

list

MINUTES

Meeting: PEWSEY AREA BOARD
Place: Coronation Hall, Alton Barnes, Wiltshire SN8 4LB
Date: 10 January 2011
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 8.45 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Jerry Kunkler (Chairman), Cllr Stuart Wheeler (Vice Chairman) and Cllr Brigadier Robert Hall

Wiltshire Council Officers

Caroline Brailey, Pewsey Community Area Manager
Ian Gibbons, Service Director for Legal and Democratic Services
Graham Steady, Environmental Protection Team Leader
Karen Scott, Community Manager (Volunteering Development)
Bill Parks, Head of Service - Local Highways and Streetscene (Central)
Donna Mountford, Communications Officer
James Hazlewood, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Parish Councils

Alton Parish Council – B Brown, Charles Fletcher, Kate Fielden, Robert Carpenter
Burbage Parish Council – J Dyson, G Ketchen
Charlton and Wilsford Parish Council – Bob Montgomery, Tim Fowle
Chirton and Conock Parish Council – Stef Robertson
Easton Parish Council – Hew Helps
Grafton Parish Council – Susie Brew
Great Bedwyn Parish Council – J Raff
Manningford Parish Council – Bernard Gaskin
Marden Parish Council – G Coggins, P Bill

North Newnton Parish Council – Keith Brotherhood
Pewsey Parish Council – Pat Keers, Terry Eyles, Peter Deck
Rushall Parish Council – Colin Gale, J Rogers, R Tilbury
Stanton St Bernard Parish Council – Wendy Tarver, Bryan Read, M Frankton, Joyce
Hale
Wilcot and Huish Parish Council – E Ferguson
Woodborough Parish Council – Jim Fletcher

Partners

Wiltshire Police – A Noble, S Austin
Wiltshire Police Authority – Angus Macpherson
Wiltshire Fire and Rescue – Mike Franklin
Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) – Bob King, Stan Bagwell
North Wessex Downs AONB – Oliver Cripps
Rural Needs Initiative – Betty Dobson
Campaign to Protect Rural England - Kennet – J Batt
Rushall and Charlton Village Hall - John Prince, Neil Golding
Wilcot Village Hall – Richard Fleet
The Shak – Karen Brown
PHAB Community Transport Scheme – Peter Akrigg

Members of Public in Attendance: 12

Total in attendance: 65

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>	<u>Action By</u>
1.	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Area Board Members and the officers sitting at the front of the meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that Councillor Jane Scott, Leader of the Council, who had been due to attend the meeting as the visiting cabinet representative, had had to send here apologies to the meeting, as she had been required to attend an important meeting in London on the same evening. It was hoped that Councillor Scott would be able to attend a future meeting of the Area Board instead.</p> <p>As a replacement for item 6 (which had been due to be questions to the Leader of the Council), the Chairman announced that there would be a presentation from Angus Macpherson of Wiltshire Police Authority in relation to proposed budget cuts, including an opportunity to take part in the consultation process.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Jane Scott, Leader of Wiltshire Council • Jo Howes - NHS Wiltshire • Margaret West – Voluntary Action Kennet • Martin Hamer – Burbage Village Hall • Alison Rollinson – Extended Services Coordinator 	
3.	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>Concern was raised by a parish council representative in relation to minute 11 (the Great Stones Way); the view was expressed that the Area Board had only agreed to offer “in principle” support to the project, subject to full consultation with parish councils and to any concerns arising being addressed. However, during discussion, the Area Board Councillors confirmed that the minutes, as drafted, accurately recorded their decision and declined to make any amendment.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	

