

**Draft Minutes of the Chippenham Area Committee (3) Meeting held on Monday 2nd April 2007
at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham, commencing at 7.00pm.**

Present:

Councillor D.B. AllenChairman

Councillors H.R. Barton, C. Crisp, S.K. Doubell, V.H. Greenman, R.J. Henning, R.B. MacGregor, D.M. Moore, T.J.A. Northey, N.M. Phillips, J.H. Rooke and J.M. Wood.

County/Town/Parish Council Representatives:

A. Butler	Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council
E. Clegg	Castle Combe Parish Council
A. Bishop	Castle Combe Parish Council
A. Noblet	Chippenham Town Council
T. Bate	Chippenham Without Parish Council
K. Kennedy	Chippenham Without Parish Council
L. Palmer	Grittleton Parish Council
J. Clark	Seagry Parish Council

Officers Present:

P. Jeremiah (Legal Team Leader), and M. Todd (Senior Policy and Democratic Services Officer.)

Others Present:

Sergeant M Alvis and Inspector G. Williams – Wiltshire Police.

CH59. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C.R. Coleman, S.D. Meadows, G. Jones (Chippenham Chamber of Commerce) and N. Fenwick (Strategic Manager, Customer Services).

CH60. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions

No public questions or petitions were received.

CH61. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2007 (circulated with the Agenda) were considered.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.



CH62. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman made the following announcements:

1. Budget Rollover

Following the Committee's request to carry over both its revenue and capital budgets the Chairman reported that the procedure would be the same as in previous years. This meant that all Area Committees would retain their capital budgets only.

2. Agenda Topics

The Chairman informed Members that the responses regarding topics to be discussed at future meetings had been tabled. The most popular choices were devolution to Town and Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Policing and Anti-social behaviour. More forms were available at the meeting if anyone wished to submit any further suggestions.

CH63. Declarations of Interests

Mrs J.H. Rooke declared a personal interest in minute number CH65 as she was a member of the Wiltshire Police Authority.

CH64. Town/Parish Council Update

The Committee received an update from Parish and Town Council representatives as follows:

(a) Castle Combe Parish Council

The Parish Council was very concerned at the District Council's decision to close the public conveniences in the village and at the lack of consultation on this decision. Many tourists and walkers visited the area and used these facilities. The Parish Council wished to ask the Executive to reverse its decision.

The Chairman stated that a written response would be sent to Castle Combe Parish Council.

(b) Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council

The Parish Council was also very concerned at the closure of its public conveniences. This decision seems contradictory to the Regional Spatial Strategy which promoted "sustainable tourism" for the area.

The Chairman stated that a written response would be sent to Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council regarding the closure.

The Parish felt that the recent discussions regarding dog fouling and graffiti were simply a box-ticking exercise. Not enough information had been given and there was no funding available to provide any training.

It was also suggested that a presentation should be made to the Area Committee regarding the proposal for a Unitary Authority for Wiltshire. This could take place in July following the outcome of the consultation process.

(c) Chippenham Without Parish Council

The Parish Council had now completed the restoration of Derriads Pond and had signed a 25 year lease. A grant had been obtained from the landfill tax fund to

enable this project to go ahead. There would be an opening ceremony on Sunday 22 April and Derriads Barn would also be open for viewing on this date.

(d) Seagry Parish Council

The Parish Council was very concerned at the reduction of £75,000 in the affordable housing budget. Its members would like a housing needs survey to be undertaken and a Parish Plan to be produced. District Councillors were urged to make affordable housing a priority and to liaise with all Parish Councils on housing issues. The Parish would welcome any ideas on how to encourage landowners to release land for affordable housing.

The Parish was very pleased to receive grants to deal with speeding in the village. Local people were concerned about potholes caused by large vehicles and the erosion of verges.

(e) Grittleton Parish Council

The Parish Council queried whether the County or District Council had responsibility for controlling traffic noise from the M4. Thanks was also expressed to Councillor Jane Scott and Chris Turnbull who had recently helped to enable a collapsed wall to be repaired.

