

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING ON 2nd APRIL 2007

Draft Minutes of the Chippenham Area Committee (3) Meeting held on Monday 5th February 2007 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillor J.H. RookeVice Chairman

Councillors C.R. Coleman, S.K. Doubell, V.H. Greenman, R.J. Henning, S.D. Meadows, D.M. Moore, T.J.A. Northey, N.M. Phillips, J.A. Scott and J.M. Wood.

County/Town/Parish Council Representatives:

A. Butler	Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council
A. Bishop	Castle Combe Parish Council
D. Ryall	Castle Combe Parish Council
J. Stacey	Chippenham Without Parish Council
N. Fairley	Christian Malford Parish Council
J. Clark	Seagry Parish Council
L. Workman	Sutton Benger Parish Council

Officers Present:

N. Fenwick (Strategic Manager - Customer Services), C. Major (Senior Parking Officer), L. May (Policy and Democratic Services Assistant), and V. Welsh (Community Partnerships Officer)

Others Present:

M. Rayner (Community First), S. Webb (Chippenham Sports Club)

CH48. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.B. Allen, P.G. Allnatt, H.R. Barton, C. Crisp, D.J.E. Evans and P.G. Green and from A. Noblet of Chippenham Town Council, L. Palmer from Grittleton Parish Council and from Yatton Keynell Parish Council.

CH49. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions

A public question was received from Alice Summers:

“There is an urgent need for resident’s parking in the Marshfield Road area of Chippenham. We understand that a Resident’s Parking Scheme will potentially be introduced in Chippenham, and is being researched at the moment, but it has been month’s since the new parking strategy was introduced and parking is becoming



increasingly difficult. How quickly will it be possible to get resident's parking at a reasonable cost in our area, and what temporary measures can be introduced to help the residents who are being penalised in the meantime?

C. Major (Senior Parking Officer) gave the following response:

North Wiltshire District Council appointed RTA Associates in December 2006 to produce a Parking Strategy for North Wiltshire.

As part of the Parking Strategy, RTA Associates will be investigating the need for Residents Parking Schemes within North Wiltshire. The Parking Strategy is anticipated for completion and presentation before the Executive in April 2007.

The production of a parking strategy and the investigation of schemes in North Wiltshire does not guarantee that a scheme would be recommended for the Marshfield Road area. Residents Parking does not resolve the issue if the main problem is too many cars owned by residents and not enough parking space on the highway. A Residents Parking Scheme may actually reduce available parking areas on the grounds of safety.

There is no exclusive legal right for any member of the public to be able to park their vehicle outside of their house upon the highway, or for the Council to provide alternative parking areas. Parking Services patrols all areas in the district with Double Yellow Lines or Waiting Restrictions and ensures they are enforced equally and fairly according to the Traffic Regulation Order that is current and in place upon the highway.

The terms and conditions for a Residents Parking Scheme if recommended would be included in the consultation with members of the public prior to any scheme being introduced. This is included to ensure at an early stage everybody who is or may be affected if such a scheme goes ahead has the full information and is able to make an informed decision. This should reduce time delays when the official scheme is published and allow Wiltshire county Council to make the Traffic Regulation Order without receiving objections from members of the public who did not understand the various restrictions and charges a scheme would involve. All Residents Parking Schemes must be cost neutral and funded by the purchase of permits and may involve limits on the number of permits that may be issued to an individual household.

Wiltshire County Council, as the highways authority for the whole of Wiltshire, are responsible for making the Traffic Regulation Order upon the highway that is necessary to enforce a Residents Parking Scheme. The time frames given by Wiltshire County Council for the introduction of the first Residents Parking Scheme was April-May 2009. However, due to North Wiltshire District Council's pro active approach in funding the Parking Strategy and the associated works on the Residents Parking Scheme it is anticipated the time frame will be greatly reduced.

Alice Summers asked a supplementary question:

I acknowledge what you have said, but the need for a residents parking scheme in Marshfield Road is now. Could we be considered first?

C. Major gave the following response:

There are a number of parking problems across the district and each area has to be treated fairly and equally. If a car is in contravention of the Traffic Regulation Order it will be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice.

