

## Joint Working Group

### RMBC and Parish and Town Councils

13/11/08, 4.30pm, Town Hall, Rotherham

#### Present:-

Cllr Jane Austen (Chair)  
Cllr Pat Wade  
Paul Griffiths  
Paul Hamblett (RBT)  
Rebecca Wragg (RBT)

AGENDA	ACTION
<p><b>1. Apologies</b></p> <p>Sue Kilcommons Cllr Mahroof Hussain</p>	
<p><b>2. Resignations</b></p> <p>PG advised he had received resignations from two members of the Joint Working Group.</p> <p>Councillor Peter Sludden had been in contact to advise that due to ill health he is reducing the number of meetings he is attending.</p> <p>Councillor Barrie Marsh had been in contact to advise that he had resigned as Chair of Wales Parish Council and as a Parish Councillor and would therefore not be eligible to continue to attend the group.</p> <p>The group expressed their regret at the resignations and asked that both Councillor Sludden and Marsh be thanked for their contribution.</p> <p>In addition to this Sue Kilcommons will shortly be stepping down as Clerk to Catcliffe Parish Council and will no longer be attending the group.</p> <p>PG had recently written to all Parish Councils advising them of the vacancies and it is hoped that they be filled at the next Parish Network meeting.</p>	
<p><b>3. Procurement</b></p> <p>The group thanked PH and RW for attending the group and PW explained the role of Parish and Town councils in the Borough and the working group's wish to explore the possibility of passing</p>	

<p>on efficiency savings gained through procurement to Parish and Town councils.</p> <p>PH advised that they would need to be clear if the contract RBT currently has with the Council allows them to explore the option of offering procurement services to parish and town councils. However it would seem from initial impressions that the needs of parish councils may, as an example, be similar to that of a primary school.</p> <p>The group agreed that there are a number of issues that need to be considered e.g standing order arrangements and the formation of a working group of Parish Councillors/clerks and RMBC/RBT officers to explore the potential benefits.</p> <p>To progress this a questionnaire will be provided at the Parish Network meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> November to give all Parish Councils an opportunity to indicate their requirements and assess the need for a working group to be formed.</p>	<p>PG to liaise with RBT to produce questionnaire for the Network meeting.</p>
<p><b>4 Any other business</b></p> <p>PG advised the group that John Healey had written to advise he would like to attend the next Parish Network meeting during February 2009. John is to provide dates of his availability and the Network date will be confirmed once this has been received.</p> <p>JA advised that NALC are to hold a conference during February 2009 looking at a diversity of issues concerning parish councils including relationships with principal authorities, Quality Status and the role of parish councils in promoting community empowerment. The group agreed it would be useful for Cllr Austen to attend the conference.</p>	<p>PG to contact John Healey to confirm date.</p> <p>PG to make arrangements for JA to attend conference.</p>
<p><b>5. Date and time of next meeting</b></p> <p>To be held on the 08/01/09 4.30pm at the Town Hall.</p>	