4.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>a. <u>Outcome of Leisure Facilities Review</u> – Councillor Stuart Wheeler, as Cabinet Representative for Leisure, Sport and Culture, reported that an overview of the outcome of the recent consultation was set out at page 21 of the agenda. An analysis of the responses received from the Pewsey Community Area was available at the back of the room.</p> <p>b. <u>Local Flood Protection</u> – see pages 23-25 of the agenda</p> <p>c. <u>Public Protection Enforcement Policy</u> – see page 27 of the agenda</p> <p>d. <u>Street Trading Consultation</u> – see page 29 of the agenda</p> <p>e. <u>Car Parking charges – Cabinet Decision</u> – to note that the Cabinet had agreed to harmonise car parking charges across the County.</p> <p>f. <u>Burbage and Easton Royal Cricket Club – River Clean up</u> – Caroline Brailey, Pewsey Community Area Manager, reported that further to the presentation on the Living River Project at the previous meeting of the Area Board, the resource packs for parish councils were available at the back of the room. In addition, it was noted that the Burbage and Easton Royal Cricket Club would be holding a “river clean up” event; more information was available from Caroline on request.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Wiltshire Police Authority - Budget Cuts</u></p> <p>Angus Macpherson of Wiltshire Police Authority gave a presentation on the £15 million savings required from the Authority’s budget over the next four years, due to the reduction in funding.</p> <p>The current budget amounted to around £107 million, of which around 85% was spent on staff. It was anticipated that £4 million of the savings would come from general expenditure and the remaining £11 million from reduced staff costs, with an estimated 150 fewer police officers, and 200 fewer staff. However, the Authority aimed to maintain the number of officers on patrol and</p>	

	<p>responding to emergency calls.</p> <p>The Authority also aimed to maximise the potential for its property portfolio, and to operate as one constabulary based on 11, inspector-led areas. It was hoped that increased use of “local resolution” would help streamline the criminal justice process. Other non-urgent service may also be affected by the cuts, with some administrative processes taking longer, and general enquiries phone calls taking longer to be answered.</p> <p>A questionnaire had been circulated to all present, seeking views on the Authority’s proposals to absorb the funding cuts.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Angus for the presentation and invited questions and comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to a questions, Angus explained that Salisbury, Swindon and Melksham had been selected as the hubs for the response teams, as these were currently the locations of the custody centres. • A representative of Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) commented that a representative from Wiltshire Police Authority used to regularly attend the PCAP meetings and that it would be helpful if this could happen again. Angus undertook to pass the request on to the local Police Authority representative. 	
7.	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>(a) <u>Wiltshire Police</u></p> <p>Inspector Andy Noble referred the meeting to the written update at pages 31-32 of the agenda, commenting that due to the short interval since the previous Area Board meeting, the crime statistics were unchanged from the update given to that meeting.</p> <p>However, Inspector Noble noted that the recent spike in non-domestic burglary had returned to normal levels and below during November and December. An arrest had been made, which had been reported in the local press, and a number of local initiatives undertaken by the Rural Crime Team, including use of fuel dye in diesel stored on farm property.</p> <p>The Rural Crime team had also been active with local scrap</p>	

yards, undertaking spot checks on stock and books, to prevent and deter the handling of any stolen goods.

Responding to a question as to why detection rates had fallen over the past two years, Inspector Noble explained that local policing now focussed on prevention rather than detection. In addition, the methods for recording detections had an impact on the rates, as local resolution – arguably a much more effective and efficient solution to crime – was not counted as a detection for the purposes of the statistics.

(b) Wiltshire Fire and Rescue

Mike Franklin, of Wiltshire Fire and Rescue, referred the meeting to the written update which had been tabled. Owners and/or residents of thatched properties were encouraged to contact the Fire service and request the thatched property information pack.

(c) NHS Wiltshire

There was no representative present from NHS Wiltshire, and the Chairman referred to the written update at pages 33-36 of the agenda. The Chairman explained that the representative would come to any future meeting on request but due to the large area covered could not attend each meeting.

(d) Pewsey Community Area Partnership

Bob King, Chairman of the Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) gave an update on the work of PCAP, commenting that the previous meeting had been fairly quiet, with speeding traffic remaining a high priority. Another issue discussed had been the restorative justice system; Bob reported that the police were hosting two training sessions in Devizes on crime prevention and restorative justice.

