

MINUTES

Meeting: Devizes Area Board
Place: Needham House, Victoria Rd, Devizes, SN10 1FA
Date: 3 June 2024
Start Time: 6.30 pm
Finish Time: 8.16 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Iain Wallis (Chairman), Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Tamara Reay and Cllr Philip Whitehead

Wiltshire Council Officers

Richard Rogers – Strategic Engagement & Partnership Manager
Caroline LeQuesne – Area Board Delivery Officer
Dom Argar – Assistant Multimedia Officer
Matt Hitch – Democratic Services Officer

Total in attendance: 30

<u>Minute No..</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
72	<p><u>Election of Chairman 2024/25</u></p> <p>The Democratic Services Officer opened the meeting and called for nominations for the position of Chairman for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>Cllr Simon Jacobs nominated Cllr Iain Wallis for the position of Chairman, which was seconded by Cllr Tamara Reay.</p> <p>There were no further nominations.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>To elect Cllr Iain Wallis as Chairman for 2024/25.</p>
73	<p><u>Election of Vice-Chairman for 2024/25</u></p> <p>The Chairman nominated Cllr Dominic Muns for the position of Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year, which was seconded by Cllr Kelvin Nash.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that although Cllr Muns was not in attendance, in line with Part 3 of Wiltshire Council's constitution, he had provided written confirmation to Democratic Services that he was happy to accept a nomination for the position.</p> <p>There were no further nominations.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>To elect Cllr Dominic Muns as Vice-Chairman for 2024/25.</p>
74	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Dominic Muns
75	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Kelvin Nash, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>To approve the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 26 February 2024, as a true and correct record.</p>

76	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>In relation to the grant application from Wiltshire Museum towards Discover Devizes at the Assize Court, under Item 15, Cllr Laura Mayes declared an Other Registerable Interest (ORI) that she was a trustee of Assize Court Trust. As set out in the Code of Conduct, Cllr Mayes made a statement as a member of public, and remained for discussion. She did not take part in the vote on the item.</p>
77	<p><u>Chairman's Updates</u></p> <p>The Chairman encouraged attendees to look at the questions and answers from the Area Board's Highway Matters event that were attached to the agenda.</p>
78	<p><u>Information Items</u></p> <p>The Chairman referred the Area Board to the following items included in the agenda pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community First, pg. 83-90 • Healthwatch Wiltshire, pg. 91 • Update from BSW Together (Integrated Care System), pg. 93-94 • Wiltshire Council Information Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Consultation on Statement of Licensing Policy, pg. 95-96 ➢ Local Nature Recovery Strategy Public Engagement, pg. 97 ➢ Multiply – numeracy support for adults, pg. 99
79	<p><u>Police updates</u></p> <p>Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Philip Wilkinson, OBE, MPhil, gave a strategic overview of recent developments within Wiltshire Police, including that that the force had now out of the special measures. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCC congratulated Chief Constable Catherine Roper for leading Wiltshire Police out of special measures. • His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) had produced a draft report that aligned with the views of the Chief Constable and PCC. • Wiltshire Police was improving at tackling all types of crime and was no longer judged as inadequate by HMICFRS. They were building foundations for continual improvement and getting out of special measures had boosted morale and confidence in the force. • Wiltshire Police could do even better and continue to improve customer service. <p>The head of the Devizes Neighbourhood Police Team, Inspector Ben Huggins then gave an update about the measures being taken to tackle crime in the local</p>

area. The following points were made:

- All crime types in Devizes between April and May 2024 were lower than the equivalent period in 2023.
- The number of crimes against the person, predominately domestic offences, remained relatively high.
- There had been a series of burglaries in April and May, but three suspects had been identified, one of which had been charged and the other two were on bail.
- A series of preventative checks had been undertaken by cadets to test age verification for the purchase of knives.
- Police Community Support Officers had been in the community tackling anti-social behaviour such as cycling on pavements.
- A number of closure orders had been obtained for premises linked to anti-social behaviour and drug use and Wiltshire Police were working closely with housing services.
- The Roots & Shoots scheme was working with young people to prevent them falling into crime.
- Facebook Live sessions had been run with parish councils and it was planned to repeat these in future.

Cllr Laura Mayes arrived at 6:47pm.

