

MINUTES

Meeting: MARLBOROUGH AREA BOARD
Place: Broad Hinton Village Hall, Yew Tree Lane, Broad Hinton, SN4 9RH
Date: 23 November 2010
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 8.45 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Kevin Fielding (Democratic Services Officer), Tel: 01249 706610 or (e-mail) kevin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Chris Humphries (Aldbourne and Ramsbury) (Chairman), Cllr Nick Fogg (Marlborough West) (Vice Chairman), and Cllr Jemima Milton (West Selkley)

Cabinet Representative

Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe (Finance, Performance and Risk)

Portfolio Holders

Cllr Alison Bucknell (Customer Care) and Cllr Richard Gamble (Public Transport)

Officers

Julia Densham (Community Area Manager)
Kevin Fielding (Democratic Services Officer)
David Bullock (Highways Improvements Manager)
Martin Cook (Area Highway Engineer)
Adrian Hampton (Head of Local Highways & Streetscene)
John Rogers (Head of Customer Access)

Parish and Town Councils

Aldbourne Parish Council – Alan Phizacklea
Baydon Parish Council – Tony Prior
Berwick Bassett & Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council – Bob Gutherson
Broad Hinton & Winterbourne Bassett Parish Council – James Keith

Fyfield & West Overton Parish Council – Mary Spender
Ramsbury & Axford Parish Council – Sheila Glass

Partners

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service – Mike Franklin
Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership – Rich Pitts & Michael Edmonds
Marlborough Area Development Trust – Martin Cook

Members of Public in Attendance: 11

Total in attendance: 35

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>	<u>Action By</u>
25.	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Broad Hinton village hall. The Chairman then invited all the Wiltshire Council members and officers in attendance to introduce themselves to the meeting along with the Parish council representatives in attendance.</p>	
26.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Peggy Dow, Joan Davies – Savernake Parish Council, Andrew Ross – Marlborough Town Council, ACC Pat Geenty, Wiltshire Police, Kate Hunter, St John's School, Richard Clarke, MADT, Karen Davis, Extended Schools and Jan Bowra – Youth Development Service.</p>	
27.	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>a. The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p> <p>b. Matters arising.</p> <p>i. Wiltshire Voices Performance Reward Grant application.</p> <p>That the Marlborough Area Development Trust be invited to feed into the process, it was agreed that the community area manager would contact the Marlborough Area Development Trust to invite them to any further meetings to discuss the Wiltshire Voices project. The point was made that other local groups were welcome to get involved.</p> <p>ii. Air Quality Issues in Marlborough.</p> <p>That Marlborough Town Council had voted for option 3, (a blanket Air Quality Management Area plan for the main residential area of the town) on the air quality management plan options for Marlborough.</p>	Julia Densham
28.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	

29.	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>a. Mobile Phone Safety Immobilise, the UK national property register, was running a scheme to help protect your mobile phone and other property in the future.</p> <p>b. Adverse Winter Weather – Call for Partnership Working Wiltshire Council was looking to expand its partnership working with the city, town and parish councils should problems be caused by adverse winter conditions.</p> <p>c. Help tomorrow take shape – the 2011 Census The 2011 Census was coming - the census has collected information about the population every ten years since 1801 (except in 1941). The next census in England and Wales was to be on 27th March 2011.</p> <p>d. Consultation on TICs in Avebury, Corsham, Devizes, Marlborough and Salisbury Earlier this year Wiltshire Council asked VisitWiltshire (its tourism unit) for recommendations as to the future direction of tourism within the county, taking into account anticipated reductions in Council spending over the next four years.</p> <p>e. Participatory Budgeting for Disabled Access Marlborough Area Board intended to invite applications from all community organisations in the Marlborough community area who wish to improve their premises to enable disabled access</p>	
30.	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Police The written update distributed with the agenda was noted.</p> <p>It was also noted that neighbourhood policing reports were now only available on Facebook which many parish councils do not access.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that he would follow this up with a view to getting the beat manager's report e-mailed to parishes.</p>	<p>Cllr Humphries</p>

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

The written update distributed with the agenda was noted.

Mike Franklin also made the following points:

- That anyone using an open fire or boiler should ensure that their chimneys were regularly swept to avoid unnecessary chimney fires.
- Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service was available to carry out home fire safety visits to any vulnerable people in the area.

NHS Wiltshire

The written update distributed with the agenda was noted.

It was also noted that:

- The inpatient beds had now been reopened at Savernake hospital.
- The Marlborough Area Board Local Health Forum steering group would be organising a health fair in Marlborough next April, date, time and venue to be confirmed. It was then proposed to take the health fair out to the villages.
- NHS Wiltshire no longer ran the district nurses service, they now came under the control of the Great Western Hospital, Swindon.

