

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** Pewsey Area Board  
**Place:** Great Bedwyn Village Hall, Frog Lane, Great Bedwyn, Wiltshire, SN8 3PB  
**Date:** 17 June 2024  
**Start Time:** 7.00 pm  
**Finish Time:** 9.05 pm

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## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Jerry Kunkler (Chairman), Pewsey  
Cllr Paul Oatway QPM (Vice-Chairman), Pewsey Vale West  
Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Pewsey Vale East

### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Richard Rogers, Strategic Engagement Partnerships Manager  
Caroline LeQuesne, Engagement and Partnership Lead  
Dominic Argar, Assistant Multimedia Officer  
Ben Fielding, Senior Democratic Services Officer

### **Partners and Guest Speakers**

Inspector Ben Huggins, Wiltshire Police  
Nicky Harris, Community and Family Navigator

**Total in attendance: 21**

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<b><u>Minute No..</u></b>	<b><u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u></b>
117	<p><u>Election of Chairman</u></p> <p>Nominations were sought for a Chairman for the forthcoming year. On the nomination of Councillor Paul Oatway QPM seconded by Councillor Stuart Wheeler, it was,</p> <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b></p> <p><b>To elect Councillor Jerry Kunkler as Chairman of the Pewsey Area Board for the forthcoming year.</b></p>
118	<p><u>Election of Vice-Chairman</u></p> <p>Nominations were sought for a Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year. On the nomination of Councillor Stuart Wheeler seconded by Councillor Jerry Kunkler, it was,</p> <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b></p> <p><b>To elect Councillor Paul Oatway QPM as Vice-Chairman of the Pewsey Area Board for the forthcoming year.</b></p>
119	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman introduced Wiltshire Councillors in attendance as well as the guest speakers, Inspector Ben Huggins and Nicky Harris.</p>
120	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Anna Paterson, Easton Royal Parish Council.</p>
121	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2024 were presented for consideration.</p> <p>Concern was raised that following on from the Highways Matters Area Board meeting, responses to submitted questions should have been provided within a week, however this had not been the case and when the responses had been provided, it was not felt as though they had been adequate.</p> <p>Assurance was provided that the Director of Highways had been invited to attend the Pewsey Area Board meeting on 17 June as per minute 106, however the Highways matters events had taken place across all 18 of the Area Boards,</p>

	<p>therefore there was a lot of demand for such attendance. Richard Rogers, Strategic Engagement Partnerships Manager, agreed that he would contact Northern Highways to chase requested responses.</p> <p>Concern was also raised regarding the Highway Schemes Maintenance Programme, which had not been discussed with it stressed that Pewsey had been labelled as an important region with roads that were not suitable. Members of the public echoed this concern and shared that there was a feeling of zero confidence in Highways.</p> <p>Assurance was provided that Area Board members had met with Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Clewer and had shown him some of the roads which presented issues locally. Cllr Clewer had since gone away to try and get such work done, however there was a lot of catching up to be done since winter.</p> <p>Councillor Paul Oatway QPM also provided assurance that he had sent an email to Highways expressing concern regarding the programme of work in the Pewsey area with a lot of projects having been delayed or cancelled. Councillor Jerry Kunkler also expressed that two more gulley tankers had been procured for the use of Parish Councils, which would go out on request to complete work and that should residents have issues with the My Wilts app, they could approach the Area Board Members directly.</p> <p>Richard Rogers, Strategic Engagement Partnerships Manager, provided assurance that a meeting had taken place which included the Director for Highways and Transport to discuss the concerns that had been raised by several area boards. This included an agreement to look at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improving proactive communications from Highways</li> <li>2. Consultation on the Highways improvement programme</li> <li>3. Where the best place was to discuss local highways issues</li> </ol> <p>After which, it was;</p> <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b></p> <p><b>To approve and sign as a true and correct record of the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2024.</b></p>
122	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest.</p>
123	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman made the following announcements as per the agenda pack:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways Matters Q and A</li> <li>• Consultation on the Licensing Policy</li> <li>• Local Nature Recovery Strategy Public Engagement</li> <li>• Multiply – National Numeracy Day</li> </ul>
124	<p><u>Information Items</u></p> <p>The following written updates and information items were received and noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community First</li> <li>• Healthwatch Wiltshire</li> <li>• Update from BSW Together (Integrated Care System)</li> </ul> <p>Further attention was drawn to the new website for Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre: <a href="#">Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre</a> with it noted that the centre was a valuable local resource and that the centre was trying to expand its offer. It was also noted that there was an event set to take place at Oxenwood on 24 June from 5pm-7pm for young people in the area, which would include open fire activities. Those interested were encouraged to speak to Richard Rogers, Strategic Engagement Partnerships Manager.</p>
125	<p><u>Appointment of Representatives 2024/25</u></p> <p>The Area Board received a report requesting appointments of Councillor representatives to outside bodies, the reconstitution of and appointment to non-priority working groups for the Year 2024/25.</p> <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b></p> <p><b>That Pewsey Area Board appointed the following Councillor Representatives to the following Outside Bodies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pewsey Community Partnership – Cllr Paul Oatway QPM</b></li> <li>• <b>The Vale Health Centre – Cllr Stuart Wheeler</b></li> </ul> <p><b>That Pewsey Area Board appointed the following Councillor Representative to the Local Highways and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pewsey Area Board LHFIG – Cllr Jerry Kunkler</b></li> </ul> <p><b>That Pewsey Area Board noted the Terms of Reference for the LHFIG as set out in Appendix B, attached to the agenda.</b></p>
126	<p><u>Area Board - End of Year Report</u></p> <p><b>Part I – Looking Back</b></p> <p>The Area Board received a presentation from Caroline LeQuesne, Engagement</p>