Members of the Committee expressed concerns about other problem areas in Chippenham and that one of the causes was commuters using spaces outside of house instead of paying to park in a car park. Also now that double yellow line were being enforced this had also reduced the parking available. It was felt that some double yellow lines had outgrown their usefulness and that they should be removed. The Committee was reminded that it was for Wiltshire County Council to decide on where double yellow lines were to be situated, but that the views of this Committee and it's concerns could be passed on and that a letter would be sent on behalf of the Committee to Wiltshire Council.

Admin Note: N. Fenwick left the Chairman's table for the duration of this item and did not take part in the discussions.

CH50. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2006 (circulated with the Agenda) were considered.

Resolved that subject to the inclusion of the following bullet point being included within Minute CH44, Langley Park, Chippenham

- That although the views of the Town, District and County Councils on the development brief for Langley Park had been communicated to Ashtenne, it was felt that these views had not been acknowledged by them. The Council was urged to communicate the development brief to the public.

the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th December 2006 be confirmed as correct record.

CH51. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman made the following announcements:

1. Thank you from the North Wraxall Chapel Project

Steve Lockwood on behalf of the North Wraxall Parish Council wishes the Committee to know that the Chapel project is now complete and they would like to thank the Chippenham Area 3 Committee for their grant of £1,928 towards this project. The Parish Council have received a letter of thanks from the Pastor of the Chapel (Alan Proctor) for the highway improvements, this improved access will benefit all the Parish.

2. Agenda Topics for Area Committee Meetings 2007/8

At the December Area Committee meeting, those people attending the meeting were invited to identify topics they would find interesting for Area Committee to debate in future. This would include specialist speakers and allow public involvement and debate.

Following the meeting, parishes that were not at the meeting were contacted for their views. We are looking forward to being deluged with your ideas! Without this information we are unable to plan meetings which are of value to you.

We have forms here tonight, so if there are any members of the public that would like to make their views known, please complete a pink sheet before you leave the meeting tonight.

3. Response from Wiltshire County Council to letter regarding mobile hot food takeaways in lay-bys

A copy of the response from Wiltshire County Council regarding Nick Fenwick's letter has been circulated for your information.

4. Change to order of Agenda Items

I intend to take Agenda Item 9 (Olympic Bid) after Item 5 (Declarations of Interest).

CH52. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made in respect of any item of the Agenda.

CH53. Project Feedback - Community Funding Awards Funding

The Committee welcomed representatives from three groups who had agreed to attend the meeting to discuss how the grant money received from the Committee through the Community Area Funding Awards had benefited their projects.

Beverley Hoff – Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre

- That the grant from the Committee had enabled the re-opening of the historic Council Chamber to the public;
- The Chamber acts as an attraction to allow visitors to learn about the history of the town and the building;
- This had provided an education tool for schools and an audio/visual display kiosk had been installed downstairs for those visitors with disabilities who are unable to use the stairs; and
- There had been over 350 visitors so far and this would increase during the summer months.

Helen Cotter – Chippenham Credit Union

- The grant from the Committee had been used for the promotion of the credit union and to raise awareness in schools; and
- There were some inclusion problems as their current premises were not in a prime location within the town and it was agreed that alternatives could be considered with assistance from the District and Town Council.

Gill Powell – Chippenham Light Opera Group

- The grant from the Committee had been used towards the production of "The Merry Widow" in November 2006 which had been a very successful show; and

- The group had been nominated for an award for their costumes in the show.

CH54. Area 3 Community Area Funding Distribution 2006/2007

Consideration was given to Report No. 7 (circulated with the Agenda) which asked Members to consider 3 applications seeking 2006/2007 Community Area Award funding.

Resolved that the Committee agree funding distribution of Area 3 Community Area Awards based on the agreed criteria for 2006/2007 as detailed below:

- (1) Award £1,000 from the revenue budget to Seagry Parish Council to extend the speed limit, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place;
- (2) Award £1,500 from the capital budget to Kington St Michael Parish Council for the Pedestrian School Crossing, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place; and
- (3) Award £380 from the revenue budget to Friends of Seagry School for musical equipment.
- (4) That a bid from the Chippenham Area 3 Committee be put to the Executive for it to retain and “roll over” its balances that remain in its Community Area Funding Budgets.

