

Draft Minutes of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee Meeting held on Monday 31 March 2008 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham.

Present:

Councillor D.B. Allen (Chairman)

Councillors J.P. Doubell, S.K. Doubell, P.J. Hutton, R.B. MacGregor, S.D. Meadows, J.A. Phillips, N.M. Phillips, J.R. Scragg and M Singlehurst.

County/Town/Parish Council Representatives:

T.C. Bate Chippenham Without Parish Council
J. Clark Seagry Parish Council
A. Noblet Chippenham Town Council

Others Present: Sergeant M Alvis and Sergeant S McGrath

Officers Present: P. Barnett (Head of ICT) and M. Todd (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

CH67. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Caswill, PR Darby, J Scott and J Whincup, R Henning (Wiltshire County Council), C Dash (Yatton Keynall Parish Council), L Palmer (Grittleton Parish Council), H Purdon (Chippenham Town Council) and F Wilson (Chippenham Town Council).

CH68. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions

No public questions or petitions were received.

CH69. Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee meeting held on 4 February 2008 and the Extraordinary Chippenham Area (3) Committee meeting held on Monday 25 February 2008.

Resolved that:

1) The minutes of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee Meeting held on 4 February 2008 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2) The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee held on 25 February be approved and signed as a correct record.

CH70. Chairman's Announcements

(a) Proposed Construction of Toilet Block at Chippenham Bus Station

The Chairman informed members that pursuant to the policy decision of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on Wednesday 20 February a preliminary appraisal of the project, including investigations of the original site,



has been carried out by Town Council officers. They would now be seeking negotiations with North Wiltshire District Council officers concerning the siting, planning requirements, funding and administration of the project.

(b) Monkton Park/River Island

The Chairman reported that since the last meeting events had changed somewhat as officer resources had been re-directed towards the lottery funded play portfolio, which meant that there was no time to undertake the proposed consultation. However, as there was funding available to undertake limited works in the park then these would go ahead as planned. The likely works would involve replacing seating, improving the footpaths, levelling ruts and refurbishment of the play areas. At the moment it was not possible to give a timeframe to these works but it was likely to be spread over several months with the seating being the first task to be tackled.

(c) Area Boards

The Chairman informed members that at the last meeting of the Implementation Executive which was held on 19 March it was agreed that Chippenham would be one of the pilots for Area Boards.

A development phase would now take place during 2008/09 to test out new community governance style arrangements. The development phase would test community engagement events and style including:

- state of the community area debates (an annual progress report and visioning event)
- decision days (setting budget priorities and allocating project funding for community initiatives using participatory budgeting techniques)
- local assessments (identification of local issues and priorities for action)
- local challenge (identifying persistent “sticky issues” and holding failing services to account)

More detailed information would be available at the next meeting in June.

CH71. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CH72 Neighbourhood Policing Update

Sergeant Martin Alvis and Inspector Steve McGrath provided an update on Neighbourhood Policing and answered questions from members. Issues discussed included:

- Priorities for neighbourhood policing included the prevention of speeding, obstructive parking and anti-social behaviour
- Police surgeries had been held in local areas
- The use of mobile libraries for reporting crime and concerns was working well
- Officers had attended Parish Council meetings and had met with neighbourhood watch co-ordinators
- Monthly articles would now appear in some of the Parish magazines
- The police had made contact with local schools and youth groups
- Use had been made of rural notice boards in the villages

- Efforts were being made to make contact with hard to reach groups such as older people
- Work had been undertaken to deal with parking and traffic issues in Castle Combe
- Crime prevention work was also taking place at the Leigh Delamere Service Station to help to reduce the crime figures for the area
- The police were keen to target those individuals who were causing the majority of the problems in certain areas and to work towards long term problem solving
- Members were pleased to note that the number of crimes committed in the area had reduced and that detection rates were up by 14%
- Fixed penalty notices were now being used to combat anti-social behaviour in the evenings
- Acceptable behaviour contracts were also being used

CH73. Town/Parish Council Update

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

(a) Seagry Parish Council

There were still some problems with damage to verges in the village and some general frustration with the poor state of the roads. Meetings had been held with a housing trust to progress the provision of affordable housing in the area.

(b) Chippenham Without Parish Council

The Parish Council had agreed to pay for a digger to undertake work along Allington Lane. A litter pick had recently taken place which had been a successful community event.

(c) Chippenham Town Council

There were still several issues to sort out before the provision of the toilet block at Chippenham bus station could progress. Improvements to the facilities in two of the local parks were taking place including the provision of a tennis court in John Coles Park. The Council was disappointed that Chippenham had not been selected as a training place for the 2012 Olympics.

CH74. 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:

- The Community Plan was in the process of being updated
- The Special Interest Groups were working well. The Health Group had been involved in discussions regarding hospital bed closures.
- The Perform Group had raised several thousand pounds
- Arrangements had been made to use the large screen in the District Council offices' reception to promote events in the local area.

CH75. Outside Bodies

There were no reports on outside bodies.

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The meeting started at 7pm and finished at 8.15pm.

There was one member of the public present.