and Partnerships Lead on the Area Board End of Year Report. Caroline thanked local community groups for their hard work, as though the Area Board met four times a year, a lot of work took place in between. It was also outlined how the Area Board had been able to support areas in the most need through looking at deprivation quintiles. The presentation included the following points:

**Youth engagement and positive opportunities.**

- This included such work as the Pewsey Youth Café and the Blue Bus in the Villages.

**Valuing and supporting vulnerable and older people.**

- It was outlined that for the vulnerable population, work which had taken place included funding for defibrillators, vouchers, and boaters' access to energy grants.
- For the older population, work had included the Memory Café and Alzheimer's Art Group.

**Addressing environmental issues.**

- Sylvia Wyatt of Great Green Bedwyn outlined that it had been a busy period for the community group including open and rain gardens which had taken place on 16 June. The event had seen over 800 garden visits over 4 hours and raised over £1,5000.
- Hard work had been taken place with the Southern Streams Farmers Group and that a small grant for farming in a protected landscape had been received. Presentations had taken place in schools as well as an evening meeting to enable better communication with the farmers and villages.
- Regarding heat usage, a green open homes event had taken place to offer visitors the opportunity to see how they might improve their own homes.
- The organisation had picked up an infrared camera which enabled 30 homes to be surveyed, which had seen an increase in heat pumps, draught proofing, and new windows as a result.

**Part II – Looking Forward**

Richard Rogers, Strategic Engagement Partnerships Manager (SEPM) provided a summary of the Community Survey/CAJSNA Data:

- There had been 76 responses to the survey (2.8% of the Wiltshire population).
- The following 5 priorities were identified by respondents:  
Health:
  - Almost 40% of respondents had chosen this as their first choice.
  - The top 5 health issues in order were support for keeping physically active, support for living longer better, care for those living with dementia, mental health support and tackling levels of obesity.
  - CAJSNA data was provided to support this, including that in

general the Pewsey community area scored healthy or above average for Wiltshire.

Environment:

- 12% of respondents chose this as their first choice.
- The top 5 environment issues in order were increasing biodiversity and quality of landscapes, addressing flooding, supporting public transport services, tackling fly tipping, supporting/improving active travel.
- It was outlined that locally a lot of work had taken place to support the above, including the DRT bus services and encouraging walking and cycling.

