

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** Trowbridge Area Board  
**Place:** Online Meeting  
**Date:** 20 January 2022  
**Start Time:** 7.00 pm  
**Finish Time:** 9.28 pm

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Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Ernie Clark (Chairman), Cllr Horace Prickett (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Jo Trigg and Cllr David Vigar

Cllr Richard Clewer (Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for MCI, Economic Development, Heritage, Arts, Tourism and Health & Wellbeing and Interim Cabinet Member responsible for Finance & Procurement, Commissioning and Commercialisation)

**Total in attendance: 32**

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<u>Minute No..</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
28	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Edward Kirk.</p>
29	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>To approve and sign the minutes as a true and correct record.</u></b></p>
30	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillors Jo Trigg and Stewart Palmen declared a non-pecuniary interest in the grant application from Trowbridge Future, by virtue of being trustees of the organisation. They declared they would not participate or vote on the application.</p>
31	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>Announcements were received as detailed in the agenda pack, relating to the Ask for Angela Relaunch, Queens Platinum Jubilee and changes to the Highway Code.</p>
32	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>Updates from partners were received as follows:</p> <p><b>i. Wiltshire Police</b></p> <p>Inspector Gill Hughes delivered an update on policing issues in the community area. She stated that there had not been an increase in issues in Trowbridge in the lead up to Christmas and highlighted the success of Operation Elf to tackle shoplifting. She also updated the Board on the three new PCSOs and her work as Wiltshire Police's lead on dog theft, including increasing DNA tracking. The Winter Drink Drive Campaign saw 7 arrests for drink driving and 3 arrests for drug driving in the Trowbridge area.</p> <p>The Board asked if information could also be presented showing comparison with Swindon and the rest of Wiltshire, along with longer term trend information. It was reported that over the last year there had been a slight increase in violent crime but it was considered that the reopening of pubs may have contributed to this. Trend data including on theft could be reviewed for future updates.</p> <p>A request was made for a PCSO to attend the next Hilperton Parish Council meeting and the next North Bradley Parish Council meeting.</p>

	<p><b>ii. Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service</b></p> <p>David Geddes, Trowbridge Station Manager, updated the Board on the safe and well visits that were still ongoing and the specific focus on electric blanket safety in the winter months. He reminded the Board that the service is recruiting for more on-call firefighters. There were 76 fire calls in the Trowbridge area in the last quarter, with 34 false alarms. It was clarified that this was an average number for the time of year, but attention was drawn to an increase in fires in the open, such as waste fires.</p> <p><b>iii. Town and Parish Councils</b></p> <p>The Board received an update from Hilperton Parish Council that they had no increase to their precept and had allocated nearly £30,000 to causes within the community to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee. Trowbridge Town Council also provided the Board with an update. The Trowbridge precept would increase by 19.5% to cover services that the Town Council was taking on from Wiltshire Council.</p>
33	<p><u>Future High Street Fund</u></p> <p>Rory Bowen, Acting Head of Service, Economic Regeneration, delivered an update on the Future High Street Fund. He noted that the intention of the fund was to build a programme for further improvement beyond the initial projects. There would be live events for the public to the project on 27 and 31 January 2021 with opportunity for questions and answers, along with other engagement taking place. There would be a focus on improving pedestrian access to the town centre, and on deliverable projects.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council, Cllr Richard Clewer, stated that the programme was the first step in working on Trowbridge town centre as part of a pipeline of deliverable improvements to lead to long term transformation.</p> <p>The Board discussed the update and expressed that they would like to see the progress that has happened between updates. They also asked for more discussion with Highways about the developments. Questions were raised around opening up the Market Hall, and for involvement of local councillors or the town council on the business model. In response it was stated that the project needed to tread a line between what could be delivered within the funding parameters. It was aimed to improve on engagement to create a better sense of community ownership of the project and to utilise local knowledge.</p> <p>The Board thanked the Leader and Rory Bowen for their update.</p>
34	<p><u>Leisure</u></p> <p>The Leader of the Council, Cllr Richard Clewer, was in attendance to update the Area Board on leisure provision in the community area.</p>