Town or Parish updates

There were no updates.

Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership (MaVCAP)

Rich Pitts, (MaVCAP Chairman) advised that:

- MaVCAP would be holding a meeting on 19 January 2011 to define its role.
- The six month report had now been circulated.
- The community area plan project had been positively received.

	<p>The Chairman thanked everybody for their updates.</p>	
<p>31.</p>	<p><u>Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe</u></p> <p>Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe, (Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Risk) introduced her portfolio and then took questions from the floor.</p> <p>Points made by Cllr de Rhé-Philippe included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Council was committed to make savings and protecting vital services. • Wiltshire Council would not be raising council tax next year. • Over the next four years Central government grants to Wiltshire Council were to be cut by 28%. • All Wiltshire Council departments were facing 12% cuts in their budgets. • The Council may have to postpone some of its planned investment. • There was a priority to protect the most vulnerable people in our community. • Wiltshire Council was not looking to close libraries. <p>Questions raised from the floor included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does Wiltshire Council expect that there will be any cuts to the education budget? <i>A – Too early to say.</i> • Will Academy Status Schools be beneficial to the education budget? <i>A – Too early to say, although schools transport could be an issue.</i> • Highways projects and cost benefits – Pewsey Road bridge. <i>A – When a bridge is failing then it has to be repaired.</i> <p>Chairman thanked Cllr de Rhé-Philippe for attending the meeting.</p>	

A list of questions raised by Cllr Tony Prior and given to Cllr de Rhé-Philippe in advance of the meeting is set out below.

Q1. An awareness of the WC Finances is an important interest to parish council representatives now that we are in the second year of unitary. Please could the cabinet rep respond to the following:

1. Is there an equivalent list to the previous “Current Spending on Council Services” for this year for area board information?

Q1.1 - We don't have a list equivalent for 2010-11, but attached is a different listing which agrees back to the councils original approved budget and also has 2009-10 for comparison.

2. I believe a figure of a saving of £18m was forecast following unitary re-organisation. What savings were achieved in the first year?

Q1.2 - The savings achieved & detailed with respect to unitary are as follows:

2009/10 = £8.2m (actual as per NI.179 submission)

2010/11 = £5.8m (forecast as per budget setting report)

3. What was the staff numbers for Wiltshire DC's in 2008-09 and WC in 2009-10?

Q1.3 - The following figures show the number of staff in Districts and Wiltshire County Council during September 2008. Figures are non-schools.

Authority	Total Headcount	Permanent Staff Headcount	Temporary Staff Headcount
KDC	624	469	155
NWDC	404	385	19
SDC	794	740	54
WWDC	278	220	58
WCC	3802	3248	554
Total	5902	5062	840

On the 1st of April most District Council staff transferred to the new Wiltshire Council giving a staff headcount of 5857. By March 2010 this staff headcount had reduced to 5638 (-219).

4. Were there any redundancies in the first year of unitary? If so, how much did they cost?

Q1.4 - The total cost in the 2009-10 of all for all redundancy and related retirements was £9.5m. Note 2 to the accounts of the 2009-10 published financial statements, reported that the exceptional costs of severance relating to the move to "One Council" (LGR) was £7.1m, which can be analysed between redundancy at £6.4m and retirement at £0.7m.

The total costs in the accounts for the financial year 2010/11 to date are £2.2m. An analysis of the balances held in the accounts is shown below:

2009-10:

Redundancy & Severance = £7m

Augmented Grants Early Retirement = £0.8m

Retirement Grant = £1.7m

2010-11 to date:

Redundancy & Severance = £1.3m

Augmented Grants Early Retirement = £0.9m

The total number of employees made redundant since April 2009 is 130, of which the total number of redundancies relating to LGR is 62.

Savings delivered

The total amount of annual savings (salary, national insurance & pension contributions) as a result of the 130 redundancies since April 2009 is £3,568,720.00. In respect of the 62 LGR redundancies since April 2009 the annual savings are £2,714,799.00

There were 24 redundancies in the district councils prior to vesting day, but as a result of LGR. These redundancies cost £3,600,000.00 and delivered annual savings of £1,612,000.00. These redundancies included three district council Chief Executives.

5. Will year 2 operation result in further cost savings?

Q1.5 - yes year 2 included further cost savings as indicated below (extract from one council submission document)

6. What plans are being laid to anticipate the cuts following the Govt Spending review? Is there an estimate of the lower operating costs due to the probable cuts? Eg library cuts.

