the damage caused to the cherry blossom trees in Deansgate Lane by double decker school buses crashing against their branches. The school bus service was run by Merseybus, contracted by the Council.

Mr Adams asked that the following options be considered, namely:

- (i) that the double decker buses be exchanged for single decker buses; or
- (ii) that the school buses to be re-routed to avoid Deansgate Lane altogether.

Option (ii) was preferred on the grounds that not only were the cherry trees damaged by the buses, but also because Deansgate Lane was built along a peat seam and heavy traffic caused damage to the properties along it; and also no-one presently using the school bus service actually lived in Deansgate Lane.

RESOLVED:

That the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes be requested to liaise with appropriate departments about the possibility of re-routing the existing school bus service along an alternative, less detrimental route than Deansgate Lane.

78. POLICE ISSUES

The Committee Administrator indicated that Inspector McLoughlin had tendered his apologies due to another pre-arranged commitment and unfortunately, none of the other neighbourhood Police Officers were able to attend the meeting. However, Inspector McLoughlin had suggested that any questions raised could be forwarded to him for action.

Inspector McLoughlin had submitted the area's crime statistics for January and February 2010, together with statistics for the same period in 2008 and 2009 for comparison.

	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Feb 2008	Feb 2009	Feb 2010
All crime	41	51	49	62	93	61
Violent crime	7	6	12	4	6	8
Robbery	0	1	0	0	0	4
Burglary dwelling	3	5	0	10	2	2
Theft of motor vehicle	1	0	1	3	2	0
Theft from motor vehicle	1	8	4	8	3	6
Criminal damage	9	11	10	12	19	7

As requested at the last meeting, Inspector McLoughlin had also provided a breakdown of the violent crime statistics - categorised to give a clearer understanding of the nature of such offences.

	Category of violent crime	No.of offences	Description
(i)	Sec 47 Assault (Assault occasioning actual bodily harm ABH)	3	Such injuries are those that are visible such as cuts, bruising, etc.
(ii)	Sec 4 Public Order (Threatening Behaviour)	1	This offence is one where the victim is put in fear of physical violence or intimidated and causes that person to

			believe that physical violence will be used against him or her without the end product.
(iii)	Breach Restraining Order	1	An order made by the court. (Example, Domestic Incident)
(iv)	Sexual Offence	1	
(v)	Sec 39 Common Assault	1	An assault which results in injuries less severe than that of a Sec 47 assault. (e.g. being pushed and no visible injury caused)
(vi)	Sec 5 Public Order Act – Insulting, abusive words and behaviour likely to cause harassment alarm or distress	1	On this occasion abusive language was used against the victim in a public place.

The Committee welcomed the provision of the statistics, particularly the breakdown of violent crime incidents, but expressed concern that neither Inspector McLoughlin nor any of his colleagues were present to respond to questions about the statistics and to raise issues in general.

A member of the public, who had attended the meeting specifically to ask questions about crime in the area, also expressed his disappointment at the non attendance of the police.

RESOLVED:

That a letter be sent to Chief Superintendent Pilling, Area Commander indicating the Committee's concern at the non attendance of the neighbourhood police at the meeting.

79. PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - JUNCTION OF LARKHILL LANE AND WICKS LANE, FORMBY

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director on proposed Traffic Regulation Orders, the effect of which would introduce "At Any Time" parking restrictions at the junction of Larkhill Lane and Wicks Lane, Formby.

It was proposed to introduce individual Orders for the roads incorporating all the existing restrictions.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Traffic Regulation Orders as shown on the plan and Annexes A and B and as detailed in the report, be approved; and

- (2) the Traffic Services Manager be authorised to undertake the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Orders.

80. JUBILEE ROAD, FORMBY - PROVISION OF BOLLARDS

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director, seeking approval for the introduction of eight concrete bollards in Jubilee Road, Formby to the frontage of St Luke's RC Primary School, to prevent vehicles from driving up onto the footway.