	<p>He stated that due to the need to provide a new leisure facility in Trowbridge, £25 million capital funding had been proposed over the next three years. This included around £2 million over the next year for plans and preparation. He clarified that there was no specific site identified at this stage, and that the budget would still need to be approved at the next full Council meeting on 15 February 2022.</p> <p>After questions from the Board it was specified that the council would assess need when determining what to include in the leisure centre. There would be consultation however the extent would be impacted by the need to move and develop quickly to meet leisure requirements in the area.</p> <p>In response to queries it was stated accessibility would be a factor in choosing the site, with importance of public transport links noted, but with limited site options not all details would be ideal in all ways. Any planning application for the proposed build would have to factor in impact on traffic in the area around the chosen site. The Leader stated he hoped the centre would be completed within four years, however this was the most optimistic estimate. It was also confirmed that Wiltshire Council would be running the site, and the current usage of the site by schools was being considered.</p> <p>The Chairman requested that the Board be kept informed of any developments, including any working groups set up by the Board, and thanked the Leader for the update.</p>
35	<p><u>Selwood Housing</u></p> <p>Peter Davies from Selwood Housing delivered a presentation on the work being done in Trowbridge, and specifically in Studley Green. It was stated Selwood Housing have 2500 homes in Trowbridge some of which are high cost and low performance. A number of these homes are in the Studley Green area. Selwood Housing intended to use their Stronger Communities Fund to deliver improvements to Studley Green and areas like it through working with Trowbridge Future and volunteers.</p> <p>Mr Davies stated that Selwood were committed to community led action and connecting people to work together to improve their area and planned to consult with all 650 homes in Studley Green on developments moving forward.</p> <p>The local Member for the Studley Green area, Councillor Jo Trigg thanked Selwood for their investment and genuine effort to make a difference.</p> <p>The Board thanked Selwood for updating them on their places for the area.</p>
36	<p><u>Trowbridge Eco</u></p> <p>Matt Callaway delivered a presentation on the work of Trowbridge Eco. The group had grown to over 60 members who participated in litter picks and river cleans as well as other activities in the community area. Details were provided of</p>

	<p>activities which had taken place, including river cleans, its blue heart campaign to encourage rewilding, as well as future activities planned such as a spring clean on 3 April 2022, and a 'repair café'.</p> <p>The Board thanked Trowbridge Eco for their volunteer work in the community and encouraged them to continue to push local councils and others to develop on their green promises.</p>
37	<p><u>Funding</u></p> <p><i>As the meeting was taking place online any decisions would need to be taken by the Leader of the Council under executive authority, taking account of the views of the Board</i></p> <p>Community Grants  Hilperton Village Hall - Village Hall Outside Lighting  This grant request was withdrawn as the full amount was provided by a grant from Hilperton parish council.</p> <p>YMCA Brunel Group on behalf of YMCA Green Shoots –Nursery Outdoor Area Renovation  £5000.00 was requested for renovation of the outdoor area of the nursery as the area is prone to flooding and they need to improve drainage and excavate and re-level the area. On the motion of Councillor Jo Trigg, seconded by Councillor Stewart Palmen, it was then,</p> <p>Resolved:  To award £5000.00 to the YMCA Brunel Group.</p> <p>Reason:  The application met the grants criteria.</p> <p>Trowbridge Rugby Football Club - Trowbridge Rugby Club Play Park  £5000.00 requested for moving and updating the rugby club's play park. The play park is for ages 4-12 and includes equipment such as swings, slides and climbing frames. The Rugby Club clarified that they would cover future maintenance of the park as they do at the moment and that is accessible and used by others in the community that do not belong to the rugby club. No motion was proposed before consideration of the next item. A point of order was raised later in the meeting to return to the consideration of the Trowbridge Rugby club item, with Chairman stating the matter had been considered but could be raised at a later date.</p> <p>Stepping Stones - Garden project Phase 3  £2000.00 was requested to upgrade their current outdoor play facilities through the replacement of the play panels in their garden "Pagoda" and outdoor movable play equipment suitable for pre-school children. On the motion of Councillor Antonio Piazza, seconded by Councillor Jo Trigg, it</p>

was then,

Resolved:

To award £2935.25 to Stepping Stones.