Chief Constable Catherine Roper then updated the Area Board about the plans that she had been implementing to improve service delivery. The following points were raised:

- A three-year strategic plan and series of community commitments had been published online, showing how Wiltshire Police was tackling the crimes that mattered to local communities.
- Proactive work was being carried out alongside partner agencies in Devizes to support young people.
- Wiltshire's Burglary Team was achieving a successful outcome in resolving 20 percent of incidents, which was a threefold improvement on the same period in 2023.
- She met with HMICFRS every six months to review performance and Wiltshire Police had an in-depth inspection every two years.

During the discussion, the following points were made:

- The Area Board thanked PCC Wilkinson, Chief Constable Roper and Inspector Huggins for their updates and welcomed the news that Wiltshire Police had come out of special measures.
- The Chief Constable offered assurances that the Roots & Shoots youth

	<p>initiative would continue in Devizes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Girl Guide Policing Challenge had just been launched and the Scouting Policing Challenge would also be launched in the near future. • In response to a question from Cllr Simon Jacobs about collaboration with neighbouring forces, it was explained that Wiltshire Police had been working with other forces on Operation Ragwort to simultaneously target one specific element of rural crime. There was also significant collaboration in other areas, such as serious criminal investigation and technology. • Police forces had been working together on Operation Scorpion to tackle County Lines drug activity. All five forces in South West England were in the top 10 forces in the country for Council Line disruptions per head of population and Wiltshire was top. • The PCC was on the board of National Rural Crime Network and also chaired the Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board. • Wiltshire Police were seeing an improvement in the outcomes of their investigations and received support from the criminal justice system. The PCC and Chief Constable confirmed that pressures on the criminal justice system would not change Wiltshire Police's approach to pursuing and arresting criminals. • When asked what more could be done to tackle known and persistent offenders engaging in retail crime, the Chief Constable emphasised the importance of sharing information to build intelligence. She reported that West Midlands Police had been particularly effective at tackling retail crime and that Wiltshire Police would be shadowing their work to pick up best practice. • Inspector Huggins explained that he chaired a fortnightly tasking meeting where they discussed persistent offenders. In addition to stop and search powers, they also had authority to impose orders to stop certain individuals from entering geographical areas, such as Devizes town centre. He praised Devizes ShopWatch for providing intelligence about habitual criminals. • Best wishes and thanks were sent to an officer who was intentionally run over by a driver in a field near Conscience Lane, outside Rowde. The Chief Constable reported that the officer was in a stable condition but that a shocking incident such as that could not be tolerated. • The public were encouraged to participate in consultations about Public Space Protection Orders.
80	<p><u>Partner and Community Updates</u></p> <p>The following partner provided a verbal update:</p> <p><u>Devizes Fairtrade Group</u></p> <p>Jasper from Devizes Fairtrade Group reminded the Area Board that Devizes had become a fairtrade town in 2006. He reported that Patrick Kaberia, a tea producer from Michimikuru in Kenya, would be visiting Devizes in September to</p>

	<p>talk to schools. He explained at, as climate change was causing increasing problems for farmers in the developing world, working with cooperatives to ensure that they got a fairtrade premium was increasingly important. Mr Kabira had last visited the United Kingdom in 2016 to promote fairtrade and had shared lots of information, including about the work to stabilise the soil on his land. A meeting was being planned for 19 September where the public would be invited along, including local farmers. Fairtrade refreshments would be provided. The Fairtrade representative encouraged elected members to make Wiltshire a fairtrade county.</p> <p>The following partner provided a written update:</p> <p>Devizes and District Foodbank, pg. 123-125</p>
81	<p><u>Area Board End of Year Report / JSNA / Area Board Priorities</u></p> <p><u>2023/24 End of Year Report</u></p> <p>Area Board Delivery Officer Caroline LeQuesne referred attendees to the report on pages 127-129 of the agenda pack and gave an overview of some of the Area Board's achievements in 2023/24. Achievements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting youth activities in Lavington and Bromham. • Helping food banks to buy essential items. • Working with partners on creative projects to combat social isolation. • Supporting Community Speed Watch teams and promoting engagement with the police. • Helping young people to access employment opportunities. • Supporting events such as the Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race. <p>She noted that over two thirds of grant funding awarded by the Area Board had been awarded to the areas in the two quintiles in their community area with the highest levels of deprivation.</p> <p><u>Community Area Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (CAJSNA)</u></p> <p>The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager (SEPM), Richard Rogers, gave a summary of the CAJSNA data and outlined how the Area Board could use it to help inform their priorities for the forthcoming year. He reported that 168 people in the Area Board's area had responded to a community survey, 138 of which were aged 45 or older. He then went on to outline the top five priority areas identified by those that had taken part in the survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • The environment • The cost of living • Children and young people

