

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Warminster Town Council
held on Monday 17th November 2014 at 7.00pm**

The Mayor, Councillor Andrew Davis in the Chair

Present: Councillors J Cullen, S Dancey, A Davis, N Dombkowski, S Fraser, K Fryer, R Fryer, K Humphries, P Macdonald, P Macfarlane and P Ridout

276. Apologies – Councillors P Batchelor (hols) and G Jolley (hols)

277. Minutes

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 15th September 2014 and the Extraordinary Full Council held on Tuesday 14th October 2014 were approved as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

278. Mayor's Announcements

Wiltshire Council's Christmas Carol Service is being held at the Minster Church on 9th December. Because Warminster is the host town all town councillors are invited, but they do need to send confirmation of attendance to the Town Council office.

279. Questions – None.

280. Mayor's Engagements – NOTED.

281. Correspondence List – NOTED.

282. Public Participation

J Staward, Warminster said he was 'jolly cross' that the Neighbourhood Plan had been sent to the Council members for their deliberation before it had been agreed by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG) itself, and before it had undergone scrutiny by the Town Development Committee. He also wished to understand more about the 'disgusting treatment' the people of the west of the town had been subjected to at the hands of the various committees in the Town Council. All the same folk appear to be on the committees, and not because they are councillors. He asked what the NPWG is for, and whether it is now a 'toothless wonder' as the Town Council have thrown out half of the NPWG's recommendations before they have actually been tabled. He questioned why EBRAG, 'a beacon to all NIMBY organisations worldwide', is allowed to have a member on the NPWG and no one representing the area that is being used as a housing dump for the town is allowed to be there to put the case for the 'Worthless West'. He has seen the EBRAG propaganda that says it is the West's fault that all the housing will blight that end of town because they were not clever enough to organize like EBRAG did and therefore it is tough luck, and heard Councillor Dancey's rallying everyone behind him in a 'let's limit the damage' rally cry – 'let's limit the damage by keeping it in the West he means'.

Mr Stadward said it was ridiculous that Bishopstrow were trying to get the boundary of Warminster changed so that more council taxpayers could get themselves out of the threat of being built upon by being part of a village. He felt it odd that the Council seems to give equal air time to folk from Bishopstrow at Council meetings. He said it is time that the Town Council started looking after the whole community, not just those who shout the loudest. When the Council has finished, the only spaces that will be available 'for the little pleasant infrastructure enhancements you get from the 106 pieces of silver you get from betraying us will be in the East – quelle surprise! J'accuse.'

Tracy Clifford, Folly Lane spoke on the following agenda items:

'Agenda item 13

I support the dog warden with litter collection added to the role. Excellent as it complements the voluntary work currently taken by local residents at their own cost because they love where they live.

Agenda Item 14

I support the NP as a vital tool to help the town shape its future. I question if we are making the most of this localism opportunity. It should be an inspirational time for us to build our infrastructure and prosperity for generations and deliver on all the UK objectives not just the numbers. Explore iconic ideas (SANGS, a living pedestrianized/cycle bridge) and feed grass roots enthusiasm through the NP into the CS Master Plan and stop being so developer led. We need to take this creativity and inspire residents, councillors and visitors by making our town a great place to live not just a housing estate. Take control of the future, work towards the amazing vision outlined by Richard Haes from Warminster Civic Trust and direct where our community infrastructure, access, transport and housing are best placed.

Some areas are not referenced in the NPWG letter, why? Please include the following:

- SHLAA 631 is described as excluded for housing and is under consideration for protected site status.
- Settlement Boundary exclusion for the Cricket Club and the Recreation Ground in Fore Street, in-line with the football club and St Georges Field.

Point 1 – I ask why land from Westbury Road to Bath Road is not shown as any SHLAAs despite development to date and I request a reason as to why more land here is not approached as a consideration and reasons clarified to the public if not.

Point 3 I ask why a SHLAA outside of the West, to deliver the remaining 317 dwellings is not identified via NP and included within the boundary or given as a vote.

Invite and fully utilise the NPWG to challenge ad hoc, unsustainable, developer applications received e.g. Grovelands. Let's take the power of localism and stand up for what we all want which is a wonderful sustainable future for Warminster.

Point 4 – I support

Point 5 – Recommending 317 dwellings target across Warminster is not exactly balancing but more of a minimal uptake in preparation of 2026.

Point 7

Flag 2 – As we all know, land West of St Andrews Road has now been rejected for housing 5 times to date, for very valid statutory reasons. This must be a key point to designate the high quality land to better use for the recreational, wellbeing and green space infra-structure also a dictated requirement for Warminster CS.

It is the intention of the major developer and should be reflected in the NP.

It supports the recommendation NP make to limit the CS to 900 dwellings.



SIGNEDDATE.....

It delivers on local residents' support of the CS and is right for Warminster town flood protection.