(f) Chippenham Town Council

The Town Council had now completed the refurbishment of the War Memorial and would also be improving the fountain. The Council thanked the District Council for providing a shelter in Pewsham Park. Conservation work at Stanley Park had now been completed. The refurbishment of the Town Hall had also been completed. A meeting had recently been held with the Chief Executive of Wiltshire County Council and the Town Council was supporting the bid for a Unitary Authority for Wiltshire.

CH65. Update on Neighbourhood Policing and Current Policy in Respect of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

The Committee received an update on Neighbourhood Policing and current policy in respect of PCSOs from Inspector Gavin Williams and Sergeant Martin Alvis. The update covered the following issues:

- The Community Policing Teams were currently in place and would roll out on 23 April 2007.
- Beat Officers would be in post for at least two years to ensure consistency and continuity.
- The new system would improve both visibility and accountability.
- There was strong local commitment to neighbourhood policing and the importance of community engagement was stressed.

Members then discussed the following matters:

- The Committee welcomed this initiative and offered its support.

- There had been problems contacting the local police by telephone. Inspector Williams confirmed that this matter was currently being addressed. The Community Policing Teams would also have their own e-mail addresses so that people could also contact them in this way. Where there was seen to be a need local surgeries would also be held. The Officers' availability would also be made available on the website.
- PCSOs could play an important role in gathering intelligence.
- It was suggested that the Community Policing Teams could also work with local neighbourhood watch schemes and also through Parish Council meetings and Parish magazines.

CH66. Update ON 20/20/ Vision Project

Gareth Jones from the Chippenham Chamber of Commerce was unable to attend the meeting to give an update on this matter.

Resolved that this matter be considered at the next meeting.

CH67. Derriads Barn, Chippenham

Consideration was given to Report No. 9 which asked Members to consider a request from Chippenham Without Parish Council to acquire the Derriads Barn Site from the District Council.

Mr T. Bate, Vice Chairman of Chippenham Without Parish Council, explained that a wide consultation would take place prior to any decision being made about the use of the building. He acknowledged that it was important to listen to the views of all residents in the area and pointed out that there was currently no community facility in Chippenham Without. When the barn had been sold to the District Council it was intended for community use. Any development of the barn would be subject to a planning decision. Mr Bate also pointed out the difficulty in obtaining funding for a building the Parish Council did not own.

A number of e-mails objecting to the proposal had been received from local residents and these were circulated to members at the meeting.

A number of local residents attended the meeting and Paul Kilmister, Angela Johnson, Richard Buray and Anthony Pugh spoke against the proposal. They raised the following concerns:

- Increase in anti-social behaviour.
- Increased noise – particularly in the evenings.
- Parking problems.
- Loss of green space.
- Detrimental effect on property values.
- Lack of consultation.
- Environmental issues.
- Access problems.
- Not enough information about the scheme.
- No need for change.

The Committee then discussed the following issues:

- The Trust had not been active in the last few years and nothing had been done to improve the site.
- Whether there was a need for a community facility in this area.
- The suitability of the building for this type of use.
- The need for more information and further consultation on this matter (including a business plan).
- There was concern that if left in its current state the building could become a hazard.
- The requirement for a clear time frame on any consultation.
- The need for the District and Parish Councils to discuss this matter and to put forward some alternative options.

Resolved:

- (1) To defer this matter to enable Chippenham Without Parish Council to undertake a new and wide-ranging consultation.
- (2) To request officers to discuss this matter with the Parish Council, to identify any alternative options and to propose a timescale for the project.
- (3) To consider this matter at a future meeting when more information is available.

CH68 Community Planning Update

The Chairman of the Chippenham Community Area Partnership gave a verbal update to the Committee on Community Planning issues.

The following issues were raised:

- The first newsletter had now been printed.
- The 2007 work plan was now in progress.
- A new special interest group had been set up to consider health and social care.
- The Chairman thanked officers for their help and support.
- There would be a meeting later in the year to look at past achievements and to consider plans for the future.

CH69. Outside Bodies

Councillor D. Allen reported that she would be attending a meeting of the Kingsley Road Community Hall Association on 13 April 2007.

The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 8.35pm.

There were 23 members of the public present.