

Draft Minutes of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee Meeting held on Monday 4 February 2008 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham.

Present:

Councillor D.B. Allen (Chairman)

Councillors P.R. Darby, J.P. Doubell, S.K. Doubell, J.L.Hall, P.J. Hutton, R.B. MacGregor, J.A. Phillips, N.M. Phillips, J.R. Scragg, M Singlehurst and J Whincup.

County/Town/Parish Council Representatives:

A. Butler	Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council
E. Kennedy	Chippenham Town Council
F. Wilson	Chippenham Town Council
H. Purdon	Chippenham Town Council
T.C. Bate	Chippenham Without Parish Council
L. Palmer	Grittleton Parish Council
B. Patterson	Langley Burrell Parish Council
J. Clark	Seagry Parish Council
R. Henning	Wiltshire County Council

Others Present: B. Corke (Chippenham Sports Club), N. Davies and D. Hall (1st Chippenham Scouts Group).

Officers Present: P. Barnett (Head of ICT), M. Hasted (Senior Regeneration Officer), M. Todd (Senior Policy and Democratic Services Officer) and V. Welsh (Community Partnership Officer)

CH49. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Caswill, P Coleman, S Meadows and J Scott, A Noblet (Chippenham Town Council) and Yatton Keynell Parish Council.

CH50. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions

No public questions or petitions were received.

CH51. Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee meeting held on 3 December 2007.

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

CH52. Chairman's Announcement

Area Boards

The Chairman informed members that at the meeting of the Executive on 17 January 2008 Members had considered the views of each of the Area Committees



and, in line with those views, resolved to support the development of pilot Area Boards in North Wiltshire.

Area Committees would continue and the meetings would be used to shape Area Boards during what would be a “development phase”.

District Council Officers would work with Officers from the County towards a plan for how the “development phase” would now be progressed.

More information would come to the Area 3 meeting in due course.

CH53. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CH54 Toilets at Chippenham Bus Station

The Chairman informed Members that in accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 having regard to the special circumstances pertaining in this matter – namely that the matter had been formally referred to this meeting by Chippenham Town Council and should be discussed at this meeting before the Council’s budget had been finalised – that this item should be considered as a matter of urgency.

It was noted that £100k had been earmarked in the draft capital programme for 2008/09 for the reinstatement of public toilet facilities in the vicinity of Chippenham bus station. This was likely to be given as a grant to Chippenham Town Council.

Councillor E Kennedy, from Chippenham Town Council, stated that there was some confusion as to whether the funding would be conditional on the Town Council paying ongoing maintenance costs. A formal request was required from the District Council to enable the Town Council to progress this matter.

It was also suggested that some form of partnership arrangement with the company responsible for running the bus station could be discussed.

Resolved:

- (1) To ensure that this scheme is able to progress, officers from the District Council be requested to contact officers from the Town Council to discuss funding arrangements as a matter of urgency.
- (2) An update report on this matter be submitted to the next meeting.

CH55. 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:

- A visit to Evesham to learn from their regeneration project would be taking place on 18 March 2008.
- The various interest groups were continuing to meet and were working well although new members were always welcome.

CH56. Town/Parish Council Update

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

(a) Grittleton Parish Council

The four Parishes of Grittleton, Biddestone, Yatton Keynell and Castle Combe had been working together to save their local Post Office. Meetings had taken place in December and January and the External Relations Officer from Royal Mail had visited the area to discuss this matter with local representatives. It had come to light that the figures quoted relating to Yatton Keynell Post Office had been based on the previous year's figures and that the service and use had greatly improved over the last year. The Parish Councils had written to the local MP, the Minister of State and Royal Mail and a decision was currently awaited. It was hoped that Yatton Keynell Post Office may get a reprieve.

It was also pointed out that some village post boxes were disappearing.

There was some concern that the ownership of the almshouses in the village had now been transferred to a different organisation and that funding for the almshouses may be used outside of the local area.

Work was also taking place regarding the provision of play areas in the Parish and further funding may be made available for this.