(e) Parish Councils

Susie Brew, from Grafton Parish Council, reported that money for five defibrillators had been raised, and that the scheme would be officially launched in February.

Councillor Robert Hall gave an update on the meeting held with parish councils to discuss the Great Stones Way, further to the presentation at the previous meeting of the Area Board. The meeting had been attended by Ian Ritchie,

	<p>of the Friends of the Ridgeway, and representatives of parish councils affected by the proposed route. A number of concerns had been raised in relation to the potential impact of the route, and a letter had been received from the Avebury Society expressing concerns in relation to the potential increase in visitors as forecast under the scheme.</p> <p>Councillor Hall moved a motion suggested by a parish representative. Following discussion, the Chairman asked for a show of hands from those present to indicate their support for the motion (the majority supported the motion), following which the motion was put to the vote by Area Board members.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> The Pewsey Area Board, in view of the concerns raised by parishes affected by the proposed route of the Great Stones Way:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wishes to be advised about those concerns in detail, following a meeting of Parish Councils to be held shortly; 2. Requests the production of a full environmental impact assessment of the project to consider the suitability of the proposals and provide advice on all aspects, including the potential impact on environmentally sensitive areas and the inhabitants and land owners in the Pewsey Vale; and 3. Seeks full assurance that funding and manpower will be available for provision of associated car parks and other facilities and for the future maintenance of the Great Stones Way and that these costs will not fall upon Wiltshire Council and/or local tax payers. 	<p>Caroline Brailey</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>Dog Control Orders</u></p> <p>Graham Steady, Principal Environmental Health Officer, gave a presentation on draft proposals to harmonise the arrangements for Dog Control Orders across Wiltshire.</p> <p>Dog Control Orders allowed local authorities to agree certain local rules in relation to prohibiting access by dogs to certain public areas, or requiring owners to clean up after a dog had fouled. The orders had previously been agreed and managed by District Councils and so Wiltshire Council was currently operating four different systems. It was proposed that this be harmonised into one consistent set of rules, which would balance the needs and aspirations of dog owners and non dog owners.</p> <p>It was proposed to make a generic order across most public</p>	

	<p>areas in the County requiring dog owners to clean up after their dog had fouled. Another generic order was proposed, excluding dogs from enclosed children's play areas, plus land covered by existing orders. One further existing order would be confirmed, requiring dogs to be kept on a lead at a specific location.</p> <p>These draft proposals were subject to consultation up to 7 February and those present at the meeting were invited to submit any comments in writing.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Graham for the presentation and invited questions and comments from the floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graham explained that the proposals would cover Rights of Way (as these were areas to which the public had a right of access) although the orders would not apply to land immediately adjacent to a Right of Way. • Signs would be erected, where appropriate, to publicise the order. • There were no plans to install specific dog waste bins. It was noted that dog waste could be put in any normal litter bin. 	
9.	<p><u>Community Area Grants</u></p> <p>The Area Board considered a number of application for Community Area Grant funding. The Chairman invited the local Councillor to introduce each application, following which a representative of the applicant was given an opportunity to give a brief overview of their project to the Area Board.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Burbage Baby and Toddler Group was awarded £550 towards the purchase of soft play equipment.</p> <p><i><u>Reason</u> The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2010/11 and would support this not-for-profit organisation in providing a service for young families in an area with infrequent public transport.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> POP (Participate, Overcome, Perform) Youth Dance was awarded £840 towards a dance workshop and performance.</p> <p><i><u>Reason</u> The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2010/11 and would help support this community event in its first year.</i></p>	<p>Caroline Brailey</p> <p>Caroline Brailey</p>

