

Draft Minutes of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee Meeting held on Monday 3 December 2007 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham.

Present:

Councillor D.B. Allen (Chairman)

Councillors C.J. Caswill, P.C.B. Coleman, P.R. Darby, J.P. Doubell, S.K. Doubell, P.J. Hutton, R.B. MacGregor, J.A. Phillips, N.M. Phillips and J.R. Scragg.

County/Town/Parish Council Representatives:

A. Butler	Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council
T. Smith	Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council
S. Cook	Bremhill Parish Council
A. Bishop	Castle Combe Parish Council
D. Ryall	Castle Combe Parish Council
F. Winup	Castle Combe Parish Council
A. Noblet	Chippenham Town Council
H. Purdon	Chippenham Town Council
T.C. Bate	Chippenham Without Parish Council
M. Viner	Grittleton Parish Council
R. Henning	Wiltshire County Council

Others Present: D. Purton and A. Whitbread (Chippenham Chamber of Commerce)

Officers Present: P. Barnett (Head of ICT), J. Cogswell (Community Partnership Manager), J. Kashdan-Brown (Principal Urban Designer), M. Todd (Senior Policy and Democratic Services Officer) and V. Welsh (Community Partnership Officer)

CH37. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors SD Meadows, JA Scott, M Singlehurst and J Whincup and J Clark (Seagry Parish Council) and P Hart (Kington Langley Parish Council).

CH38. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions

No public questions or petitions were received.

CH39. Minutes

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee meeting held on 8 October 2007.

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee held on 8 October 2007 be approved and signed as a correct record.



CH40. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman, Councillor D.B. Allen, informed Members that the Committee has been asked to nominate and give delegated authority to two representatives of the Committee to represent them on a Joint Community Area Funding Advisory Body (Task Group). The Group would review the effectiveness of the 2007/08 funding criteria and set common funding criteria for distribution of Community Area Awards (capital and revenue), by Area Committees in 2008/09. The Task Group would meet on Tuesday 8 January 2008 at 6pm at the Council Offices in Chippenham.

Resolved that Councillors DB Allen and A Phillips be appointed to the Task Group.

CH41. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CH42. Area Boards in North Wiltshire

Consideration was given to Report No 6, circulated with the Agenda, which provided background information and context to inform a debate around how Area Boards could be trialed and implemented in North Wiltshire.

The following issues were discussed:

- It was noted that Wiltshire County Council had invited the District Councils to consider piloting Area Boards prior to the transition to a unitary authority.
- Members felt that this invitation offered an opportunity to shape the Area Boards and to put forward the positive aspects of Area Committees which had worked well in North Wiltshire.
- Questions were asked regarding issues such as membership and voting which would ultimately be decided by the new unitary authority.
- It was likely that trial Area Boards would come into effect in the late spring of 2008. Members felt that the Area Committees should meet again early in the new year to give further input into the implementation of Area Boards.
- A bottom-up approach was desirable and it was suggested that any Executive proposals should be brought back to the Area Committees for approval.
- The question of cost was raised. Would there be an additional cost if a separate Forum was set up for liaison with Town and Parish Councils?
- It was felt that grants should continue to be considered by a Committee/Board rather than being delegated to officers.
- It was important to avoid duplication of work. If Area Boards were set up then it was likely that other meetings with partners and stakeholders would no longer be necessary. This would be a more efficient way of conducting business for both members and officers.
- It was noted that the Implementation Executive would have the power to change Area Board arrangements if they considered it necessary.

- There should be no single blueprint for an Area Board and it was important not to lose local knowledge or local flexibility.
- Some members felt that a radical approach should be taken as this provided an opportunity for change. As the unitary authority covered such a large geographical area it was important to connect with the public and improve communication. Large meetings, however, could be dissatisfying and Working Groups and Sub-Committees may need to be set up to avoid this.
- It was suggested that a one page diagram setting out the functions of Area Boards and relationships with other bodies would be helpful.
- It was important to ensure that adequate resources (both staffing and financial) were allocated to the Area Boards.
- Councillor S Doubell circulated some proposals for the implementation and development of an Area Committee to an Area Board which had been discussed and agreed by the Liberal Democrat Group.