The settlement boundary issue should correctly reflect this current knowledge and the existing St Andrews house lines should denote the boundary, then follow Victoria Road to join up with the reinstated buffer zone.

Flag 1 5 7 9 15 19 20 21 22 23 27 30 31 – I support, other flags I request clarification of the descriptions and numbers referenced.

I am still unclear as to the settlement boundary methodology statement – Do these 3 questions remain open or have council identified what criteria changes are to be recommended. Please clarify.

Item 15 – I support original bronze statue.

Item 19 – I support the gully emptying.

Item 21 – I do not support, totally disagree with the Bishopstrow Boundary.'

Tony Nicklin, Bath Road spoke on three items on the agenda.

(1) item 14, Neighbourhood Plan – he wished to offer the opportunity for members to question anything they are unsure of in the Neighbourhood Plan. There had been some false premises from Wiltshire Council which had led to the need to make changes, and he was happy to clarify.

(2) item 16, Athenaeum Trust – the trustees were having a meeting with the estates management and legal teams from Wiltshire Council on 18th November to discuss taking over the youth building as an asset transfer. It is believed that the building still belongs to the Athenaeum Trust, and the trustees would like to create a combined centre for arts facilities. Because the Trust received no grant from Warminster Town Council this year they were unable to obtain professional advice on costings.

(3) item 21, Community Governance Review – Bishopstrow and Warminster – he believed the request from Bishopstrow to be insidious.

Chris Montagu, Boreham Road spoke on item 14, Neighbourhood Plan:

'As a contributor to the draft Neighbourhood Plan, I am somewhat bemused by the views expressed in your agenda that the decisions made at your meeting on 14th October somehow places the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group at odds with the Town Council.

As many of you will be aware, the Neighbourhood Plan continues to evolve in light of many factors including, emerging policy, advice and guidance from Wiltshire Council, views expressed by the Town Council, issues gleaned from benchmarking, consultation, and many other sources.

As the draft document has evolved, it has deliberately tested the bounds of what may, or may not be appropriate. This approach has helped to spark focused debate amongst the various contributors to the Plan. You will therefore find draft proposals in some earlier versions that have been discarded as the group's thinking has been refined. This process continues to this day which is why the draft version you have seen is only indicative of our current thinking, rather than necessarily presenting the final version which will go out to public consultation. None of this places the working group at odds with the Town Council.

If there is any issue here, it is that recent topics such as the core strategy, future housing provision and settlement boundaries have inflamed local passions. Unfortunately this has only served to polarize views. Ultimately someone, somewhere in Warminster will have new housing in their proverbial back yard. It will not be possible therefore to appease every expressed view. But, what the

Neighbourhood Plan can do is to take a step back and look at the town from a strategic perspective, offering in the process a balanced view. It is not just about housing since there is also a need to address the wider consequences of growth of the town's population.

If our Neighbourhood Plan successfully navigates its way through all of the required hurdles, it will represent a powerful document. I therefore urge you to recognise the benefits that it can offer and ask you to continue to support the process. Assuming you do so, I equally urge that you recognise that work is on-going work and that you await the eventual outcome rather than anticipate the findings. To do otherwise may raise expectations that are not subsequently delivered.'

Chris March, Member of the NPWG speaking on item 14, Neighbourhood Plan, said that as a proud member of the NPWG he was here to support his colleagues. Without the Neighbourhood Plan fully approved Warminster will be in dire trouble.

Nick Parker, Chair EBRAG speaking on item 14, Neighbourhood Plan, said he would like to congratulate the NPWG which he thinks is doing a sterling job for Warminster. His criticism is that it is taking too long, and there would be greater benefit if it were produced sooner. He wished to correct a previous speaker – EBRAG does not have a member on the NPWG although there are members on the group who support EBRAG. This is not a question about West and East, there is a need to focus on Warminster as one town with one aim.

Mark Milton, Member of the NPWG speaking on item 14, Neighbourhood Plan, said he believed in what Chris Montagu had said. The NPWG is not in conflict with the town.

283. Acceptance of Petitions and Deputations – None.

284. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations Agreed

Councillor Dombkowski said he is employed by Balfour Beatty Living Places who are responsible for the gully emptying (item 19 on the agenda).

285. Proceedings of Committees

The minutes of the following meetings were adopted:

Town Development	held on	4 th August 2014
Finance and Assets	held on	1 st September 2014
Planning Advisory Committee	held on	8 th August 2014 29 th September 2014 20 th October 2014
HR	held on	21 st August 2014

286. Reports from Unitary Members

Councillor Humphries gave the following report on Wiltshire Council:

Woodmead

The home is now closed and handed back to Wiltshire Council. We are intending to build an extra care scheme with 40 units of accommodation on the vacant site. The Capital Assets Committee has approved the use of £8.5m funding to develop an extra care facility. Surveyors are assessing the constraints and opportunities of the site.