	<p><u>Decision</u> Pewsey Parish Council was awarded £1,700 towards starts up costs for running the Wiltshire Council-owned car parks in the village of Pewsey. <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2010/11 and would support the local economy, as well as the wider community of the Pewsey Vale by maintaining Pewsey as a service centre.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Rushall and Charlton Village Hall was awarded £400 towards purchasing five small tables and a storage trolley. <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2010/11 and would support this community facility.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Charlton St Peter and Wilsford Parish Council was awarded £265 towards the purchase and installation of a new parish notice board for Charlton St Peter. <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2010/11 and would help promote communications in this rural area.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Alton Barnes Parish Council was awarded £660 towards enhancing the boundary between the hard car park and the bridleway on Workway Drove. <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2010/11 and would support this project to maintain the visual appearance of the area.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Wilcot Village Hall was awarded £823 towards purchasing modern lighter tables and a trolley. <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2010/11 and help support this community facility.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Shalbourne Primary School was awarded £606 towards providing baby equipment to enable opportunities for social interaction, support and training for vulnerable low income</p>	<p>Caroline Brailey</p> <p>Caroline Brailey</p> <p>Caroline Brailey</p> <p>Caroline Brailey</p> <p>Caroline Brailey</p> <p>Caroline Brailey</p> <p>Caroline Brailey</p>
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	<p>parents with young babies. <i>Reason</i> <i>The application met the Community Area Grants criteria for 2010/11 and this project to go ahead, in providing a service for young families on low incomes in an area with infrequent public transport.</i></p> <p>The Chairman noted that the Area Board had £3,831 left in the budget for 2010/11; the deadline for submission of grants to be considered at the Area Board meeting in March was Friday 21 January.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Stonehenge to Avebury Bus Service</u></p> <p>David Dawson, of Wiltshire Heritage Museum in Devizes, gave a presentation on proposals for establish a bus service between Stonehenge, Amesbury, Avebury, Devizes and the Avon Valley.</p> <p>This was in response to significant demand for such a service, with numerous requests made at the Avebury and Devizes Tourist Information Centres, and with high levels of interest since the project was first suggested. The aim of the project was to maximise the duration of visits to Wiltshire by tourists, by linking the main sites within the World Heritage Site. This would bring benefits for the local community in terms of income and jobs and the increased sustainability of local amenities such as shops and pubs.</p> <p>It was hoped that the bus service would be cheaper for users than using a car for the journey, and the National Trust and English Heritage had agreed to offer discounts for people travelling on the bus. However it was considered essential that the service was economically sustainable.</p> <p>It was hoped that the service could be operating by the May Bank Holidays, and start up funding was being sought from the Community Transport Fund, the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>Further information was available on the draft leaflet set out at pages 53-54 of the agenda, and at the website: www.stonehenge-avebury-bus.org.uk</p> <p>David commented that he hoped that the service could be extended to Pewsey in the future, particularly on Sundays, when there were no other bus services operating within the Vale.</p> <p>In general, the idea was supported and it was considered that the</p>	

	<p>project could help support the economy of the Vale. The Chairman thanked David for the presentation.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p><u>Wiltshire First Responders</u></p> <p>Steve Smith, of St Johns Ambulance, gave a presentation regarding the Community First Responders (CFR) scheme.</p> <p>The project sought to train volunteers in first aid and life-saving skills, following which they could be deployed by the NHS Ambulance Service to attend to 999 emergency calls within an agreed community and based on their skills and knowledge.</p> <p>One of the major reasons for the project was to minimise the elapsed time between an emergency call and treatment being administered. For example, in cases of cardiac arrest, patients were 60% more likely to survive if they were defibrillated within three minutes of collapse. Community First Responders could often access the patients more quickly than ambulances, as they could already be in the local area.</p> <p>Clearly, CFRs would not be suitable for all incidents, and a CFR volunteer would never be dispatched to Road Traffic Collisions or known violent situations and a number of similarly inappropriate or potentially hazardous incidents.</p> <p>Volunteers to be trained as CFRs were sought and suggestions were also welcomed for other potential avenues for seeking volunteers in the area. Those interested in becoming a CFR would have to go through an application process requiring references, a Criminal Records Bureau check, and medical clearance. Applicants were also required to be over 18 years old, and to hold a clean driving licence (max 3 points).</p> <p>In response to a question, Julia Doel, from the Great Western Ambulance Service, confirmed that the CFR scheme was supplementary to the co-responding arrangements with the Fire Service.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p><u>Community Issues</u></p> <p>Councillor Stuart Wheeler updated the meeting on the Community Issues which had been received by the Area Board.</p> <p>In relation to the A342 at Chirton, following the speed limit review, this would now be reduced from a 50mph limit to 40mph at the junction. A representative from Chirton Parish thanked the Area</p>	