Reason:

The application met the grants criteria.

Trowbridge Debt Advice Service - Expansion and upgrade  
£2935.25 was requested to upgrade their existing laptops and add two more to keep up with the increase in size of the service now that it has grown from 5 to 7 advisors. On the motion of Councillor Antonio Piazza, seconded by Councillor Daniel Cave, it was then,

Resolved:

To award £2935.25 to Trowbridge Debt Advice Service.

Reason:

The application met the grants criteria.

Trowbridge Environmental Community - GROW Toolshed  
£330.00 was requested to build a tool shed to manage and enhance their community project at Gloucester Road allotments.  
On the motion of Councillor Antonio Piazza, seconded by Councillor Stewart Palmen, it was then,

Resolved:

To award £330.00 to Trowbridge Environmental Community.

Reason:

The application met the grants criteria.

Friends of Broadmead Pond - Repair and improve Broadmead Pond  
£5000.00 was requested to desilt the pond to make it more suitable as a breeding pond for newts and other wildlife. It would also be to increase the accessibility for local residents and visitors and improve disabled access.

On the motion of Councillor Jo Trigg, seconded by Councillor Antonio Piazza, it was then,

Resolved:

To award £5000.00 to the Friends of Broadmead Pond.

Reason:

The application met the grants criteria.

Trowbridge Wanderers Football Club - Equipment  
£1733.30 was requested for new equipment and compensate for lost

revenue to support the grassroots club due to the covid pandemic. Although included within the agenda reports pack the application was not separately listed on the agenda frontsheet, and the Chairman determined that the application should be considered at a future date.

#### Youth Grants

The Amber Foundation - Ambers Health and Wellbeing workshops £3506.00 was requested to support the cost of development and delivery of the workshops they deliver to young people. These include workshops on skills such as managing stress and uncertainty and specific training in adult literacy and numeracy. On the motion of Councillor Antonio Piazza, seconded by Councillor Jo Trigg, it was then,

#### Resolved:

To award £3506.00 to The Amber Foundation.

#### Reason:

The application met the youth grants criteria.

#### Trowbridge Future - Trowbridge Future Apprentice

£5000.00 was requested to provide a local young person with an opportunity to undertake an apprenticeship within their youth programme. This money to contribute towards the salary would enable them to upskill a member of the community to become a trained youth support worker. On the motion of Councillor Clark, seconded by Councillor Prickett, it was then,

#### Resolved:

To award £5000.00 to Trowbridge Future.

#### Reason:

The application met the youth grants criteria.

#### Health and Wellbeing Grants

Alzheimers Support - New flooring for Mill St Trowbridge Day Club £1550.00 was requested to provide new flooring tiles as after nearly a decade's service as a Day Club the flooring tiles are starting to degrade to the point where they will become a safety issue. 65% of the cost for the project from had been secured from charitable sources and it was requested that the Board cover the shortfall. On the motion of Councillor Jo Trigg, seconded by Councillor Stewart Palmen, it was then,

#### Resolved:

To award £1550.00 to Alzheimers Support.

#### Reason:

The application met the Health and Wellbeing grants criteria.

	<p>Community Area Transport Group On the motion of Councillor Ernie Clark, seconded by Councillor Prickett , it was,</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>Newtown Pedestrian Crossing - Additional CATG allocation £5083.50 subject to £1694.50 Trowbridge Town Council contribution</p> <p>Southwick Speed Limit Assessment - CATG £1875, subject to £625 Southwick Parish Council contribution</p>
38	<p><u>Urgent items</u></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>