The report indicated that the cost of the bollards and their installation (approximately £1,000), could be met from the School's own Travel Plan Capital Grant.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the installation of eight concrete bollards in Jubilee Road, Formby, to the frontage of St Luke's RC Primary School, as identified in Annexe A to the report, be approved; and
- (2) the cost of the installation of the bollards be met from St. Luke's own School Travel Plan Capital Grant.

81. HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2010/2011

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Technical Services advising of those locations which had been identified for inclusion in the Highways Maintenance Programme 2010/11.

The report indicated that following the format adopted in previous years, the 2010/11 Highways Maintenance and Street Lighting Renewals/Refurbishment Programme was being shared with Area Committees for comment, prior to it being referred to the Cabinet Member - Technical Services for formal approval on 7 April 2010; that unlike previous submissions to the Area Committee, a single years programme of works was being presented at this time; but that unfortunately the damaging effects of the recent severe weather conditions would continue to manifest itself over the next few months leading to further and more significant levels of deterioration in many roads across the Borough. It was not possible to predict future deterioration levels across the whole network with any degree of confidence at this time; consequently it was considered premature to attempt to identify schemes for inclusion in the financial year 2011/12 and beyond.

The annexes to the report identified the following areas within the Area Committee's boundaries that were likely to be completed during 2010/11:

Footway Surface Treatment:

- Woodland Close

Carriageway Resurfacing:

- Larkhill Lane (from Dunes Lane to house no. 3)

Carriageway Surface Treatment:

- Derwent Lane

Carriageway Surface Dressing:

- Duke Street – from Cross Green to Liverpool Road
- Ravenmeols Lane – from Liverpool Road to the level crossing
- Kings Road

Carriageway Reconstruction:

- Halsall Lane

RESOLVED:

That the Highways Maintenance Programme for 2010/11 be noted.

82. REQUEST FOR FORMBY POSTAL ADDRESS

The Committee considered the report of the Legal Director referring to a request from a Formby resident to include the name 'Formby' in the address for properties within the defined postcode area of Liverpool L37, as indicated in Annex A to the report.

The report indicated that Royal Mail, amongst others, required the support of Sefton Council as principal authority for the area, prior to undertaking the necessary consultation in relation to the request.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) Cabinet be requested to support the application to include the name 'Formby' in the address for properties within the defined postcode area of Liverpool L37, as indicated in Annex A to the report.

83. BUDGET MONITORING

Further to Minute No. 71 of 11 February 2010, the Committee considered the report of the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes 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 £4,956.92.

Details of the allocations made by each ward against the general provision in the current year were set out in section 2 of the report.

Since publishing the report, a further application for Area Committee funding had been submitted by the Formby Partnership, towards the cost of staging the second Formby Live Music Festival to be held on Saturday and Sunday 17 and 18 July 2010. The Chair of the Formby Partnership, Mr. Brady, together with Ms Wordley, the Chair of the Music Live Festival, were in attendance and gave a brief presentation to the Committee, indicating that the Partnership wished to build upon the success of last year's festival with a view to widening its appeal to embrace the wider Formby community. As such, on Saturday 17 July there would be street entertainment in the village which would also involve local traders, with live acts performing in a number of local bars and restaurants during the night time. On Sunday 18 July there would be a free, open air concert in the grounds of Formby Pool.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the balance of £4,956.92 of the budget available for further allocation for the rest of the year be noted; and
- (2) an allocation of £300 to the Formby Village Partnership towards the cost of staging the second Formby Live Music Festival on 17/18 July 2010, be approved.

84. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillor Ibbs reminded the Committee that this would be her last meeting as Chair. She thanked all the Members of the Committee for their help and support during her time as Chair and also extended best wishes to Councillor Cuthbertson (Vice Chair), who would assume the position of Chair for the 2010/2011 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor Ibbs be thanked for her hard work and commitment during her time as Chair of the Committee during 2009/10;
- (2) best wishes be extended to Councillor Cuthbertson in her forthcoming role as Chair to the Committee in 2010/2011; and
- (3) the date of the next meeting of Formby Area Committee, to be held at **7.00 p.m. on Thursday 27 May 2010, at the Professional Development Centre, Park Road, Formby**, be noted.