Q1.6: planning is in progress to reduce budgets as a result of the government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). This is difficult though, because the final grant settlement for Wiltshire will not be published until late December or January. We expect to have to make budget reductions of 28-35%. This equates to £40 million plus next year.

Year	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13
Total (in £ millions)	6.63	14.125	17.76	18.145

7. How many redundancies are anticipated? What will be their cost?

Q1.7 - As part of the business plan, we are aiming to save £8million through making 240 management posts redundant. The cost of making these redundancies has been estimated at £5million.

Any further redundancies will determined by the business plan, which includes the need to find an additional £30m of savings in 2011/12, giving a total savings requirement of £70m in that period. Steps are being taken to identify areas where these savings will be found, and that may include further redundancies It is too early to place a number and cost on this.

Q2. During the budget consultation last year the attached document was distributed. According to the document, departmental funding totals £608.7 million. However, in the presentation it was stated that Wiltshire Council's budget was £833 million. Please may we have a breakdown showing where the difference of £244.3 million was spent?

Q2 - Below is a high level analysis of the difference between the two figures, the original analysis of £608m "Current spending on Council Services" was carried out by the previous CFO and left out spending in certain areas mainly non-dept, front line services.

£60m - Central & Core Services (e.g. Resources Dept)

£21m - Capital Financing

£103m - Revenues & Benefits i.e. Housing & Ctax benefit payments 100% grant funded
 £12m - Other Social Services
 £13m - Targeted Services & Commissioning
 £12m - Waste Disposal

Current Spending on Council Services

	£' million
SCHOOLS (Schools are funded via the Dedicated Schools Grant (£244 million).In addition they receive other funding e.g. Learning and Skills Council funding for sixth formers to bring the total to £259 million. School funding is ring fenced to schools. The Council cannot spend less than the ring fence, however it could provide additional funding).	244
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	106
YOUTH SERVICES	4
PUBLIC LIBRARIES	7
MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES/ARCHIVES AND PUBLIC RECORDS	1.7
ADULT SOCIAL CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE	49
ADULT SOCIAL CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL/PHYSICAL DISABILITIES	32
ADULT SOCIAL CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES	43
PROVIDING COMMUNITY SAFETY	1.4
RIGHTS OF WAY, FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS	0.4
ROAD SAFETY TRAINING/TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND CONGESTION	0.7
STREET CLEANING	3
MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING ROADS	17
NEW ROAD BUILDING AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	20
BUS SERVICES	6
HOUSEHOLD REFUSE COLLECTION/ DOORSTEP RECYCLING/ RECYCLING CENTRES	22

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="341 241 1027 309">SPORTS AND LEISURE CENTRES/ PARKS AND OPEN SPACES</td> <td data-bbox="1027 241 1214 309">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="341 309 1027 367">TRADING STANDARDS/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</td> <td data-bbox="1027 309 1214 367">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="341 367 1027 524">ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT The Council invests £1.3 million in Economic Development which levers in several £ million external funding (e.g. the future jobs projects)</td> <td data-bbox="1027 367 1214 524">1.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="341 524 1027 584">PLANNING</td> <td data-bbox="1027 524 1214 584">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="341 584 1027 645">HOUSING</td> <td data-bbox="1027 584 1214 645">27</td> </tr> </table>	SPORTS AND LEISURE CENTRES/ PARKS AND OPEN SPACES	10	TRADING STANDARDS/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	5	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT The Council invests £1.3 million in Economic Development which levers in several £ million external funding (e.g. the future jobs projects)	1.5	PLANNING	8	HOUSING	27	
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32.	<p><u>Community Issues</u></p> <p>a. Customer Services for Marlborough Councillor Alison Bucknell (Portfolio Holder for Customer Care, Wiltshire Council) and John Rogers (Head of Customer Access) gave a DVD presentation on proposals for a new approach to face to face customer access.</p> <p>Points made from the floor included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of the public getting through to the right officer, an example was given of a member of the public who had found it frustrating talking to various call centre staff and getting nowhere. John Rogers advised that he would investigate this issue. • Wiltshire Council needed to think about its customers who do not have internet access. • People would welcome not having to travel and wait at council offices when they needed to access council services. <p>The Chairman thanked Cllr Bucknell and John Rogers for their presentation and attending the meeting.</p> <p>b. Car Parking Strategy Consultation Cllr Richard Gamble (Portfolio Holder for Public Transport) gave a brief presentation and responded to questions.</p> <p>Points made by Councillor Gamble included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was necessary to review car parking policy as the move towards One Council had brought together four policies from the 	<p>John Rogers</p>										

former district councils.

