

Draft Minutes of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee Meeting held on Monday 4 June 2007 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham.

Present:

Councillor D.B. Allen (Chairman)

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

County/Town/Parish Council Representatives:

G. Butler	Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council
A.D. Bishop	Castle Combe Parish Council
F. Winup	Castle Combe Parish Council
A. Noblet	Chippenham Town Council
T.C. Bate	Chippenham Without Parish Council
L. Palmer	Grittleton Parish Council
J. Schofield	Kington Langley Parish Council
I. Balmforth	Kington St Michael Parish Council
L. Durno	Kington St Michael Parish Council
J. Smith	Kington St Michael Parish Council
L. Workman	Sutton Benger Parish Council
R. Henning	Wiltshire County Council

Officers Present:

S. Pangbourne (Deputy Chief Executive), S. Parker (Community Partnership Officer), M. Todd (Senior Policy and Democratic Services Officer) and V. Welsh (Community Partnership Officer).

Others Present

Gareth Jones and David Purton – Chippenham Chamber of Commerce.

CH3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors CJ Caswill, PJ Hutton, SD Meadows and JA Scott.

CH4. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions

No public questions or petitions were received.

CH5. Minutes

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee meetings held on 2 April and 16 May 2007

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee held on 2 April and 16 May 2007 be approved and signed as a correct record.



CH6. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman informed Members that she had attended the opening ceremony for Drakes Pond and that this had been a very enjoyable and well organised event.

CH7. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CH8. 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 had noted the District Council's response regarding the public toilets and was pleased to hear that these would remain open for the time being. The Parish Council wished to know whether this decision would be reviewed by the new Executive and if so when this would happen. There were also concerns that the toilets currently had no hot water supply. It was agreed that a written response should be sent to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council also had concerns about illegal parking in the village. Chris Major, the Council's Senior Parking Officer, had agreed to visit the village to look into the problem.

The Parish Council wished to inform the District Council that they hoped the road sweeping arrangements for the village would continue. It was noted that an additional sweeper had been ordered and that new cleaning schedules were currently being prepared.

(b) Kington St Michael Parish Council

The Parish Council informed Members that from 1 May 2007 the village shop was being run by the community and that the arrangement was proving to be very successful. Members congratulated Kington St Michael on this initiative.

(c) Grittleton Parish Council

Grittleton Parish Council informed the Committee that Hazel Anderton had attended a recent meeting to discuss neighbourhood policing issues. Unfortunately the Parish Council felt that the matters discussed had not been consistent across all Parish Council meetings. There were also concerns that queries raised at Area Committee meetings were not being responded to.

(d) Chippenham Town Council

Chippenham Town Council asked whether there was a start date for the Borough Parade car park works. The Chairman agreed that a written response would be sent.

(e) Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council

It was reported that the Parish Council was very happy with the new neighbourhood policing arrangements and that a number of crimes within the area had been successfully dealt with as a result.

(f) Sutton Benger Parish Council

It was reported that the communal grass area within the village had finally been mowed.

(g) Seagry Parish Council

Seagry Parish Council would be very interested in any action which could be taken regarding motorway noise. It was agreed that if any action was to be taken then this should be undertaken on behalf of all villages close to the M4.

CH9. Update on 20/20 Vision Project

Gareth Jones and David Purton from the Chippenham Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation regarding the 20/20 vision project. The presentation covered the following issues:

- The Chamber of Commerce had hosted an event last July where they had recorded views and ideas for the development of Chippenham Town Centre.
- It was important to ensure that business interests were considered.
- Community support was crucial to any proposals.
- There were many positive aspects to Chippenham – it was a young town, offered a good weekend break location, had good geographical surroundings, a hospital, affordable house prices and successful schools and colleges.
- It was felt that the riverside location should be exploited more.
- The Regional Spatial Strategy presented an opportunity for the town.
- Concerns regarding the town included the need for a stronger identity, more youth facilities and better managed car parking.
- There was good access to and from the town with the railway station and the M4. However people had commented that they found it difficult to find their way around the town and that signage should be improved.
- On the whole research had shown that Chippenham was undervalued and underused.

The discussions undertaken so far had led to the following recommendations:

- The Chamber of Commerce and the District Council should facilitate a 20/20 vision steering group.
- Interaction with the business community was essential.
- Engagement with all interested parties should take place.
- General Public consultation should also take place.

