

Meeting of Chairs and Clerks 14th July

Following discussions of the paper “Inter-parish collaboration” (attached) it was agreed that Catherine Purves (Clerk of Pitton & Farley PC) would organise and host a meeting of local Clerks in order to have a preliminary discussion of the desirability and feasibility of inter-parish action on:

- Joint hiring of a youth worker
- Producing a directory of recommended suppliers of goods and services to Parish Councils
- Verge-cutting
- Producing a community area-wide sports and leisure clubs directory
- Shared transport provision

The group would prepare a paper for the Parish Councils involved.

There was also the suggestion that a meeting of PC Chairs should be organised and Andrew Ferguson, Chair Grimstead PC, undertook to pursue this.

Finally, it was agreed that this Chairs and Clerks forum should meet again in six months.

Parish Councils represented at the meeting:

Parish Council	Representatives
Alderbury	Amanda Newbury (Chair) & Alison McGowan (Clerk)
Firsdown	Brian Edgeley (Cllrs) & Mike Villis (Cllrs)
Grimstead	Andrew Ferguson (Chair) & Victoria Ward (Clerk)
Landford	David Wilson (Cllrs)
Laverstock & Ford	Andrew Prince (Clerk)
Odstock	Richard Parsons (Clerk)
Pitton & Farley	Jamie Latham (Chair) & Catherine Purves (Clerk)
Redlynch	Nicky Ashton (Clerk)
West Dean	Harry Urquhart (Chair) & Marion Clutterbuck (Clerk)
Winterslow	Simon Port (Chair) & Jane Tier (Clerk)

Apologies: Downton PC (meeting on the same night)

DISCUSSION PAPER – Presented on 14th July 2014

INTER-PARISH COLLABORATION

Inter-parish collaboration is an Area Board theme for 2014/15.

All parishes in our community area are doing more or less the same things – but in isolation. It makes sense to see whether there are benefits of taking a common approach to solving common problems.

Opportunities

- Can we save money by negotiating larger contracts/agreements/preferred supplier arrangements?
- Can we save Clerk's time by having common supplier lists?
- Can we provide better services to our residents?

Possible barriers

- Inertia – it works OK the way we've always done it
- Infringed parish sovereignty
- Preference to use suppliers/contractors from own village where possible
- Administrative complexity
- Parish councillors are unpaid volunteers only interested in their own village

Scope of collaborations:

- Neighbouring parishes
- Community Area wide
- Random – by common interest regardless of location

Possible areas for discussion/investigation

- Emergency planning
- Grass and hedge cutting
- General maintenance
- Litter picking
- Bin emptying
- Skips
- Joint procurement (eg play equipment)
- Insurance
- Community Speedwatch
- Tree inspections and tree work
- Rospa inspections

- Community events (eg funding peripatetic performers, widening the range of stallholders etc)
- Sports and leisure facilities directory (!)
- Old people's projects (eg outings)
- Responses to WC consultations
- Memberships – CPRE, NALC, WALC etc
- Rural footpath clearances

And what others can you think of?

“Fortune assists the bold”

Virgil

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