

MINUTES

Meeting: Melksham Area Board
Place: Berryfield Village Hall, Telford Drive, Berryfield, Melksham,
SN12 6GF
Date: 7 December 2022
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 8.35 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Phil Alford (Chairman), Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Jack Oatley and
Cllr Jonathon Seed

Wiltshire Council Officers

Terence Herbert – Chief Executive, Wiltshire Council
Tamsin Kielb – Assistant Director HR&OD
Richard Rogers – Strategic Engagement Partnerships Manager
Kevin Fielding – Democratic Services Officer

Total in attendance: 27

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
108	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome, Introduction and Announcements</u></p> <p>Cllr Phil Alford welcomed everyone to the Berryfield Village Hall.</p> <p>The following Chairman's Announcements contained in the agenda pack were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Events Notices • Climate Strategy Delivery Plans • Cost of Living/Warm Spaces <p>The Area Board noted the increase of people using food banks in the Melksham community area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electro vehicles chargers • Building Bridges
109	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Philip Wilkinson – Police and Crime Commissioner and Cllr Mike Sankey – Wiltshire Council.</p>
110	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7 November 2022 were confirmed as the correct record
111	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
112	<p><u>Parish Stewards</u></p> <p>Chris Clark – Head of Local Highways, Wiltshire Council outlined the role of the Parish Steward.</p>

	<p>Points made included:</p> <p>A regular visit of a man with a truck, equipped with a full range of hand tools and materials to address a wide variety of minor highway defects and needs.</p> <p>The tasks are identified by a nominated person from the Town or Parish council, reported in advance of the visit on the top five priority system.</p> <p>Direct Contact with Steward was encouraged.</p> <p>The Steward would repair a wide range of minor defects.</p> <p>Identification of Invasive and noxious weeds</p> <p>Use of light plant and tools, including hand compactors, chain saws and strimmer/brush cutter etc</p> <p>A wide variety of other duties of value to the community</p> <p>The work Programmed over 4 days, with Friday as a “Float” day enabling catch up or Stewards to group together for larger Jobs</p> <p>It was noted that Melksham Without Parish Council would like more days of Parish Steward time.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Chris Clark for his presentation.</p>
113	<p><u>Police Update</u></p> <p>Inspector Andy Lemon – Wiltshire Police outlined the power point</p> <p>Points made included:</p> <p>Priority – Melksham “Boy Racers” – that 18 targeted stops had taken place since the last update. Several vehicles had been seized; two Vehicle Defect Rectification Notices and a number of Fixed Penalty Tickets had been issued. The stops also led to the discovery of two Drink / Drug Drivers. Local teams would continue to target this issue.</p> <p>That Wiltshire Police were providing updated Demand Data for the CCTV and Community Safety Working Group, to inform the ongoing CCTV Project.</p> <p>That local teams were working with the Town Council to address an ASB Hotspot at The Pavilion, King George V Playing Field. The Tactical Crime Prevention Officer would be looking for Target Hardening Opportunities to compliment the work of the Neighbourhood Team.</p>

	<p>In the lead-up to Christmas, local teams were looking to run Operation Elf, to combat Shoplifting in the Town Centre.</p> <p>Points made from the floor included:</p> <p>Concerns that rural communities were being left behind in the level of policing that they were afforded.</p> <p>That it would be beneficial if on Melksham market day a mobile police station could be deployed.</p> <p>The importance of police supporting Speedwatch volunteer groups when resources were available.</p> <p>The positive impact of local police teams spending time at the Canberra Youth Centre.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Inspector Andy Lemon for his update.</p>
114	<p><u>Fire & Rescue Update</u></p> <p>Station Manager Andrew Laskey outlined the written update.</p> <p>Points made included:</p> <p>The importance of the continued recruitment of volunteer fire fighters.</p> <p>That the cold weather brought issues with real fires, candles and lamps etc.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Station Manager Laskey for his update.</p>
115	<p><u>Sub Group Reports</u></p> <p>Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group – Cllr Jonathon Seed</p> <p>It was noted that the recommendations from the LHFIG meetings held on the 4 August 2022 and the 27 October 2022 were agreed at a special meeting held on the 7 November 2022.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Group – Cllr Nick Holder</p> <p>That the last meeting was held on the 26 November 2022 with some 28 attendees.</p> <p>Topics discussed at the meeting included:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Friendly Melksham Report and Carers report • Cost of living situation • Energy Workshops in Melksham • Young Carers Event – which was well received, with a young carer picked to switch on the Melksham Christmas lights. • Next meeting Friday February 2023 with a 10am start. <p>That meetings had been held with the NHS Estates team to discuss the Melksham Hospital site. The meetings had been somewhat frustrating with the level information that NHS Estates team could give. Hopefully a more fleshed out plan would be released during March 2023.</p> <p>Further meetings were planned during February 2023.</p>
116	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>The following written partner updates contained in the agenda pack were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Care Board & Healthwatch Wiltshire • Melksham Without Parish Council
117	<p><u>Area Board Priority Updates</u></p> <p>Supporting low Income individuals and families – Cllr Phil Alford</p> <p>Points made included:</p> <p>Provision of slow cookers to be distributed by Melksham Food Bank, with an aspiration to continue this initiative.</p> <p>Provision of electric blankets via Melksham Free dining and Melksham Foodbank – The Area Board members were in agreement that £500 would be released under delegated authority once an application was submitted.</p> <p>Reducing Isolation and Loneliness – Cllr Nick Holder</p> <p>Points made included:</p> <p>That a new part time role was to be established to manage localised emergency situations and provide more practicable support for other wellbeing issues</p>

	<p>currently hidden in the community for which help was not actually being requested. This would be funded by both Wiltshire Council and Melksham Town Council.</p> <p>A request would be made to the Area Board in the New Year for further funding.</p> <p>Youth Engagement – Cllr Jack Oatley</p> <p>Points made included:</p> <p>That a Youth Council had now been set up at school at Melksham Oak School.</p> <p>That the Healthy Schools project would be pushed again in Melksham during 2023.</p> <p>Extra provision from 4Youth.</p> <p>Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour – Cllr Mike Sankey</p> <p>Points made included:</p> <p>That a proposal to introduce outreach work in Melksham as well as the rural villages was to be finalised.</p> <p>Addressing Environmental Issues – Cllr Jonathon Seed</p> <p>Points made included:</p> <p>Environmental mitigation Clackers Brook – That an update in the New Year would be given at the Area Board.</p> <p>That a lot of Environmental work was going on throughout the Melksham community area –that it would be good to have central database of all projects, big and small.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the Area Board members for their updates.</p>
118	<p><u>Grant Applications</u></p> <p>Decision Melksham Area Board Councillor Initiative awarded £500 for Cost of living crisis support</p> <p>Decision</p>

	<p>Great Hinton Memorial Hall Trust awarded £702.45 for Great Hinton Memorial Hall Supply and Installation of Induction Loop System</p> <p>Decision West Wilts Ramblers Work Party awarded £249 for West Wilts Ramblers Work Party Equipment and clothing</p>
119	<p><u>Public Questions</u></p> <p>There were no public questions.</p>
120	<p><u>Close</u></p>

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