(b) Seagry Parish Council

The Parish Council had held helpful meetings with officers from the District Council regarding the Housing Needs Survey 2006 to identify a site for affordable housing within the village.

Concern was expressed regarding the condition of the roads in small villages and a number of the verges were wearing away. The Parish Council was advised to contact Wiltshire County Council regarding this matter.

(c) Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council

The roads in the Parish Council area were in a very poor condition with large potholes which filled with water.

It was noted that the cash boxes were being removed from some of the rural telephone boxes so that calls could only be made using cards.

Feedback was requested regarding community policing and how this was working. Members reported that community policing appeared to be working well within the town areas with the PCSOs dealing promptly with problems that arose. It was noted that Parish Council representatives were welcome to attend the Neighbourhood Policing Team meetings.

Resolved: To invite police representatives to attend the next meeting to provide an update on Community Policing in rural areas.

(d) Chippenham Without Parish Council

Work was continuing with the plans for the conversion of the “cart shed” and it was hoped that an exhibition would be held shortly. A newsletter would also be produced.

CH57. Project Feedback – Community Funding Awards

The Committee received 2 brief updates on projects which had been awarded Community Area Funding in 2007/08. Kenn Virr from Kington St Michael Parish Council gave feedback on the Parish Plan and Paul Connell, Assistant Curator from Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre gave feedback on the reopening of the historic Council Chamber at the Yelde Hall.

CH58. Chippenham Area (3) Community Area Funding Distribution 2007/08

Consideration was given to Report No. 8 (circulated with the Agenda) which asked Members to consider three applications seeking Community Area Award funding.

When discussing the application from Chippenham Sports Club Members expressed concern that the applicant would also be applying to the Executive for further funding. Some Members were concerned at the total amount of funding being proposed for the purchase of an airhall for indoor sports.

Resolved:

- (1) to agree the following funding distribution of Chippenham Area (3) Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2007/2008:
 - (a) Waste Not Want Not – Award £219 from the revenue budget towards Publicity & Advertising for newly expanded service to include pensioners.
 - (b) 1st Chippenham Scouts – Award £1,650 from the capital budget towards the cost of repair and refurbishment of the scout hall floor, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
- (2) Not to award a grant to Chippenham Sports Club.

(This decision was contrary to the officer recommendation because Members were concerned at the total amount of funding being proposed. There was also concern at plans to ask the Executive to grant funding for the project).
- (3) To recommend to the Executive that any unspent capital is carried over to the 2008/09 budget.

CH59. Consultation re Monkton Park

Consideration was given to a questionnaire regarding improvements to Monkton Park which was circulated with the Agenda. Members noted that £100k was currently available to spend on the park and that it was important to target the funding appropriately.

The following issues were discussed:

- It was pointed out that certain work could be done to improve the park without the need for formal consultation such as replacing benches, improving the play area and removing dead trees.
- Would the questionnaire target the correct people or was distribution to the local area too narrow? The park was a facility used by people from all over the town.
- It was important to publicise the questionnaire via the website.
- The questionnaire should be more specific as some of the questions were a little vague.
- It was suggested that a public meeting should take place to discuss the proposals for improving the park.
- Some Members queried the need for a questionnaire and suggested that the Council should proceed with improvements as soon as possible.
- It was important to ensure that a comprehensive scheme was put in place.

Resolved that officers be requested to note the Committee's comments on the questionnaire and to bring an update on the Monkton Park improvements to a future meeting.

CH60. Area (3) Streetscene Enhancements

Consideration was given to Report No 10, circulated with the Agenda, which asked the Committee whether it wished to request the Executive to agree to permit the carry forward of the remainder of the budget to the next financial year until an alternative scheme could be identified.

Members were keen to consider whether the funds could be used to provide protective glazed screens at Chippenham Bus Station in the next financial year.

Resolved that the Executive be requested to agree to permit the Area (3) 2007-8 Capital Budget for Streetworks to be carried over to the 2008/09 budget.

CH61. Outside Bodies

There were no reports on outside bodies.

The meeting started at 7pm and finished at 8.45pm.

There were 2 members of the public present.