Members then made comments and asked questions:

- Some members were concerned at the length of time taken to get this far and were worried that the project would be delayed further. Mr Jones confirmed that now funding was available there would be more opportunities to progress.
- There was some concern that Chippenham could become a “clone town” with very few independent retailers to attract people. Many people wanted a quality shop in the town and had stated that this would encourage them to come into the town centre.
- It was confirmed that the 20/20 vision report would be made available to the Area (3) Committee Members.

CH10. Community Planning Update

The Chairman of the Chippenham Community Area Partnership gave an update regarding community planning issues. The newsletter was now available and this gave details of forthcoming events. There would be a meeting at Seagry Village Hall on 10 July to discuss transport issues and it was hoped that all Parishes in the Chippenham Community Area (3) would send a representative. The Culture and Leisure Group would be meeting on 20 June at Wiltshire College and members of local performance groups e.g. dance, drama, music would be encouraged to attend to discuss results of a survey of the facilities at the Neeld Hall. The Group was keen to encourage more community activity in Chippenham in the evenings.

CH11. Project Feedback – Community Funding Awards

The Committee received feedback on the following projects which had been granted community funding awards:

(a) Drakes Pond Restoration Project

Cllr T Bate from Chippenham Without Parish Council gave a brief update on this project. The Parish Council had now been granted a 25 year lease on this land at a peppercorn rent and hoped to develop the area further. Queen's Crescent and Frogwell Schools also planned to use the area and the development had improved community spirit. Cllr Bate thanked the Area Committee for its contribution and informed them that funding had also been received from the landfill tax fund.

(b) Middle Common Kington Langley Restoration Project

Cllr Rev J Schofield from Kington Langley Parish Council gave a brief update on this project. The total cost had been £12,118 and the results showed a great improvement. At the annual Parish Council meeting members had stated that they wished to see more of this type of project.

CH12. Chippenham Area (3) Community Area Funding Distribution 2007/08

The Committee considered three applications seeking 2007/08 Community Area Award Funding. The report on this item also advised Members of the Community Area Award Funding criteria and budget for 2007/08.

Resolved: To agree the following funding distribution of Chippenham Area (3) Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2007/08:

- (1) To award Kington St Michael Parish Council £5,250 from the capital budget towards the levelling and re-development of the recreation field, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
- (2) To award Doorway £493 from the revenue budget towards the purchase of musical instruments.

- (3) To award Relate £2,820 from the revenue budget towards the Healthy Relationship Pilot Programme at Hardenhuish School, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

CH13. A Play Strategy for North Wiltshire

The Committee considered a report by the Community Partnership Officer. The report asked Members to note that a draft Play Strategy developed in partnership with Wiltshire County Council had been agreed by the Executive as a working document for District wide consultation. This Strategy may unlock £237,693 of Big Lottery funding for improving play opportunities in North Wiltshire. The draft Strategy was now available for consultation and the Committee was asked to make comments on the document.

Members discussed the following issues:

- It was noted that the consultation on the Play Strategy would close on 27 July 2007.
- Parish and Town Councils had already been consulted and had been asked to contact officers with further suggestions for potential projects.
- Members expressed support for a skatepark in the area.
- It was suggested that in order to make streets safer for children to play in consideration should be given to a 20mph speed limit for certain areas.
- Support was expressed for the Open Blue Bus Project which had been identified as a potential project for the BIG lottery portfolio bid.
- Members were asked to consider the consultation document and to pass any comments to Shelley Parker, Community Partnership Officer.

CH14. Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Committee considered a report which asked Members to consider appointing representatives to outside bodies for the forthcoming year.

Resolved:

- (1) To appoint Councillor M Singlehurst to the Chippenham Community Safety Group.

Note: Since the meeting it has been confirmed that this Group no longer meets.
- (2) To appoint Councillor D Allen to the Kingsley Road Community Hall Association.
- (3) To appoint Councillors A Phillips and R MacGregor to the Chippenham Town Centre Partnership Sub-Committee with Councillor P Coleman as Deputy.
- (4) To appoint Councillor J Whincup to the Chippenham Area LYPIG with Councillor M Singlehurst as Deputy.

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- (5) To ask whether the Neeld Hall Working Party would like a representative of the District Council to attend its meetings.

Note: The Town Council has confirmed that it does not require an official District Council Representative on this Working Party but that an interested Member could attend meetings in a private capacity.

The meeting started at 7pm and finished at 8.50pm.

There were 6 members of the public present.