

NOTES OF POCKLINGTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WAS HELD AT POCKLINGTON ARTS CENTRE ON  
WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL 2019 WHICH COMMENCED AT 7.30 PM.

Present: Cllr D. Hodgson (Chair), 62 members of the public and Gordon Scaife (Town Clerk).

In attendance – Keith Hunter Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside, Debbie Fagan Engagement Officer East Riding Area for Police and Crime Commissioner, PC J. Day Humberside Police, Lisa Tait Community Safety Partnership

1. Cllr D. Hodgson welcomed everyone to the town meeting.
2. Councillor Dean Hodgson was appointed Chairman of the meeting (by legislation this has to be the Town Mayor if in attendance).
3. Councillor West proposed that those who live outside the parish be allowed to speak at the meeting. motion seconded by Cllr Spademan and agreed. Vote 27 for and 3 against.
4. Cllr Cooper proposed the notes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 be accepted as a true record seconded by Councillor West and agreed.
5. Presentation from Mr Keith Hunter (Police and Crime Commissioner for the Humberside Police Area)

Mr Hunter started with a review of the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Commissioners are elected every 4 years and the main roles are to hold the police force to account and to set the budget. All the assets – buildings, vehicles and equipment belong to the Commissioner. The Commissioner has the responsibility to hire or fire the Chief Constable.

The Police and Crime Commissioner is not a representative of Humberside Police but is the elected to serve the residents of the area.

There are a number of services the Police and Crime Commissioner Commissions these are Policing

Community Safety – one community safety partnership for each local authority area

Victim Support

Serious crime is commissioned regionally across force areas to share resources. The other services commissioned in this way include reaction to Chemical and Biological hazards, underwater search team, serious traffic accident investigations.

The Humberside Force contribute to the regional serious crime investigation unit who investigate regional crime gangs. These criminal gangs cross force areas regularly and the latest commodity is people particularly vulnerable young people in local communities (County Lines).

At a national level Mr Hunter is the national lead for local policing and partnerships.

The role is a strategic role with a budget of £190M. The aim is to continue to drive efficiencies to put more of the money into front line policing.

In 2016 the Humberside Police Force was rated as inadequate and needs improving in many areas. The force was consistently under spending its budget.

Since Mr Hunter was elected the top team at the Force has been completely changed. The Chief Constable left within the first 6 months.

The Police and Crime Commissioners Role has been to put the force into a good state including the budgeting. Things are improving but there is still room for improvement. The aim is to have a better functioning and more responsive force.

The force had 1420 officers in 2016 which had dropped from the 2008 staffing level of 2,800. This was due to cuts. The number of officers today stands at 1,900 this has been achieved through becoming more efficient

The turnover of officers is roughly 100 each year. This means experienced officers are young in the number of service years. The new officers are out in the stations but are not fully trained yet. This means there is a latent capacity.

Mr Hunter is working to improve the 4 community safety partnerships.

Mr Hunter promised not to close a Police Station when elected. Pocklington Police Station will be moving to share premises with the Fire Service at the Fire Station on Station Road. The surplus station will then be disposed of. In Driffield the Police, Ambulance and Fire Service will share the fire station. Hornsea, Withernsea and Hedon have seen an increase of staff – Hedon Police Station had closed and was reopened.

In addition a rural task force is to be created that can be called on to support the local neighbourhood team. Modern policing means that officers aren't as visible as they once were.

Priorities include reduction in violent crime, open space crime (anti-social behaviour). Child exploitation is a continuing worry not just about who children/young people may meet on line but also they may become exploited by criminal gangs looking to recruit these young people to traffic drugs. Young people recruited locally aren't always the one you would expect but come from more affluent areas. These young people are targeted as they fit in locally and may not raise suspicion. People are becoming the new commodities.

People trafficking is increasing and so is modern day slavery were people work for little or no wages. The signs to look for are houses in multi-occupancy which are overcrowded and transits picking up people.

101 service in 2016 was not good. Humberside's 101 service was one of the worst performing in the country.

The rate of dropped calls is now 3 – 4% the neighbouring force South Yorkshire lose 30 – 50%.

Community Safety Partnerships.

The members of the community safety partnership are the Police, Probation Service, Local Authority (East Riding of Yorkshire Council), Fire Service and Clinical Commissioning Group. There are 4 in Humberside one for each area.

The partnerships haven't been working well and had been left to wither. Community Safety Partnerships have funding to undertake projects designed to reduce crime/anti-social behaviour.

The budget for the 4 partnerships is £7M. East Riding of Yorkshire Council have been fairly unresponsive. The partnerships need to be more responsive and delivering what the communities want. The partnerships have to develop a strategy and make connections with what happens on the ground.

Funding is allocated to community and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector groups for projects. The funding allocation is forcing the partnerships to be more responsive at a local level.

