

Draft Minutes of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee Meeting held on Monday 2 June 2008 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham.

Present:

Councillor D.B. Allen (Chairman)

Councillors PCB Coleman, PR Darby, JP Doubell, SK Doubell, JL Hall, PJ Hutton, SD Meadows, JA Phillips, NM Phillips, JA Scott, JR Scragg and M Singlehurst

Also present: Councillor R Tonge

County/Town/Parish Council Representatives:

A Butler	Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council
TC Bate	Chippenham Without Parish Council
R Jones	Chippenham Town Council
A.Noblet	Chippenham Town Council
H Purdon	Chippenham Town Council
F Wilson	Chippenham Town Council
L. Palmer	Grittleton Parish Council
P Hart	Kington Langley Parish Council
B Patterson	Langley Burrell Parish Council
J Clark	Seagry Parish Council
R Henning	Wiltshire County Council

Officers Present: J Cogswell (Community Partnership Manager), W Gubbins (Corporate and Member Support Manager), S McGregor (Deputy Chief Executive), M Rippon (Community Safety Officer), L Robertson (Head of Policy and Performance), M Todd (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and V Welsh (Community Partnership Officer).

CH3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors CJ Caswill, R MacGregor and J Whincup.

CH4. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions

Public questions were dealt with under the relevant agenda item.

CH5. Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee meetings held on 31 March 2008 and 20 May 2008 (circulated with the Agenda).

Resolved that:

- 1) The minutes of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee meeting held on 31 March 2008 be approved and signed as a correct record.
- 2) The minutes of the of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee meeting held on 20 May 2008 be approved and signed as a correct record.



CH6. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that all information requested at the joint meeting with Chippenham Town Council regarding toilets at the bus station had now been provided. A meeting had been held on the site, options had been discussed and a suitable location agreed. The Town Council was now seeking quotes/tenders from interested contractors. Confirmation was now being sought from the County Council that it would agree to release the site if the property group agree it.

CH7. Declarations of Interest

Name	Item	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
Councillor N Philips	Area 3 Community Area Awards Funding Distribution 2008/09 – CAVE Application	Personal	Member of CAVE	Remained in the meeting and voted.
Councillor S Doubell	Area 3 Community Area Awards Funding Distribution 2008/09 – Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Application	Personal	Member of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	Remained in the meeting and voted.
Councillors D Allen, P Darby, S Doubell, A Phillips, N Phillips and J Scragg	Area 3 Community Area Awards Funding Distribution 2008/09 – Westinghouse Tennis Club Application	Personal	Members of Chippenham Town Council	Remained in the meeting and voted.

CH8. Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision

Consideration was given to Report No. 6 (circulated with the Agenda) which introduced the Gypsy and Traveller Issues and Options Consultation, set out the background to this issue, set out the potential for addressing the needs in the short term and advised on the long term future for dealing with the issue within the Local Development Framework Process.

The Head of Policy and Performance gave a presentation regarding gypsy and traveller site provision covering the following issues:

- The number of pitches required
- The location of current pitches in Wiltshire
- Unauthorised sites
- Policies regarding the provision of sites for gypsies and travellers
- Public sites being considered for the location of a gypsy and traveller site
- The assessment process
- Timeline for site provision

The Committee was also informed that the Government had now stated that 48 pitches (as opposed to the original proposal of 24 pitches) were required in North Wiltshire.

It was noted that privately owned sites could also be considered if put forward by landowners. Any private sites put forward would be subject to a separate consultation process at the end of the summer.

Members of the public then asked questions and made comments on the proposals put forward in the consultation document. Details of the question and answer session are attached in Appendix 2 to these minutes.

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- It was suggested that officers take account of the successful sites in the County such as Thingley and Chisledon. Could these sites be expanded to provide more pitches?
- It was important to resolve this issue as soon as possible and to reduce the uncertainty for local residents.
- It was suggested that the Council also approach the Ministry of Defence and the County Council for potential sites.
- There was some discussion around the criteria used for site provision. The new Government criteria were very narrow and led to gypsy sites being positioned close to residential areas where there were more amenities. It was felt that the criteria should be widened.
- Any sites proposed should not have a detrimental effect on the existing residents.