- There had been some six hundred responses to the consultation and one petition.
- Countywide responses on the objectives of the strategy, banding and town council opportunities showed:
 - i. Overwhelming support for economy as the most important objective.
 - ii. Next highest support for meeting residents' needs for parking.
 - iii. Majority support for concept of banding towns and proposed land- use zones.
 - iv. A small majority disagree with proposed bands.
 - v. A large majority agreed that town and parish councils should be offered 'buy back' and car park management opportunities.

Points made from the floor included:

- Marlborough town council would like to operate its own car parking, is this likely to happen?
A – not in the short term.
- Are Marlborough parking costs expected to be lowered when the new Tesco store opens?
A – no change of the tariff is envisaged.
- The large consultative document had discouraged people to complete it and take part in the survey.
- If there were to be any future changes to parking tariffs would you be coming back to the area board to discuss?
A – yes, area boards are the forum to discuss such matters.
- There were concerns over the banding policy that residents and users of town A may pay more than town B.
A – Eventually all towns across Wiltshire will have a single tariff.
- Have Wiltshire Council looked how neighbouring councils operate their car parking policies?
Yes, Wiltshire Council had looked at others councils

policies.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Gamble for attending the meeting and his presentation.

c. Local Transport Plan Funding Allocation

The 18 Area Boards had been allocated a discretionary budget of £250,000 for the assessment and selection of small-scale transport schemes to be progressed in their community areas - Marlborough Area Board had been allocated £13,600.

The Head of Traffic and Network Management stated that all five schemes selected by the Community Area Transport Group would be considered during the next year.

Decision

- **The recommendations made by the Community Area Transport Group for the small scale transport and highway improvement schemes for the Marlborough community area were noted.**
- **That the Marlborough area board approved the proposal made by the Community Area Transport Group to upgrade the zebra crossing in George Lane, Marlborough to a PUFFIN crossing as its priority scheme.**

d. Highways Winter Maintenance

Following the severe weather last winter a large number of requests for additional bins had been received. While it was not feasible to meet the cost of providing and filling the 422 additional bins requested, it was possible to provide about 100 new bins across the county.

There were at present 70 grit bins in the Marlborough community area. There had been requests for an additional 34 grit bins across the community area. Marlborough Area Board had received an allocation of 7 additional bins.

Of the 34 requests received, local highways officers considered the following locations to be the priorities:

Marlborough

1. Vicarage Close/Cold Harbour
2. Blowhorn Street

**Julia
Densham**

	<p>3. Homefield/Five Stiles Road 4. Bergamot Close</p> <p><u>Winterbourne Monkton</u> 5. To be placed where the phone box used to be.</p> <p><u>Ramsbury</u> 6. Crowood Lane/Ashley Piece</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Recommendations made by the highways officers for the allocation of grit bins were noted. • That the location for the seventh grit bin was provisionally Hilldrop Close, Ramsbury and the final decision was delegated to the local highways officer in consultation with the Chairman. 	<p>Julia Densham</p>
<p>33.</p>	<p><u>Community Area Grant Scheme</u></p> <p>The Wiltshire Councillors considered two applications to the Community Area Grants Scheme 2010/11, as follows:</p> <p>Representation was made by Mr Rupert Bound on behalf of Aldbourne Website Group,</p> <p>Representation was made by Mr Rob Duckett on behalf of Kennet Valley Village Hall.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>Aldbourn Website Group was awarded £3,490 to purchase and install weather station and webcam equipment.</p> <p><u>Reason</u></p> <p><i>The above application met the Community Area Grant criteria for 2010/11 and this project demonstrated a link to Wiltshire Council's priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire that aimed to build 'resilient communities' with high social capital through people feeling socially included, enabled people and communities to build skills, abilities, knowledge and confidence to take effective action and play leading roles in the development of their communities and so enhance their quality of life.</i></p>	

	<p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>Kennet Valley Village Hall was awarded £2,000 to remove the obsolete heating system and replace with a new more efficient and economical system.</p> <p><u>Reason</u></p> <p><i>The above application met the Community Area Grant criteria for 2010/11 and demonstrated a direct links to the 2004-2014 Marlborough Community Plan as it encouraged community events that created a sense of pride and well-being, involved young people in activities and increased the number of appropriate cultural venues.</i></p>	
34.	<p><u>Any Other Questions</u></p> <p>There were no questions.</p>	
35.	<p><u>Close</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and advised that the next meeting would be on Tuesday, 8 February 2011 at St John's School.</p>	