There are issues in the community safety partnerships. The one issue raised was the lack of engagement from East Riding of Yorkshire Council with Parish and Town Councils. Issues are often raised locally to parish/town councils. At present the Community Safety Strategy is developed with just data but this needs to change to take into account what is coming up as the local issues through Parish/Town Councils.

The data led approach has skewed the strategy and this doesn't always give communities what they want.

These changes won't happen overnight as organisations and people take time to change. Debbie Fagan is our Engagement Officer with East Riding.

Future – The service still requires improving. The aim is to drive efficiencies further so more can be put into the front line.

Budgets will continue to contract and services. This will leave gaps that the community might be expected to fill.

#### 6. Questions from the floor for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

A resident asked about the proposal for a new prison and how this would affect local policing.

Mr Hunter replied that he objects to the prison and hasn't been consulted by the Ministry of Justice on the likely impact this will have on the locality.

Mr Hunter thinks it is the wrong place – Yorkshire doesn't need it as there is capacity in the current Cat C prisons.

The road infrastructure isn't good enough to cope with the increased traffic.

The prison may result in more crime locally.

A resident who had been burgled asked about police resourcing in the area.

Resources are determined by the Chief Constable and are based on a number of factors including crime figures, socio-economic and community vulnerability. The cuts have come from Central Government so the local precept has to rise. This year the local precept is going up 12% mostly to offset the cut in the central grant and inflation. The Chief Constable has been asked to find efficiencies and savings of £17M. 80% of the budget goes on salaries for staff. Even with these cuts the number of front line staff has risen.

There was a discussion about the current manning of the Police Station in Pocklington. The front desk is open three days a week. To increase this would require taking funding from other operations.

There is a re-shaping of public services across the whole of the sector with more emphasis on new technologies.

The resident had also had problems with finding out who was investigating the crime. CID had seen a reduction in number of officers to 2016 and recruitment to CID had been difficult across the whole country. CID in Humberside has seen a rise in officer numbers and is being re-professionalised.

The Police and Crime Commissioner went on to talk about Community Safety Partnerships and the funding they receive and the grants available from them.

A resident felt that asking volunteers and town councillors to fill some of the gaps created by the cuts in policing might make them vulnerable to attack. This was particularly relevant as volunteers in some villages are being trained to use speed guns. There was also a fear that Parish and Town Councillors and Clerks workloads would be added as they would be the first port of call for issues.

The clerk responded that during the summer an issue had arisen that had been brought to the Town Councils attention and required action. A letter was sent to the relevant authority and intervention occurred from the relevant authorities. However feedback wasn't received to say how many actions had taken place. This piece of work was considered to be important and didn't impact on the workload of the council.

The Mayor thanked the Police and Crime Commissioner for attending and answering questions.

7. Matters arising from the notes of the previous meeting.

The chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Group gave an update on the progress made since last year on developing the plan. A character assessment and draft plan document have been produced. The survey asking resident's opinions on housing, economy, environment, transport and leisure is currently available. This survey is important to provide the evidence for the plan.

The plan once made will have policies within it that developers will have to take note of when making applications in Pocklington.

Comments from residents were that the survey had crashed when they had tried to fill it in on line. This will be checked with the survey company.

That the plan is too late – the plan wasn't for the current round of development but for the next one. East Riding of Yorkshire Council are currently reviewing the local plan and asking for new land bids for development from owners and land agents. These will be consulted on early next year but when a draft neighbourhood plan should be at the inspection stage in the process.

A series of residents commented on the lack of infrastructure investment that has come with the latest developments. Roads, parking, bin stores, congestion, water supply and sewage were all mentioned.

On the new developments residents are having to pay a management fee to a private company for the maintenance of the open spaces and play facilities. When an owner wishes to sell they also have to pay a fee to the same company for the privilege of selling.

There appears to be a lack of social housing on some estates. Social housing is on most of the new estates and is incorporated within the design of the housing.

8. Any further questions from residents.

One resident objected to the fact there had been guest speakers at this year's annual town meeting.

One of the new detached youth workers introduced themselves. The detached youth workers will be working for local charity Young People Count. The aim is to engage with those young people who are hanging around town at night.

A resident wished to express thanks to those Town Councillors that were retiring from office this year. There are elections to be held in May and 6 councillors have chosen to not seek re-election.

2 residents asked about the attendance record of Cllr Sharpe. The second resident had looked at the minutes of the Town Council which are all publicly accessible on the Council's website and found that the Councillor Sharpe had missed 9 full council meetings in 2018 – 19 out of 12 meetings.

A resident asked if East Riding of Yorkshire Council could be approached about making some streets in the town one way.

9. The next annual town meeting will be held in April 2020.

The meeting finished at 9.11pm

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