Cost of Living:

- 11% of respondents chose this as their first choice.
- The top 4 cost of living issues in order were support for housing/rent affordability, support for households and children living in low-income families, tackling fuel poverty and debt and support for foodbanks.
- CAJSNA data was provided to support this, including that fuel poverty/rental costs were amongst the highest in Wiltshire.

Children and Young People:

- 10% of residents chose this as their first choice.
- The top 4 children and young people issues in order were improving positive activities for young people, young people's mental health, supporting those living with special needs (SEND) and support for young carers.
- CAJSNA data was provided to support this, including that Wiltshire had 0.26% of all ages admitted to hospital for self-harm compared to 0.16 for England as a whole.

Economy:

- 10% of residents chose this as their first choice.
- The top 3 economy issues in order were empty businesses and shops, low education or skills gap, unemployment.
- CAJSNA data was provided to support this, including that during 2023 on average there were 9 empty businesses on average in Pewsey.

Information was provided about Rural Hubs, which was outlined as being a market towns initiative for rural areas and was being delivered by Future Smiths using government funding. The aim was to support local rural business by providing free tailored support and some access to grants and funding as well as to create jobs, modernise businesses, improve products & services.

After the presentation, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:

- The reasoning for the high self-harm data was questioned, to which clarity was provided that there was a myriad of reasons for this, including that during the pandemic things got a lot harder emotionally and psychologically and that the services available were over-subscribed. It

	<p>was acknowledged that this had possibly been taking place for years however people were now more willing to discuss it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A discussion took place regarding SEND provision at Pewsey Vale School and how the number of SEND students had risen over the reason years as well as the potential reasonings for why this might be the case.</li> </ul> <p>After which, it was;</p> <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b></p> <p><b>That Pewsey Area Board decided upon the following priorities it wished to focus on in the coming year as well as the respective lead councillor representatives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improving opportunities for young people – Cllr Jerry Kunkler</b></li> <li>• <b>Addressing environment issues – Cllr Paul Oatway QPM</b></li> <li>• <b>Valuing and supporting our most vulnerable and older people – Cllr Stuart Wheeler</b></li> </ul>
127	<p><u>Family Hubs</u></p> <p>The Area Board received a presentation from Nicky Harris, Community and Family Navigator, which introduced the work of the Family Hubs. The presentation covered the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of Family Hubs was provided, with it noted that their aim was to provide greater local community support and guidance for families and young people aged from 0 to 19, extending to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities.</li> <li>• It was noted that the Hubs would be funded by Wiltshire Council and provided by Spurgeon’s Children’s Charity.</li> <li>• The support offered by Family Hubs was outlined including 1-2-1 support in the home, parenting advice groups and a digital family hub available 24 hours a day.</li> <li>• The role of Family Navigators and Family Hub Practitioners was outlined.</li> <li>• There are 3 main Family Hub sites in Five Rivers (Salisbury), County Hall (Trowbridge) and Monkton Park (Chippenham) with a further 21 Family Navigator sites across the county.</li> <li>• The contact details were provided for the Family Hubs as follows: <a href="mailto:wiltshirecc@spurgeons.org">wiltshirecc@spurgeons.org</a> and 0800 970 4669.</li> </ul> <p>After the presentation, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was clarified that Family Hubs had no criteria and were there for everyone.</li> <li>• The trend of children not attending school was discussed and how this had been a theme with an example cited of how the Family Hub had assisted a mother who was home schooling.</li> <li>• It stated that the demand for the Family Hubs had been high and that there was always a need for volunteers.</li> </ul>

## Partner and Community Updates

The Area Board received updates from Partners and community organisations as detailed below:

- **Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP)**

The Area Board received an update from the PCAP representatives, Colin Gale, Dawn Wilson and Susie Brew as follows:

### **Colin Gale – Buses and Trains:**

- The DRT had been doing well and there had been some promotions such as £1 fares on Saturdays, which had taken place several times.
- Regarding the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) - Wiltshire Council had been awarded £2.1m per annum for the next 2 years, with a condition of the funding award that the bus service could not be reduced during the period.
- It was updated that unfortunately Pewsey station had been ranked as the bottom GWR station, therefore Colin had contacted Mark Hopwood (GWR Chief Executive) to question what would be done about this, with an invitation provided to attend the GWR stakeholders conference on 24 June 2024.
- An update was provided on how there would potentially be changes to rail service in Pewsey from 2029, however this would rely on the 4<sup>th</sup> platform at Westbury.
- A survey had taken place amongst parishes in Pewsey to look at potholes with a meeting held with Leader of the Council, Cllr Richard Clewer, where Cllr Oatway QPM showed some of the roads. These roads had since been repaired, however further repairs had since been needed due to freight.

### **Susie Brew – Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership:**

- A bike repair stand had been installed in Pewsey with thanks given to the Area Board.
- Concern was voiced about not having a local visitor partnership in Wiltshire, with Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership doing anything they can to help Visit Wiltshire achieve a status so that they do not miss out on funding.
- The partnership was still awaiting training on the Wiltshire Council app designed for heritage walks.
- The partnership would be 10 years old in September and would likely have an event to celebrate.

### **Dawn Wilson:**

- Home Start are aware of the work of Spurgeon's and aware working to support children from ages 0-5.
- Pewsey Community Area Partnership youth coaching is going well., with a group of volunteers as well as two sports coaches who had been funded by Area Board grant funding. A success story has been that one



child who has behavioural issues has been introduced into a local football team.

- The opening of the Pewsey Pump Track was successful and was opened by British BMX champion Amelie Eaton, who provided some demonstrations.
- The Pewsey Vale Memory Café celebrated 10 years of running and recently had a boat trip which made good use of the Connect Bus.
- There hasn't been a Health and Wellbeing meeting for some time with the group looking for a new direction.
- PCAP has been set up as a voucher provider by Wiltshire Council and can now provide both electronic and paper vouchers to support referred families in need in Pewsey.
- PCAP has also successfully received a small grant from the Wiltshire Community Foundation for the same project, which will allow such things as white goods to be supplied, with a deadline of 30 September 2024.

After the update, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:

- Cllr Oatway QPM stated that he was working with Marlborough Town Council and Marlborough Area Board regarding concerns of the A338 corridor.

- **Health and Wellbeing**

The Chairman noted that at the September meeting of the Area Board, local surgeries would be attending.

- **Parish Councils**

The Area Board received a written update from Shalbourne Parish Council, which included:

- Tribute was paid to a Wiltshire Council Planning Officer who when Shalbourne's local pub had been closed and up for sale, they had declared the pub as a community asset in record time.
- Carvers Hill Estate Winery is now open with tours to start at the end of summer.
- Reference was made to the Memory Choir who hold sessions in Hungerford.

- **Wiltshire Police**

The Area Board noted written updates attached to the agenda. In addition, Inspector Ben Huggins provided a verbal update which covered the following points:

- Statistics for April and May were provided, with it noted that Pewsey was a very safe area compared to others and that there had been 63 crimes and 100 reported incidents in the past two months, which was a 1/3 drop on previous years.
- It was noted that violence against the person remained the largest type of crime with it noted that these incidents were largely private space