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety <p>The SEPM also provided data about how the challenges in Devizes Area Board compared to other community areas in Wiltshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the 18 Area Boards in Wiltshire, Devizes that the fifth highest proportion of people that were 65 or older. • It had the third highest number of unpaid carers. • It had a higher rate of youth unemployment, children receiving free school meals and households living in deprivation than the Wiltshire average. • Devizes had the highest level of crime committed by under 18s of any Area Board in Wiltshire, although much work had been undertaken recently to reduce this figure. • Devizes had the second highest percentage of under 18s receiving treatment for substance abuse. <p><u>Area Board Priorities</u></p> <p>The Area Board were then invited to discuss and approve their priority areas for the forthcoming year. The SEPM emphasised the importance of targeting resources towards areas where the Area Board could have the greatest impact and to align them with community and Wiltshire Council goals.</p> <p>On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Simon Jacobs, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>To agree, and appoint lead members to, the following priority areas for 2024/25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing climate change and protecting the environment (Cllr Tamara Reay) • Improve opportunities for children and young people (Cllr Dominic Muns) • Valuing and supporting our vulnerable and older people (Cllr Simon Jacobs) • Increasing the safety of our community (Cllr Kelvin Nash) • Support those in greatest need and improve their resilience (Cllr Iain Wallis)
82	<p><u>Appointments to Outside Bodies and Working Groups</u></p> <p>The Chairman invited the Area Board to appoint representatives to its outside bodies and working groups. He also invited the Area Board to note the terms of reference of the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group and Air</p>

	<p>Quality and Sustainable Transport Group.</p> <p>It was noted by the Chairman that he was happy to remain appointed to the Devizes Development Partnership and take up a position on Devizes Leisure Centre Group.</p> <p>On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Philip Whitehead, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>To:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appoint Members as Lead representatives to Outside Bodies, any Non-Priority Working Groups and to the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG), as set out at Appendix A (page 135); <p><u>Outside Bodies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devizes Leisure Centre Group – Cllr Iain Wallis and Cllr Philip Whitehead • Devizes Development Partnership – Cllr Iain Wallis <p><u>Working Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality and Sustainable Transport Group (AQST) – Cllr Tamara Reay <p><u>LHFIG</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Kelvin Nash <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Note the LHFIG Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix B (pages 137 - 140) 3. Note the AQST Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix C (pages 141 – 142)
83	<p><u>Open Floor</u></p> <p>There were no questions from the public.</p>
84	<p><u>Local Highways and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>Cllr Kelvin Nash introduced the recommendations of the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) meeting held on 17 April 2024 and noted that the group was working on no fewer than 16 high priority schemes. He was pleased to report that a number of projects had recently been completed, including bus stop improvements in Easterton and waiting restriction measures</p>