CH55. Parish Plans Session

The Committee received a presentation from Marion Rayner, (Community Development Manager at Community First and Victoria Welsh, Community Partnership Officer, North Wiltshire District Council) which raised awareness of Parishes to the value of developing Parish Plans and to give details of the resources and support available. N. Fairley (who was Chairman of the Village Plan Steering Group) from Christian Malford Parish Council was also in attendance to share the experiences from his Parish in the preparation of their Parish Plan.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The level of support that Community First can offer to a Parish embarking on a Parish Plan;
- Details of what it should contain and what it could achieve for the Parish;
- How it is prepared, the formats it could include and who might be involved in it's creation;
- Timescales and costs involved;

- Details of which Parishes in North Wiltshire had already completed plans and those who were working on them at present;
- That a completed Parish Plan is considered to be Supplementary Planning Guidance and how it feeds into the Chippenham Community Plan, the North Wilts Community Strategy and the Strategy for Wiltshire; and
- The advantages of Quality Parish Status.

CH55. Olympic Bid

S. Webb from Chippenham Sports Club was present at the meeting to give details of the consortium bid which is being put forward by several community sports groups from Chippenham with the hope of Chippenham becoming an Olympic training village for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Those involved in the joint bid included Lackham College, Sheldon School, The Olympiad, Wiltshire School of Gymnastics, and Stanley Park and it was hoped that the success of the first stage of the application would be known by the end of February 2007.

Members of the group involved with the bid agreed to keep the Committee informed of the progress made.

CH56 Community Planning Update

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

A summary of the update is detailed below:

- The Partnership were very busy and a draft Workplan for 2007 had been drawn up;
- They were about to embark upon learning and development workshops which would include guidance on obtaining funding;
- It was hoped that a quarterly newsletter and a website would be up and running soon which would give details of what the Special Interest Groups and the Partnership as a whole were up to;
- A transport needs survey would be circulated shortly and it was hoped as many people as possible would complete this; and
- The Partnership were exploring ways of reducing the carbon footprint and Councillor Doubell (the Lead Member for the Environment) indicated that the Council's Climate Change Working Group would welcome working with any willing partners.

CH57. Town/Parish Council Update

It was suggested that this item should be moved to nearer the beginning of the Agenda and this was agreed by those present.

A. Bishop of Castle Combe Parish Council expressed concerns about the car parking problems in Castle Combe. When the decriminalisation of parking was first handed over to the District Council, the Parking Attendants seemed to be present to tackle the problems, but now he had been informed that it was the Parking Attendants view that cars should be “moved on” and not issued with parking tickets.

S. Meadows of Stanton St Quinton Parish Council expressed her disappointment in the letter of response that had been received from Wiltshire County Council in relation to the problems that had been reported with mobile hot food takeaways being located in lay-bys. N. Fenwick agreed to speak to our Planning Department and take this up further with Wiltshire County Council, particularly in relation to the mobile takeaway that was situated just of Junction 17 of the M4.

J. Clark of Seagry Parish Council thanked the Committee for the grant that they had awarded earlier in the meeting to enable the extension of the speed limit in Seagry. Seagry were keen to commence their own Parish Plan, but had not been successful in any assistance from the Spatial Planning Team at the Council. It was agreed that N. Fenwick would investigate this further.

A. Butler of Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council had brought with her guidance on the safe disposal of dead garden birds in relation to the recent bird flu problems to anyone who would be interested in receiving it. She was concerned about fly-tipping problems in her area keen to receive more details on how to increase recycling and suggested that this be included as a future Agenda items. Also satellite navigation systems were causing problems in Slaughterford as large lorries were being given wrong directions and ending up lost in very narrow streets, etc. She was informed that these problems should be reported to Wiltshire County Council.

CH58. Outside Bodies

Councillor J.M. Wood reported that at the last meeting of the Chippenham Town Centre Partnership Sub Committee a motion was put forward to disband the Committee as funding from North Wiltshire District Council had been withdrawn.

The decision on the motion had been postponed following the meeting of the Executive when the budgets for 2007/08 would be set.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 8.55pm
There were 12 members of the public present.