	<p>Board for its support on this issue.</p> <p>A meeting had been arranged in relation to road safety at the Gores Lane/Broad Street Junction (Bottlesford corner).</p> <p>An issue was raised in relation to six recent accidents on the C52 at Manningford, with a representative from the parish council commenting that these were due to a variety of issues, including speeding, use by HGVs and lack of gritting during icy weather. Caroline Brailey commented that a Community Speed Watch scheme was being considered for the village. It was also noted that gritting had to be prioritised onto major routes, and that gritting may exacerbate the speeding issue during poor weather, as more people would use the route and with less care for the road conditions. It was hoped that a meeting could be arranged with Bill Parks, Head of Service for Local Highways and Streetscene (Central Division), to discuss some of these issues.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Youth Funding</u></p> <p>Councillor Stuart Wheeler introduced this item, commenting that the Area Board had a budget of £4,500, some of which had been allocated towards start up costs for reopening the Shak. Just over £500 was left, and a request for £500 funding was set out at page 57 of the agenda.</p> <p>Pupils of St John’s School, Marlborough, who live in Ramsbury had been allocated money by the Marlborough Area Board to use taxis and minibuses to travel to the school for evening activities. This proposal sought to set up a similar scheme for pupils who lived in Great Bedwyn.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> The Pewsey Area Board allocated £500 to Great Bedwyn Parish Council and Great Bedwyn Youth Group towards providing transport for young people to advertised youth events in Marlborough <i>Reason – To provide safe, free transport to allow young people in the area to benefit from the same youth events and activities as their peers in Marlborough.</i></p>	Caroline Brailey
14.	<p><u>Performance Reward Grant</u></p> <p>Karen Scott, Community Manager (Volunteering Development), introduced the bid from GROW. The project, which had been developed in partnership between Voluntary Action Kennet and DEVELOP sought to build on existing services to develop an</p>	

	<p>accredited volunteer centre for Wiltshire. The funding would fund two part time posts to run the project, offering, amongst other things, increased volunteering opportunities and increased awareness of volunteering opportunities.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> The Pewsey Area Board supported the bid from GROW for Wiltshire Volunteers to go forward for consideration by the Performance Reward Grant Panel.</p>	Caroline Brailey
15.	<p><u>Urgent Business</u></p> <p>Councillor Stuart Wheeler reported that he had been asked to respond on behalf of the Leader of the Council in relation to a question received from Bob Montgomery relating to the Council's stance on the provisions of the government's localism bill.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council had no problem with the proposed right for local residents to veto excessive council tax rises, as the authority did not propose any such increases, nor any increase at all for 2011/12, subject to full Council approval to the budget in February 2012. The Council's constitution already contained the provision for local referenda on specific issues, if supported by a petition signed by a certain percentage of the local population. In relation to the bill's proposals on changes to the local planning framework, it was hard to comment on this without the detail, and it was likely that this would be clarified in secondary legislation (statutory instruments).</p> <p>Another question from Mr Montgomery related to the savings made as a result of the introduction of the unitary authority, and a response on this was currently being sought from officers.</p>	James Hazlewood
16.	<p><u>Evaluation</u></p> <p>Those present were asked to give their views on the meeting, by means of the electronic voting handsets.</p>	
17.	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates and Close</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Pewsey Area Board was scheduled for Monday 7 March 2010, 7pm at Bouverie Hall, Pewsey.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.</p>	