Resolved that:

- (1) this Committee wishes to express the view that the Hardens Mead and Long Close sites are unsuitable for a gypsy and traveller site for the following reasons set out below, and wish to submit the attached written and photographic evidence:
 - (a) Residents in adjoining properties and in other areas of Chippenham have enjoyed this area of well kept public open space for over 60 years with a variety of leisure activities that have included picnics, dog walking, play for youngsters and as a walk through into Chippenham from Hardens Mead to Baydons Lane and thus into St Mary Street.
 - (b) Long Close land is in a zone 2 flood plain, with the implications of the loss of the lower part of the site thus pushing any proposed development up nearer to the established houses on Long Close (map attached).
 - (c) Long Close site is known to be extremely wet owing to natural springs and also as it takes the run off water during rain from the hill behind it which continues on down the sloping site to the River Avon.

- (d) The Hardens Mead site is too close to residential houses, is too small on its own, and is bisected by a tarmac footpath used by schoolchildren and also by pedestrians walking into Chippenham. In addition it was purchased by the Council in 1971 on the understanding that it be used for open space purposes (letter attached).
- (e) Site access down Long Close and Black Cross is along a narrow sloping cul-de-sac with parked cars and is totally inadequate as a site entrance (photographs attached).
- (f) The site is already in multi use with a BMX track, on a Borough Lands owned site, a children's playground, financed by the Chippenham Town Council, Chippenham Canoe and Sailing Club, the Headquarters for the Chippenham Sea Cadets, and the Headquarters for the Chippenham Air Cadets (photographs attached).
- (g) We would finally bring to the attention of the Executive that the site far from being "untidy brambles" as described by Humberts, is in fact a well maintained green public open space (photographs attached).

(Note: attachments listed above are attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes).

- (2) This Committee wishes to express the view that the Stanley Road site is unsuitable for a gypsy and traveller site for the following reasons:
 - (a) The road network in this area is unsuitable.
 - (b) The site is too close to residential areas.
 - (c) The establishment of a site in this area would mean that the number of gypsies and travellers would be greater than the number of existing residents. This would be disproportionate and unacceptable.

CH9. A Proposed Designated Public Places Order in Chippenham (Alcohol Exclusion Zone)

Consideration was given to Report No. 7 (circulated with the Agenda) which informed members of the proposals regarding a Designated Public Places Order in Chippenham.

Members discussed the following issues:

- It was noted that the proposals were not for an outright ban on outside drinking but would regulate alcohol use in public places.
- The Order would enhance police powers to deal with nuisance caused by alcohol.
- A final decision on this matter would be made by the Council at its meeting on 24 June 2008.
- Some concern was expressed about the cost of these proposals which were likely to be in the region of £5,000.
- Some concern was expressed about the wide area covered by the proposal. It was felt by some members that there was no evidence of any problems in the outer parts of Chippenham and that there was no need to extend the zone to cover these areas.
- It was noted that the Order could be reconsidered or revoked in the future if necessary.
- Members agreed that it would be important to monitor the effectiveness of any Order put in place to ensure that it was achieving its objectives.
- It was noted that the Orders put in place in Malmesbury and Calne had been successful and had reduced problems in these areas.
- Some concern was expressed about the ability of Police resources to deal with these problems even if an Order was in place.
- It was important to ensure that the signs were worded correctly to avoid any confusion about the meaning of the Order.

Resolved to recommend to the Council that a Designated Public Places Order be made for the Chippenham area.

CH10 Chippenham Area (3) Community Area Awards Funding Distribution 2008/09

Consideration was given to Report No, 8 (circulated with the Agenda) which noted the 2008/09 budget allocation and criteria, and considered 9 applications with recommendations for funding from the 2008/09 Community Area Award Scheme.

Resolved that

1. Members note the 2008/09 budget allocation and funding criteria for the Community Area Awards Scheme.
2. To agree funding distribution of the Chippenham Area (3) Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2008/2009 as follows:
 - (a) **Chippenham Junior Hockey Club** - Award £2,335 from the revenue budget towards providing coaching and equipment to enhance school links with Chippenham Junior Hockey Club, conditional upon the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient before 31st March 2009.
 - (b) **Yatton Keynell Under Fives Group** – Award £1,590 from the capital budget towards IT and educational play equipment and safety gates

for pre-school children, conditional upon the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient before 31st March 2009.

- (c) **Carers Support North Wiltshire** – Award £2,500 from the revenue budget towards summer activities for Parent Carers, their disabled/ill children and their siblings, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place and that the award is paid to or invoiced by the recipient before 31st March 2009.
- (d) **Chippenham & District Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Group** – Award £1,920 from the capital budget towards the purchase of a laptop and projector, conditional upon the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient by 31st March 2009.
- (e) **Kington Langley Parish Council** – Award £5,360 from the capital budget towards the installation of kerbing and timber bollards on Middle Common, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place, and that the award is paid to or invoiced by the recipient by 31st March 2009.
- (f) **Chippenham Harriers Youth** – Award £2,295 from the revenue budget towards the establishment of a running club for young people aged 11-17, conditional upon the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient by 31st March 2009.
- (g) **Westinghouse Tennis Club** – Award £2,500 from the capital budget towards the relocation of Westinghouse Tennis Club to John Coles Park, conditional upon planning permission being granted, and the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient by 31st March 2009.
- (h) **APART Lone parents group** – Award £2,451 from the revenue budget towards the cost of summer holiday activities for lone parents, conditional upon the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient by 31st March 2009.
- (i) **CAVE – Chippenham and Villages Environmentalists** - Award £2,419 from the revenue budget towards the cost of the Fairtrade & Plastic bag campaigns, conditional upon the award being paid to or invoiced by the recipient by 31st March 2009.

CH11 Community Boards Update

The Committee received a presentation giving an update on the proposals for Community Boards in Wiltshire. The following issues were discussed:

- The Chippenham Area Committee had been selected as a pilot for the Community Area Boards.
- Vicky Welsh had been appointed as one of the Project Managers dealing with the Community Area Boards and would be working with the Chippenham area.
- Various different items would be tested within the Area Committee meetings over the next few months.
- There was some concern that Parish Councils had not been involved in the Community Area Board proposals and were not aware of what was happening.
- It was noted that all involvement was encouraged and that Parishes have not been excluded from the process, it is only just beginning.

CH12 Monkton Park Update

An update was given regarding the improvements to Monkton Park. Members were very disappointed that no work had yet started on the improvements to Monkton Park in spite of the fact that the money was available. It was suggested that the money be transferred to Chippenham Town Council to enable it to undertake this work on the District's behalf.

CH13 Repairs to Black Bridge

The Black Bridge over the River Avon had now been reopened following repairs after damage had been found in the walking surface. The bridge had been closed to allow all the timber decking to be replaced with metal. The work meant that the bridge now had increased durability and would need less frequent maintenance.

CH14 Town/Parish Council Update

There were no Town or Parish Council updates.

CH15. Community Planning Update

The Chairman of the Chippenham Community Area Partnership gave an oral update to the Committee on Community Planning issues. Members noted that:

- Work would soon begin on the update to the Community Plan
- The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) were all continuing their excellent work. The Health and Social Care Group were awaiting a report from local GPs regarding Chippenham Hospital
- The newsletter soon to be issued would give details of the very useful visits to Evesham and Pershore.

CH16. Urgent Matters Sub-Committee

The Committee was asked to appoint an Urgent Matters Sub Committee.

Resolved that Councillors D Allen, P Darby and S Meadows be appointed to the Urgent Matters Sub Committee.

Councillors S Doubell, P Hutton and A Phillips be appointed as substitute members.

CH17. Outside Bodies

The Chairman reported that she had recently attended a meeting of the Kingsley Road Community Hall Association.

The meeting started at 7pm and finished at 10pm.

There were 141 members of the public present.