The indicative timetable is:

June 2015 – Planning Application submitted

October 2015 – Start on site

March 2017 – Practical completion

Extra care schemes enable older people to live in a safe and secure environment with 24 hour, 7 days a week care and support services available on site. They can include services such as hairdressing, shops, IT suites and cafes, which are also open to the public. The intention is to set up an advisory panel from the community and other stakeholders to assist with the development of the scheme under the governance of the Area Board. The Town Council will be approached in due course to ask if it would like to send a representative to the panel.

Campus

The Campus programme continues with work by the SCOB and is about to prepare the second stage of the public consultation. The Cabinet have now agreed that the campus will now form part of a much bigger regeneration project for the town centre which is being led by the council's economic development unit. Work is starting to establish who exactly owns what in the town centre, both private and public bodies, to determine their future intentions and to establish whether any covenants exist. This is a huge opportunity for Warminster.

Car Park Review

All documents including town-specific data are available from the consultation portal on the council's website.

Filming

Full council meetings are now broadcast live online. We are experimenting with other committee and Cabinet meetings. Broadcasts can be accessed from the day of the meeting from the council website.

Budget

We have completed the first cut of the budget. We need to make savings of £30m this year £24m next year and £20m the year after. This means there will be some very difficult decisions to be made.

Adult care and children's services remain a priority for the council and consume a large part of the total budget. Changes in demographics with rising costs of adult care and the average disability-free life now around 65 years compared with the average life expectancy around 80 years in Wiltshire are all contributing to a problem which is of national concern.

The cost of adult care, children's services and statutory costs such as school transport mean that the amount of money available for discretionary and 'nice to have' services is shrinking rapidly. There will opportunities for community/voluntary groups to take over the running of services which are important to them. Examples are the library service which now has over 400 volunteers and a waiting list, community transport schemes in many towns and even Warminster Town Council considering taking over the town park.

Anti-social Behaviour Regulations

A briefing sheet has been issued on the new anti-social behaviour regulations.

Councillor Pip Ridout said she was on the budget task group. The council had to make £29.2m savings, and had a loss of grant of £12m. They had to make a greater investment in adult social care, but roads were also a priority for residents of Wiltshire.

287. Police Report

Inspector Webb said there had been an increase in crime in the town centre due to night time activity. There were still several incidents of vehicle damage every week, which mainly occurred at night. All the pubs and clubs in Warminster are open, which indicates a vibrant economy. There does not appear to be any major drug issues in Warminster. The full report is attached to these minutes.

288. Dog Warden Working Group

Councillor Macdonald said the last meeting was useful as it had been attended by a Wiltshire Council enforcement officer and a dog warden. Wiltshire Council's dog wardens deal with strays and dangerous dogs so they had requested that the term dog warden should not be used for anyone employed by the town councils, as they would be in an educational role. The group was looking at costings and how these would be shared with Westbury. The report from the group was NOTED.

289. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor R Fryer said:

'First of all I would like to say that some people may have been misled by website indications concerning the inclusion of the draft Neighbourhood Plan document with the minutes to councillors. I had nothing to do with its inclusion with the minutes and I have objected to the request to keep it secret. I was told that it was only included to show the amount of work done on it to date. I will therefore not discuss it. I serve on the Working Group and I had never seen this edition, so it can hardly be said that I agree with it.

I bring this item to the agenda because the motion concerning Settlement Boundaries carried at the Extraordinary Meeting on Black Tuesday 14th October now puts the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group at odds with this council. We have had to cancel a meeting of the Working Group because of this, thus delaying the delivery of the Plan.

As a member of the Working Group I feel that our 9 points submitted to the Extraordinary Meeting were treated dismissively by the Council. "Is it worth our while continuing?" I thought afterwards. "Should the Working Group be disbanded?" "What is the point?" However, without a Neighbourhood Plan this would leave the developers a window of opportunity open for as long as this situation continues. Therefore I support it continuing its work.

Should we instruct the Working Group to follow our Settlement Boundaries motion of 14th October? We could no doubt try this, but I have to say that it smacks of 1984. Do we really want to go down this path and become like Big Brother? "You will think what I tell you." etc. No we cannot tell the Working Group what to think. However the Town Development Committee can and must scrutinize the Plan (something this Full Council failed to do on Black Tuesday.) and enforce revisions and corrections as they think fit. No rubber stamping.

No, Mr Mayor, we in Warminster, surely have not yet reached the days of Big Brother. We must ask them to continue their work as they think best, without any thought instruction from above.

I propose that we ask the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to continue their work and to deliver their work as they think best to the Town Development Committee as soon as possible.'

Seconded Councillor Ridout.

Councillor Cullen said:

'I wish to associate myself with the comments of Cllr Fryer. I agree with him wholeheartedly that we should continue with the neighbourhood plan, and I share in his deep concerns for its future. With this in mind, I wish to look at the agenda item pragmatically, as I feel that this is not being achieved. The plan itself, and by proxy, the localism act, are being undermined by flawed democracy. The core strategy is essentially the spanner in the works. The neighbourhood plan can only be effectively implemented by giving full autonomy to the working group, that which was envisioned in its formation and can not work without. I insist on focusing on a viable solution to this situation. Why the core strategy is a negative influence to the neighbourhood plan: the strategy is implemented through this distorted and disillusioned council! It has essentially been given the power to squabble and perpetuate indecision, and has inadvertently engaged in what I know to be structural classism.

There is an appropriate place for selfish preservation of property, or the maintenance of one's status and lifestyle, and it is not when it is at the expense of the whole community. The East ward must desist from belligerently shirking responsibility for the load the community is required to bear in the coming years. Altruism, compassion, empathy and concern for all others within your social sphere. This is the essence of community. I don't see enough of it from my fellow citizens. This farcical paradigm is what we see nationwide, and we need to break away and shape a unique future for our community that benefits all of us, and not perpetuate a fading general attitude towards the class culture of society. I wish to see a fairer, more equal community. One that is, in its grass roots, endorsed by a united council, and not hindered by the demands of the few.

The community has been asked to provide 1920 new homes by 2026 on behalf of Wiltshire County Council. My assumption is that the new citizens would source work outside of the community boundaries, notably Trowbridge, and I wish to appeal to you that this is economic suicide on our part.

The global economic and energy resource crisis is a real and present danger so long as considerations for these impending catastrophes aren't taken into account at every level of society.

Depletion of our natural resources especially oil is fast approaching. By many estimates from professionals within the science community this could be as soon as 2050. The fact that in 35 years time our citizens will have limited personal transport to get to these out of the community jobs is an obvious signal for action on our part now, to ensure optimal efficiency for the community's layout and what we have in it.

To place 1200 new homes in the WUE without optimised planning, i.e. without asking where these local jobs will come from simply allocating a plot of land and assuming jobs will come does not constitute as placing appropriate work nearby. We will only consign ourselves to future problems.



Where do these jobs come from? I assert that we need to localise, creating the jobs from within, perhaps asking for assistance from innovative initiatives such as the Transitions Network. Encouragement and genuine support for the community to trade and grow within the community. Keeping the wealth inside our borders for the betterment of those we represent, so that we may set a trend and a positive example for those communities that are stagnating in the face of wage repression and forced poverty through inequality. Then, we may just have a chance at satisfying the demands of Wiltshire County Council whilst ensuring the sustainability of the growth of our community.

A fair distribution of homes in the community is imperative at this time, as we already have central facilities, i.e. the town centre, it is simply logical to permeate from the centre of the town and its main community hub. This would demand, by default logic, that the East Ward is distributed a more equal allocation of new homes. I also assert that Boreham Road is ideal to cope with a greater traffic load, and when considering a route of optimal efficiency to the town centre and its main parking facilities, it is far more appropriate than the many junctions and narrow roads with considerable on road parking on the West side of town.

To sum up, I can only assert infallible logic in the hope that I gain this support. It is a true opportunity for this council to embody altruistic values on a fundamental level, on this local level, and also practice fluent democracy that considers all of our futures.'

Councillor K Fryer said she agreed with Nick Parker. Her concern was that the friction between east and west would result in an extension of development. She had been confused that the agenda at the extraordinary meeting was not followed. She agreed with Councillor Cullen that the east should take some development as this seems fair. She would like to review how the Town Council handles a meeting like that on 14th October, as she does not feel it was the right outcome.

Councillor Dancey reminded the councillors of the comment by Chris Montagu that nothing in the Neighbourhood Plan conflicts with anything put forward by the Town Council. Planners look to the future and it is inevitable that development will be on the west as this is the closest area to the national highways. He supported Councillor R Fryer's motion.

Voting on the proposal that the NPWG be asked to continue their work and deliver their work as they think best to the Town Development Committee as soon as possible: In Favour 10, Against Nil, Abstentions 1. Proposal carried.

290. World War I Project

The minutes and Lottery project were NOTED.

291. Athenaeum Trust

Councillor Macdonald said he was a keen supporter of the Athenaeum Trust who had done sterling work, but was worried that if the Council committed to this project it would take too much of the CIL monies available. He proposed that the Council notes that the correspondence has been received. Seconded Councillor Ridout. Councillor Cullen agreed that the Athenaeum is a small part of Warminster and should be added to the wish list for all CIL monies. Councillor K Fryer supported the request in principle but would like to see what other benefits could be gained, such as microphones for the Town Council. She asked what process was in place for



managing the finances from CIL. The Clerk said this was an ideal project for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan 'shopping list'. Councillor Ridout was happy to reinforce this as one of the items on the list. The money from CIL would come through in bits and pieces, and decisions would need to be made as to what is to be prioritized. Councillor Fraser said the Athenaeum is an important part of Warminster and should be include in the Neighbourhood Plan. The letter from the Athenaeum Trust was NOTED.

292. Local Youth Network (LYN)

Councillor Ridout said LYN had replaced the Youth Action Group (YAG), of which she had been a Wiltshire Council member and Councillor Cullen a Town Council member. Councillor Ridout proposed that Councillor Cullen be reappointed from YAG to LYN, and Councillor Cullen said he would like to continue. Seconded Councillor Dombkowski, voting unanimous In Favour.

293. Budget 2015–2016

The Clerk said the Finance and Assets Committee had discussed the first draft of the budget and were proposing a 1.63 per cent increase in the precept. Wiltshire Council had not yet provided any financial information on the transfer of the park. Councillor Ridout said the Finance and Assets Committee had gone through the budget thoroughly, and proposed the draft budget be submitted to Finance and assets for further honing and brought back to Full Council. Seconded Councillor Cullen, voting unanimous In Favour.

294. Gully Emptying

Councillor Macdonald was concerned for the safety of citizens and the flood risk from the lack of gully emptying. He had been thrown off his bicycle into the road because of a blocked gully at East Street where standing water had obscured a pothole. He had experienced in the past that when a problem was reported to Wiltshire Council the gullies would be cleared, and if not he would ask the Town Council to report it which also got results. In the case of this particular gully several reports had been made but nothing had been done. Wiltshire Council has a contract with Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) but the gullies are no longer being routinely emptied. They are meant to be a reactive force but they are not reacting. With budget cuts this service will be reduced further and the problem will get worse. He would like to remove the vote of no confidence in Highways and transport Cabinet member from his proposal but otherwise wished to move his proposal as written:

'Warminster Town Council has no confidence in the ability of Wiltshire Council to undertake its responsibilities that would alleviate the risk of flooding by emptying the hundreds of gullies provided for that purpose around the town. This Council also notes that the Town Clerk and a local Councillor held a meeting to discuss this issue earlier this year. Warminster Town Council further notes that Wiltshire Council now advises that the residents of the town should clear the gullies themselves in its 'Wet Weather and Gully emptying' Councillor briefing note No. 215. This council further notes that the 'B' and 'C' and unclassified roads that exist within the town may not be emptied until March next year. This council resolves to: Give permission to the Town Clerk to write a strongly worded letter to the



relevant principal officer at Wiltshire Council and submit the 100 most urgent gullies for immediate attention; and circulate this notice of resolution to every parish and town council in Wiltshire.'

Seconded Councillor Cullen, who said that people were paying for something to be done that wasn't being done, and this was a matter of urgency.

Councillor R Fryer said he is the 'unofficial Portway gully emptier' and uses a stick. He is aware that some gullies have been blocked solid from rubble. He assumes it is not economical to send out teams for all the gullies in town.

Councillor Humphries made the following response as a Cabinet member of Wiltshire Council:

'This proposal is disappointing in that it makes no acknowledgment of the seriousness with which Wiltshire Council and the Cabinet view the issue of flooding and the amount of work which has, and is, being undertaken with partners to address the issues and for which the council has received national recognition. Firstly, flooding is an awful and distressing experience. It happened to my family when we were living in a property abroad so I have first-hand experience as in fact do other Cabinet members.

Wiltshire Council is a member-led organisation. The cabinet operates in a corporate manner and not in silos. Flooding issues are not dealt with by a one man band. For information the Cabinet members involved are John Thompson (Deputy Leader and Highways), Jonathon Seed (Flooding), Dick Tonge (Finance and Assets) and myself (Emergency Planning) and the portfolio holder for StreetScene (but not a member of the Cabinet), Philip Whitehead. Flooding and associated issues have been discussed regularly every few weeks since last December and a huge amount of work has taken place. The last discussions, in fact, took place this morning and with the community area manager this afternoon. The council is also part of the statutory Local Resilience Forum where our partners include The Environment Agency, The FRS, The Police, and Public Health England. The council also receives expert advice from Atkins who are the Council's consulting engineers and who provide hydrological modelling, design work, assessments of planning applications and scheme development. There is no shortage of expert advice and guidance.

This proposal is hostile and misleading. Warminster Town Council's relationship with the Primary Authority has always been excellent and to the town's advantage. It has been held up as an example for other areas to follow. This is not the way in which two councils should expect to work together in the modern era. There are at least six different methods for members of the community to directly report concerns to Wiltshire Council which would have been far more effective than bringing this proposal to the town council. Flooding advice and contact information is also on page 8 of the current Your Wiltshire magazine which is delivered to every household in the county.

To bring members up to date: clearing the council's 80,000 roadside gullies is a major plank of the work in prevention of flooding and is rostered on a county-wide basis. Despite best efforts, in severe weather the capacity of the drainage system, or the sewer system maintained by the water companies, is simply overwhelmed by the amount of water trying to run off from the road. Many gullies were designed to cope with a 1 in 50 occurrence but we have seen increasing and more frequent heavy rain storms in recent years. In January we experienced the highest level of rainfall for



over 100 years. Important though it is, clearing gullies on a regular basis, is not a cure-all. The ability to discharge water is a function of the level of sediment and grill blockage but also pipe diameter, velocity flow, pipe gradient and downstream problems such as plant roots and blocked grills which are the responsibility of other public bodies. There is also a problem with parked cars blocking access to gullies when due to be cleaned.

£1 million has also been spent by Wiltshire Council to improve drainage systems throughout the county in the last 12 months. There are also six emergency repair schemes being funded by the Environment Agency for a total of £282,000 and another £160,000 for a scheme at Aldbourne. There is a comprehensive and continuous rolling programme of gully clearance in place but there is an unavoidable backlog following on from the severe weather earlier in the year. The flooding, which started in December 2013 and which in some places continued until March 2014 involved river, surface water and groundwater flooding and fully stretched the council's resources for over three months during which gully clearance could not take place. However we are still well within the time-frame for the clearing of gullies as recommended in The Well Maintained Highways – Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management which is the bible for local authorities. To assist with the work load we have now increased the resource by doubling the number of gully tankers.

In Wiltshire known problem areas are cleaned usually twice a year. Operators assess the condition of the drains every time they are cleaned and the frequency is adjusted within the overall programme so that those that require more regular cleaning can be targeted but this has to be prioritised across the whole county. This may mean that those in good condition are cleaned less frequently. If local concerns are reported by the community then these are considered for prioritisation when the tankers visit the area. We are, however, considering moving to a new county-wide intelligence led targeted model rather than continually adjusting a cyclical programme of gully cleaning. We are finding that recent weather patterns are producing high volumes of rainfall in a very short time frame. This means that some gullies need cleaning much more frequently than in the past whilst others remain clean for a much longer period than they did making the cyclical model less appropriate. Regrettably there are some properties which are located in pockets which due to geography, topology and geology are liable to flood as even clean gullies are not effective in some circumstances. Work continues with partners to find solutions to prevent flooding in these areas but ultimate responsibility for protecting properties against flooding lies with the owner.

The council recently announced a new Community Flood Resilience Scheme for Towns and Parishes to bid for sand bags, aqua sacks, and sand and portable flood warning signs to be stored locally so that parishes and their flood wardens can act quickly to protect their communities in the event of flooding.

Moving on, the wording of the proposal on the agenda is misleading. It reads "Warminster Town Council further notes that Wiltshire Council now advises that residents of the town should clear gullies themselves in its "Wet Weather and Gully emptying Councillor briefing note No 215". It does not. The actual wording in the document is: "If a resident thinks a gully is blocked superficially, with leaves or grass, they can, with care on the highway, clear it themselves. If the blockage is not easy to clear or they have any other concerns, these can be reported to Wiltshire Council using one of the following methods:" It goes on to list three different methods of discussing and reporting concerns to Wiltshire Council directly: by telephone on



0300 456 0105, online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts or using the MyWilts app on a smart phone.

There are three further options that could have been used. The Issues Reporting System is available on the council's website for members of the community to raise their issues. There is a progress update on issues at every area board meeting. Alternatively concerns can be reported to the Community Area Manager to take forward. Finally we are unusual in having two Cabinet members in our community area who could also have raised issues directly.

To summarise: Wiltshire Council and the Cabinet takes the issue of flooding, including gully clearance, very seriously and are working hard with partners and with their expert advice to carry out their duties and responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act as the Lead Local Flood authority for Wiltshire. This proposal is unhelpful, inaccurate and does not deal with the operational detail of the issue. I shall be voting against. I ask that we move to the vote and request a recorded vote.'

Voting In Favour of the proposal: Councillors Cullen, Dombkowski and Macdonald.
Against: Councillors Davis, Fraser, K Fryer, Humphries, Macfarlane, Ridout.
Abstentions: Councillor R Fryer. Councillor Dancey did not vote. The proposal was not carried.

295. Complaint

NOTED.

296. Community Governance Review – Bishopstrow and Warminster

Councillor R Fryer said:

'Various reasons have been put forward for the expansion of Bishopstrow at the expense of Warminster. I will address them.

1. **A sign is erected in the wrong place**, so we are asked to move the boundary to correct this anomaly. This brings enormous, and unforeseen, importance to the job of the sign erectors. Should sign erectors be making such decisions? Or to be more accurate should their mistakes be guiding us? If we are to take sign erectors mistakes to guide our governance decisions then surely we should be electing sign erectors who are the most likely to make mistakes that are beneficial to our communities. I suggest that following such mistakes is not a valid reason to move a parish boundary.
2. The 2014 proposals fetch their reasons from even further afield. **Ownership of land** is cited as a reason for a boundary change. In medieval times yes, ownership of land was used to define boundaries, but today? Land is constantly being bought and sold and divided up or joined together. This is ever changing and to follow this logic we should allow for enclaves. So if I buy a paddock in Bishopstrow can I then request to transfer it to Warminster, where my main residence is? No of course not. There will always be interesting little anomalies. Land ownership as a boundary marker went out with Medieval times. These idiosyncracies are surely a part of the charm of old England, not something to be tidied up and sanitized.
3. **"Inaccurate addresses"**. I am sure this can easily be resolved by erecting notices in the correct places.
4. **"Bishopstrow is unique"**. Yes Bishopstrow is unique, but then so is Slough. Yes Slough is unique. Every town and village is unique. Being unique is no reason to expand a parish boundary.

5. **“Both churches are linked”** is another spurious reason for extending Bishopstrow’s boundary. Presumably this is St John’s Church and St Aldhelm’s in Bishopstrow. If the linking of these two churches is a valid reason then it would be a reason for amalgamating the whole of both parishes. In other words Bishopstrow would amalgamate with Warminster. Although Bishopstrow villagers show a lot of interest in Warminster by attending our Town Council meetings and Neighbourhood Plan Working Group I don’t believe their interest goes as far as joining us. For a start would we want to join Bishopstrow? They are a village and should remain so.
6. **“Rivers as boundaries”**. Rivers and roads may be easy to trace from maps, but they are not natural boundaries. Towns and villages are built around rivers, and roads, so to divide a community by a river or road is to divide a community. Natural boundaries are by watershed, and if none exists then the next best thing is uninhabited land.

Not mentioned is the elephant in the room. I think we all know that the real reason for this proposal **is to stop any building on Home Farm** or elsewhere near Bishopstrow. In my role as a representative for the people of Warminster I cannot agree to handing over huge swathes of our town to Bishopstrow. I trust that no councillors, councillors of Warminster Town, are thinking of supporting this, perhaps to enforce promises they may have made at election time. Now is the time to stand up for your town and be counted. Mr Mayor I am proud to stand up for Warminster. I am proud to speak for the town I love. I trust we all share this love.

We are of course not living in Donetsk, and Bishopstrow, does not, as far as I know have a Russian minority, but we should nevertheless consider the situation, should this boundary change go through. Don’t let anybody kid themselves that moving a parish boundary will stop Hallam Land from building on Home Farm. It will not. There are numerous cases where towns have expanded beyond their boundaries into neighbouring village parishes with up to 300 odd houses, including perhaps 40% Social Housing + Boreham Mead being added to the Bishopstrow electorate. Do they really want to be swamped by new housing estates? Would that be a natural community? No it would not. The newcomers would substantially outweigh the village community and building in the fields by Boreham Mill could be seen as infilling as it would no longer represent a demarcation between Warminster and the new parish of Bishopstrow. So in the long run, Bishopstrow might have grabbed some land, but it might end up merging visually with Warminster. Does anybody really want that? The boundary should remain where it is perhaps a little idiosyncratic but a far more natural boundary than the Grange Lane line.

I propose that we do not support this proposal, so that the parish boundaries remain as they are and I put myself forward to go to the meeting to discuss this on 2nd December to defend the integrity of our town. I also propose Councillor Cullen, who I know supports Warminster, and to allow for substitution.’

Seconded Councillor Ridout.

Councillor Dancey asked for clarification that the only money Warminster would lose would be the rateable value of the six properties. This was confirmed. Councillor Davis said he would be attending the meeting as a unitary councillor, and the Clerk and two town councillors also needed to attend. The proposal put forward by Bishopstrow covers a much larger area than that occupied by the five cottages and Bishopstrow College. Councillor Macdonald suggested this should be put to the next Town Development Committee. The cottages are obviously in Bishopstrow, and he



would like to talk to an officer at Wiltshire Council about this. Councillor Dancey said the cottagers feel they live in Bishopstrow so the river should be the boundary. Councillor Ridout said she would agree if it were only the college and five cottages that were being included, but this was not all that Bishopstrow was requesting.

Councillor Dancey proposed an amendment to Councillor R Fryer’s proposal: at least one councillor from the East Ward should attend the meeting. Seconded Councillor Macdonald. It was pointed out that although Councillor Davis was attending in his unitary role, he was also a town councillor for the East Ward.

Councillor K Fryer felt there was not enough detail in the paper submitted. The Clerk said that the meeting will be to discuss the five cottages and the college. A final decision will not be made at the meeting, but the Town Council needs to be clear on what it wants.

Councillor Dancey requested a recorded vote on the amended proposal that one of the two town councillors should be a member of East Ward. Councillor Cullen asked to move to the vote.

Voting In Favour of the amendment: Councillors Dancey, Dombkowski and Macdonald. Against: Councillors Cullen, Fraser, K Fryer, R Fryer, Humphries, Macfarlane and Ridout. Abstentions: Councillor Davis. Amendment not carried.

Voting In Favour of the proposal that Councillors Cullen and R Fryer attend the meeting, and to allow for substitution: Councillors Cullen, Davis, Fraser, K Fryer, R Fryer, Humphries, Macfarlane and Ridout. Against: Councillors Dancey and Macdonald. Abstentions: Councillor Dombkowski. Proposal carried.

297. Communications – None.

Meeting closed 8.50pm



**Crime and Community Safety Briefing Paper
Warminster Town Council
17th November 2014**



1. Neighbourhood Policing

Ps Debra ASHLEY

Town Team:

Pc Sam Withey
PCSO Lorraine Rice
PCSO Mary Moore

Rural Team:

Pc Vicky Howick
PCSO Debbie Robbins
PCSO Liz Harmsworth

2. NPTs - Current Priorities & Consultation Opportunities:

Up-to-date details about Neighbourhood Policing Teams including team membership, current priorities and forthcoming community consultation events can be found on our Wiltshire Police Website.

□ Visit the new and improved website at: www.wiltshire.police.uk

3. Performance and Other Local Issues

I have reviewed the crime for the area and we can see that there remains an increase in victim based crime for the Warminster Area. When I break the figures down into Town and Rural you can see that the majority of the crime is coming from Warminster Town Centre. On reviewing this beat area I see that there has been a increasing trend since 2012. The crime increase are mainly within Criminal Damage and Violence against there person. A proportion of which is linked to night time economy. I have seen an increase in Theft offences including shoplifting. Shop owners have been able to reduce thefts by making some structural changes and also the employment of security guards, and the introduction of polycarbonate glasses within a late night venue has reduced the severity of assaults.

NPT work in the past month has included

Pc WITHEY and PCSO RICE gave a talk to Warminster School Nursery, allowing them to see a police vehicle as well as learn about stranger danger and how to contact the emergency services.

PCSO RICE and MOORE have recently identified shoplifters stealing from local supermarkets through their excellent local knowledge when they viewed the CCTV footage and where able to identify the suspect as they had dealt with him as part of group of youths who frequent the area to the rear of Morrison's..

PC WITHEY and PCSO RICE attended the scene of a burglary in Warminster, and following their initial investigation, CID have been able to identify an offender who is currently wanted.

CRIME & DETECTIONS (August 2012 – August 2013 compared to previous year)

Wiltshire Police - 170 years of public service

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ER Warminster NPT	Crime				Detections*	
	12 Months to October 2013	12 Months to October 2014	Volume Change	% Change	12 Months to October 2013	12 Months to October 2014
Victim Based Crime	965	1151	+186	+19.3%	24%	21%
Domestic Burglary	38	37	-1	-2.6%	18%	11%
Non Domestic Burglary	86	85	-1	-1.2%	7%	2%
Vehicle Crime	89	92	+3	+3.4%	13%	3%
Criminal Damage & Arson	183	258	+75	+41.0%	17%	19%
Violence Against The Person	227	276	+49	+21.6%	45%	40%
ASB Incidents	752	759	+7	+0.9%		

ER11 Warminster Town	Crime				Detections*	
	12 Months to October 2013	12 Months to October 2014	Volume Change	% Change	12 Months to October 2013	12 Months to October 2014
Victim Based Crime	614	830	+216	+35.2%	29%	22%
Domestic Burglary	21	31	+10	+47.6%	0%	3%
Non Domestic Burglary	21	34	+13	+61.9%	14%	3%
Vehicle Crime	41	42	+1	+2.4%	20%	2%
Criminal Damage & Arson	144	208	+64	+44.4%	21%	16%
Violence Against The Person	181	231	+50	+27.6%	43%	37%
ASB Incidents	632	652	+20	+3.2%		

* Detections include both Sanction Detections and Local Resolutions

ER12 Warminster Rural	Crime				Detections*	
	12 Months to October 2013	12 Months to October 2014	Volume Change	% Change	12 Months to October 2013	12 Months to October 2014
Victim Based Crime	351	321	-30	-8.5%	14%	18%
Domestic Burglary	17	6	-11	-64.7%	41%	50%
Non Domestic Burglary	65	51	-14	-21.5%	5%	2%
Vehicle Crime	48	50	+2	+4.2%	8%	4%
Criminal Damage & Arson	39	50	+11	+28.2%	5%	32%
Violence Against The Person	46	45	-1	-2.2%	52%	56%
ASB Incidents	120	107	-13	-10.8%		

* Detections include both Sanction Detections and Local Resolutions

Alan Webb
Warminster Sector Inspector

17/11/2014

Wiltshire Police - 170 years of public service

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SIGNEDDATE.....