	<p>incidents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference was also drawn to a spate of thefts which had particularly involved construction vehicles being targeted for tools.</li> <li>• An overview of the recent activity conducted by the Police was provided including Op Sceptre, which was a knife prevention operation.</li> <li>• Reference was drawn to the local priorities and updates which had been included within the written report.</li> </ul> <p>After the update, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was questioned regarding visibility how often PC's walk the streets of Pewsey, to which clarity was provided that this is infrequent as the reality is that modern policing is based on threat, harm and risk with a focus on hotspots to maximise resources.</li> <li>• Over the last 6 years the Police and Crime Commissioner has wanted more money to increase the number of Police Officers in Wiltshire, but this doesn't seem to be the case. To which clarity was provided that such investment would be welcomed and that it was hoped that the situation would improve with Wiltshire Police recently taken out of Engage. The change of crime to online crimes has also caused a need to divert resources.</li> <li>• Clarity was provided that online fraud was classed as a theft offence and therefore was included within that respective statistic.</li> <li>• It was stated that there was surprise with the number of drug related offences being low, with county lines and rural communities often referenced. Inspector Huggins explained how the Police are often reliant upon intelligence and that there is potentially more drug activity taking place however the Police need information to act upon this.</li> <li>• Further detail was provided on burglaries with it noted that 2 out of the 4 burglaries had been empty dwellings and then the other incidents included 2 non-dwellings such as sheds and outbuildings.</li> <li>• Feedback was provided in relation to Community Speed watch data that it would be more valuable for data to be more recent rather than being displayed over a 4-year period.</li> <li>• Detail was also provided on how the Police make use of neighbouring officers to borrow resource to complete such tasks as speed checks.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Age UK</b></li> </ul> <p>The Area Board noted a written update attached to the agenda.</p>
129	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Area Board considered the following applications for funding:</p> <p><b><u>Community Area Grants:</u></b></p> <p>Woodborough Social Club – £2,000 towards new ladies' toilets.</p>

**Decision**

**Woodborough Social Club was awarded £2,000 towards new ladies' toilets.**

**Moved – Cllr Jerry Kunkler  
Seconded – Cllr Paul Oatway QPM**

***Reason – The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2023/24.***

Woodborough Parish Room - £2,000 towards outside painting and garden project.

**Decision**

**Woodborough Parish Room was awarded £2,000 towards outside painting and garden project.**

**Moved – Cllr Paul Oatway QPM  
Seconded – Cllr Stuart Wheeler**

***Reason – The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2023/24.***

Hilcott Village Hall - £640 towards two noticeboards for Barnard Meadow Hilcott.

**Decision**

**Hilcott Village Hall was awarded £640 towards two noticeboards for Barnard Meadow Hilcott.**

**Moved – Cllr Paul Oatway QPM  
Seconded – Cllr Jerry Kunkler**

***Reason – The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2023/24.***

**Older and Vulnerable Grants:**

Arts Together - £1,700 towards Projects for Isolated and Vulnerable Older People in Pewsey.

**Decision**

**Arts Together was awarded £1,700 towards projects for Isolated and Vulnerable Older People in Pewsey.**

	<p><b>Moved – Cllr Jerry Kunkler</b>  <b>Seconded – Cllr Stuart Wheeler</b></p> <p><b><i>Reason – The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></b></p> <p><b><u>Youth Grants:</u></b></p> <p>Burbage Parish Council - £1,200 towards provision of sessions of Youth Bus</p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b></p> <p><b>Burbage Parish Council was awarded £1,200 towards provision of sessions of Youth Bus.</b></p> <p><b>Moved – Cllr Stuart Wheeler</b>  <b>Seconded – Cllr Jerry Kunkler</b></p> <p><b><i>Reason – The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></b></p>
130	<p><b><u>Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></b></p> <p>The Area Board received the minutes and considered the recommendations arising from the last LHFIG meeting held on 24 April 2024, as detailed in the report.</p> <p>On the proposal of the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Stuart Wheeler, it was;</p> <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b></p> <p><b>To add the following Issues (with funding) to the Priority Schemes List:</b>  <b>10-24-02 Bottlesford Warning Signs and Markings (£850)</b></p> <p><b>To allocate funding to Issues currently on the Priority Schemes List:</b>  <b>10-20-9 Chirton 20 mph Speed Limit (£4,500),</b>  <b>10-22-8 Rushall Elm Row (Phase 3A) (£5,000)</b></p> <p><b>To close the following Issues:</b>  <b>10-20-3 Rushall Elm Row Footway (Phase 2),</b>  <b>10-22-11 Woodborough Direction Signs,</b>  <b>10-23-5 All Cannings Roundels</b></p> <p><b>Financial Contributions:</b>  <b>That Parish and other Third-Party Contributions should be set at 40% of the estimated cost, capped at a maximum amount of £5,000.</b></p>
131	<p><b><u>Urgent items</u></b></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>

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Future Meeting Dates and Close

The date of the next meeting was 23 September 2024.