Resolved that the Executive be recommended that:

- (1) The draft proposals (attached as Appendix A to these minutes) be taken as the basis for a pilot Chippenham Area Board and that this be set up by the end of February 2008.
- (2) The pilot Area Board should have a transparent dedicated budget.
- (3) The first meeting should include a briefing on the Local Area Agreement and The Community Call for Action to assess how it will fit into the pilot Area Board.

CH43. Town/Parish Council Update

The Town and Parish Council Representatives updated the Committee on the following local issues;

(a) Chippenham Town Council

- A question was asked regarding the outstanding work on the Emery Gate Car Park in Chippenham. It was reported that officers were trying to bring between 15 to 18 spaces back into use by using a temporary shelter to protect vehicles from chemical deposits caused by dripping water. This work should be completed within the next couple of weeks.
- The Christmas light switch-on in Chippenham had been a very successful evening.
- Charity Christmas cards were now available from the Tourist Information Centre.
- It was hoped that Chippenham would soon become a “Fairtrade Town”.

- A meeting had recently been held with Chippenham Police and it had been agreed that two benches would soon be installed on the Town Bridge.

(b) Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council

This area had experienced problems with dog fouling and the Parish Council requested advice about how best to deal with this issue.

CH44. Chippenham Conservation Area Management Plan

Consideration was given to Report No 8, circulated with the Agenda, which informed the Committee of progress to the production of proposals for the preservation and enhancement of Chippenham Conservation Area, in accordance with Section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

The following issues were discussed:

- It was noted that any detailed comments regarding the text of the document should be submitted to Julian Kashdan-Brown.
- Members were supportive of the document and felt that it was a positive step towards preserving and enhancing the town.
- Some concern was expressed about the state of the railway station footbridge and the lack of disabled access.
- It was noted that in order to change a Conservation Area it had to be demonstrated that the area to be included was of architectural interest.
- Members wished it to be recorded that they would not welcome any development on Monkton Park.

Resolved that it be recommended that the Chippenham Conservation Area Management Plan “Consultation Draft – December 2007” be approved for the purposes of public consultation in accordance with Section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

CH45. Area (3) Streetscene Enhancements

Consideration was given to Report No 9 circulated with the Agenda which informed the Committee of options for expenditure of the 2007-08 Capital Budget for the continuation of Streetworks in Area 3.

The following issues were discussed:

- It was suggested that it would be more advantageous if the funding was used to make improvements to the Chippenham bus station.
- Members expressed concern that when utility companies carried out work in the town centre they reinstated the road using black tarmac rather than replacing the existing material. Officers stated that they would look at the costs

of resurfacing the town centre area with a black finish. A report on this would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

- Concern was expressed regarding the barriers on the WCC footpath leading from the bridge to St Mary's Street in Chippenham. It had been reported that disabled scooters were unable to gain access through the barriers. Officers agreed to look into this matter.

Resolved that:

- (1) the Committee does not agree the officer recommendation to purchase natural materials for footway reinstatements in St Mary's Street.
- (2) alternative proposals for the use of the 2007/08 capital budget for streetworks be brought forward to a future meeting.

CH46. Consultation on Transitional Corporate Plan

Consideration was given to Report No 10, circulated with the Agenda, which set out a draft Corporate Plan for 2008/09. The Plan would be transitional in light of the Government's intention to create a new unitary council for Wiltshire.

Members expressed concern that not enough detailed information had been included in the Corporate Plan and that it was simply a statement. The Committee required more detail to enable them to make constructive comments on the Plan.

It was noted that any Member could request to receive a hard copy of the Executive Agenda and reports if they wished. Hard copies of individual reports could also be supplied on request. Reports were available to all Members on MARIS and the Council website.

Resolved that officers be requested to circulate the relevant Executive reports to enable Members to comment on the Transitional Corporate Plan for 2008/09.

CH47. Community Planning Update

The Vice Chairman of the Community Area Partnership gave an oral update to the Committee on Community Planning issues.

Issues raised included:

- A very successful evening event had recently been held.
- Money had been raised for equipment for "Clogs" performances.
- The Area Partnership welcomed the challenge and opportunity to be involved in the creation of Area Boards and looked forward to working with elected Members.
- The Vice-Chairman thanked Vicky Welsh and Jane Clark for all the work they undertook for the Area Partnership which helped to make it so successful.

CH48. Outside Bodies

There were no reports on outside bodies.

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The meeting started at 7pm and finished at 8.55pm.

There were 2 members of the public present.