

## STALMINE-WITH-STAYNALL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6 January 2014 at 7pm at the Village Hall, Stalmine

**Present:** Cllrs D Anderson (Chairman), S Carrington J Jackson, and A Wallace

**In Attendance:** Jan Finch, Clerk to the Council, County Councillor Vivien Taylor, Councillor Lynne Bowen (Wyre Council) and seven members of the public.

#### **146(2013-14) Apologies for Absence**

K Jenkinson

#### **147(2013-14) Declaration of Interests and Dispensations**

None.

#### **148(2013-14) Public Participation (Including Police Report)**

Councillors **resolved** to adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public to bring matters relating to the agenda to the attention of the council. Councillors further resolved to suspend standing order 1(e) (which limit public participation to 15 minutes) in accordance with standing order 5(xxii).

Members of the public raised concerns over the proposed withdrawal of the bus subsidy by Lancashire County Council which would leave the village without a bus service after 7pm and on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Their concerns related to

- Inability to get to and from work for those working unsocial hours/shifts
- Inability for students to access college in the evenings if they had no car
- The potential increase in drink driving if there is no public transport available in the evenings
- The isolation of rural communities without access to public transport and the potential equalities issues
- Inability to access medical appointments which are now being provided later in the day
- Inability to visit patients in hospital in both Blackpool and Lancaster
- Inability to visit friends and relatives, particularly elderly relatives

County Councillor Taylor answered a number of technical questions relating to bus subsidies and how they are used to support non-commercial services and stated that it is the bus company which decided on the type of bus to use (single or double decker) and that this does not affect the subsidy.

She encouraged every individual to write to Lancashire County Council to express their views on these proposals as all the feedback will be taken into consideration when the proposals are considered. Comments can be made by email ([lcc.bus.services@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:lcc.bus.services@lancashire.gov.uk)), by post to Bus and Supported Transport Manager, LCC, Room D3, PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD on online at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/haveyoursay) .

Members of the public were concerned to find out that the County Council only counted a petition as one voice, irrespective of the number of signatures on it.

County Councillor Taylor confirmed that, in her role as a Wyre Councillor, she had asked for a debate on the matter to be included in the next meeting of the full council at Wyre and that both MPs were opposed to the proposals.

On the conclusion of public participation councillors **resolved** to reconvene the meeting.

**149(2013-14) Proposed Withdrawal of Bus Subsidy by Lancashire County Council**

Councillors considered the proposals by LCC to withdraw the subsidy for the 2C, 86 and 89 bus after 7pm and on Sundays and resolved to respond to LCC putting forward all the concerns raised by members of the public. Councillors further resolved to express their anger at the very short timescale or consultation provided by the County Council and the fact that this was further reduced by the Christmas and New Year period.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm.