

# **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCILS' FORUM**

**THURSDAY, 15TH APRIL 2010**

**AT 6.30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E.

Officers: Ms. J. Pickering, Mr. A. Coel and Ms. R. A. Cole

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Representative(s)</b>
Alvechurch	Mr. J. Cypher (Chairman)
Barnt Green	Mrs. J. Jagger (Chairman)
Belbroughton	Mr. C. R. Scurrall
Clent	Mrs. R. Mullett (Clerk)
Cofton Hackett	Mrs. E. Guise (Clerk) Mr. B. Bridgewater Mr. K. Duncan
Feckenham (Redditch)	Mrs. A. Pulsford
Hagley	Mr. C. R. Colella (Chairman)
Hunnington	Mrs. R. Mullett (Clerk)
Lickey and Blackwell	Mr. K. Woolford
Lickey End	Mr. C. W. Bateman
Romsley	Mr. I. A. Hodgetts (Chairman) Mrs. R. Mullett (Clerk)
Stoke	Mr. P. D. Callaway (Clerk)
County Association of Local Councils	Mrs. J. Maturi

### 23/10 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Mrs. J. Dyer introduced herself to the meeting and gave apologies on behalf of Councillor R. Hollingworth, who would normally have been Chairman at the meeting, but was unable to attend because of a family related issue.

Councillor Mrs. Dyer also welcomed Mrs. A. Pulsford to the meeting, representing Feckenham Parish Council, the only Parish Council within Redditch Borough Council's area, invited to attend the meeting as a result of the closer working relationship between Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils.

Apologies were received from:-

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Barnt Green	Mr. R. Westbury (Executive Officer)
Belbroughton	Mr. J. Bradley (Chairman)
Beoley	Miss P. Harrison (Executive Officer)
Dodford with Grafton	Mr. R. Harper (Chairman) Ms. K. Stone (Clerk)
Catshill and North Marlbrook	Mr. G. Witcomb (Chairman) Mrs. G. Lungley (Clerk) Mrs. G. Blackmoor
Tutnall and Cobley	Mrs. H. Davies (Clerk)
Wythall	Mrs. S. J. Baxter (Chairman) Miss P. Harrison (Executive Officer)

24/10 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Councils' Forum held on 28th January 2010 were submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

25/10 **PRESENTATION BY MR. A. COEL, STRATEGIC HOUSING MANAGER**

The Chairman introduced Mr. A. Coel - Strategic Housing Manager at Bromsgrove District Council - to the meeting.

Mr. Coel gave a presentation on identifying the need for rural housing and the part played by the rural housing enabler.

The presentation covered the role of the Strategic Housing Section, housing priorities and how the priorities could be met through partnership working. In particular, there needed to be a focus on working with the rural housing enabler (at present Nigel Potter) to identify with the Parish Councils the local housing needs and where appropriate provide small scale new Affordable Housing.

Members of the Forum raised a number of questions with Mr. Coel and reference was made to recent planning applications at Alvechurch and Stoke Prior. The importance of undertaking Housing Need Surveys within Parishes, to provide supporting evidence for suitable planning applications was also discussed. Parish Councils could often assist with local publicity, distribution of information etc. which could reduce the costs involved.

At the request of the Forum, Mr. Coel undertook to circulate a copy of the presentation for information.

26/10 **PARISH COUNCILS' CHARTER - UPDATE**

It was reported that the Parish Council Charter was anticipated to be adopted at the meeting of the Council to be held on 21st April 2010. It was noted that 17 Parish Councils had signed up to the Charter.

**RESOLVED** that the question of the determination of a Parish Charter Sub-Group be considered at the next meeting of CALC.

27/10 **STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND GUIDANCE: NOTIFICATIONS TO PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS CONCERNING COMPLAINTS ABOUT THEIR MEMBERS AND THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2008**

The information circulated with the agenda for the meeting regarding any complaints about Parish Council members was noted.

It was reported that the Officer contact for any information on this issue was Debbie Parker-Jones - 01527 881411 / d.parkerjones@bromsgrove.gov.uk

**RESOLVED** that this be noted.

28/10 **ELECTORAL SERVICES / PARISH COUNCIL CASUAL VACANCIES**

Reference was made to the information on the timetable for the forthcoming General Election as set out on the agenda for the meeting.

It was also reported that the District Council's Electoral Matters Committee was to meet shortly to consider the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review of Lickey End Parish Council.

Additionally, consideration was given to the Parish Council Vacancy Summary.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

29/10 **QUESTION RE: COUNCIL TAX / PRECEPT CALCULATION**

Mr. C. W. Bateman, Councillor / Clerk to Lickey End Parish Council, requested information regarding Council Tax and the calculation of the Parish precept.

Ms. J. Pickering, Director of Resources at Bromsgrove District Council, responded to the issues raised and undertook to meet again with Mr. Bateman at a later date outside of the meeting if this was considered to be appropriate.

The meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

Chairman