	<p>in West Lavington. He also explained that a project in Great Cheverell would now be taken forward by Wiltshire Council through the safer school journeys initiative rather than the LHFIG.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr Nash, seconded by Cllr Philip Whitehead, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the discussions from the LHFIG meeting of 17th April 2024 • To confirm the progress of the high priority schemes agreed by LHFIG. • To thank the parish councils that attend the group, bring local residents' concerns to us and engage in interesting and constructive discussion.
85	<p><u>Air Quality and Sustainable Transport (AQST)</u></p> <p>Cllr Tamara Reay gave an update about the recent achievements of the Air Quality and Sustainable Transport Group (AQST). She thanked the AQST, Cycle Friendly Devizes and Wiltshire Council officers for their work in improving air quality measurements in the town. Recent achievements included the adoption of the Devizes Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), which had drawn up plans to improve cycling and walking along London Road that were due to start in 2025. In addition, Cllr Reay reported that a recent review of passenger transport had led to a new bus service being introduced at Lay Wood. She praised new initiatives, such as demand responsive transport through the Wiltshire Connect service, introduced in Pewsey Vale and Marlborough, where people could book a bus on an app, or by 'phone. Services only cost £2 and there was an aspiration to introduce the scheme to other areas in the longer term.</p> <p>Cllr Reay also took the opportunity to congratulate Cllr Dominic Muns on his appointment as the Cabinet Member for Waste and Environment at Wiltshire Council. She noted that the next meeting of the AQST group would be online, at 4pm, on 13 September and invited local parishes to come along.</p>
86	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Area Board noted the budgets remaining for allocation at the meeting and heard from representatives in attendance, who gave a brief overview of, and answered any questions about, their projects.</p> <p>Community Area Grants</p> <p><u>Mid Wiltshire Ramblers Requesting £169.60 Towards the Purchase of a Grass Cutter for their Path Maintenance Group</u></p>

On the proposal of Cllr Philip Whitehead, seconded by the Chairman, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award Mid Wiltshire Ramblers £169.60 towards the purchase of a grass cutter for their path maintenance group.

Reason

The application met Community Area Grant criteria 2024/25.

The Mind Tree Café Community Interest Company Requesting £3,028.81 Towards the Mind Tree Wellbeing Hub Start Up Work and Making the Building and Environment Safe and Secure

On the proposal of Cllr Laura Mayes, seconded by Cllr Whitehead, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award the Mind Tree Café Community Interest Company £3,028.81 towards the Mind Tree Wellbeing Hub start up work and for making the building and environment safe and secure.

Reason

The application met Community Area Grant criteria 2024/25.

Wiltshire Museum Requesting £5,000 Towards Discover Devizes at the Assize Court

Cllr Mayes did not vote on the item having declared that she was a trustee of Assize Court Trust, an Other Registerable Interest under Wiltshire Council's Code of Conduct.

On the proposal of Cllr Simon Jacobs, seconded by the Chairman, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award Wiltshire Museum £5,000 towards Discover Devizes at the Assize Court.

Reason

The application met Community Area Grant criteria 2024/25.

Young People's Grants

2397 Devizes RAF Squadron Requesting £640.65 Towards an Archery Skills Project

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Whitehead, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award 2397 Devizes RAF Squadron £640.65 towards an archery skills project.

Reason

The application met Young People's Grant criteria for 2024/25.

West Lavington Youth Club Requesting £2,340 Towards Special Educational Needs Inclusiveness

On the proposal of Cllr Whitehead, seconded by Cllr Jacobs, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To award West Lavington Youth Club £2,340 towards Special Educational Needs inclusiveness.

Reason

The application met Young People's Grant criteria for 2024/25.

Market Lavington Parish Council Requesting £5,000 Towards Exercise and Fitness Equipment

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Mayes, it was resolved to make the:

Decision

To awards Market Lavington Parish Council £5,000 towards exercise and

	<p>fitness equipment.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application met Young People’s Grant criteria for 2024/25.</i></p> <p><u>Wiltshire Youth for Christ Requesting £570 Towards a Summer Holidays Pop Up Week on The Green in Devizes</u></p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr Jacobs, seconded by Cllr Whitehead, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>To award Wiltshire Youth for Christ £570 towards a summer holidays pop up week on the Green in Devizes.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application met Young People’s Grant criteria for 2024/25.</i></p> <p><u>Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts (DOCA) Requesting £5,000 Towards Youth Event Activities Devizes</u></p> <p>As DOCA had been unsuccessful in an application to the Arts Council for their core funding, the Chairman sought clarification about whether it would be necessary to add any qualifications about match funding in any motion were the Area Board minded to award the grant. The Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager, Richard Rogers, confirmed that grant funding would only be released after evidence of match funding had been provided, so it would not be necessary to provide additional wording.</p> <p>On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Kelvin Nash, it was resolved to make the:</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>To award DOCA £5,000 towards Youth Event Activities Devizes.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application met Young People’s Grant criteria for 2024/25.</i></p>
87	<p><u>Urgent items</u></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>