

MINUTES

Meeting: Melksham Area Board
Place: Semington Village Hall, High St, Semington, Trowbridge BA14 6JR
Date: 6 December 2023
Start Time: 7:00 pm
Finish Time: 9:00 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Jonathon Seed (Chairman), Cllr Mike Sankey (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Nick Holder and Cllr Jack Oatley

Wiltshire Council Officers

Richard Rogers – Strategic Engagement & Partnership Manager
Caroline LeQuesne – Area Board Delivery Officer
Cameron Osborn – Democratic Services Officer

Highways Matters Panel

Samantha Howell – Director of Highways and Transport
John Derryman – Police and Crime Commissioner's Office – Community Speed Watch Co-Ordinator
Chris Clark – Head of Local Highways
Councillor Caroline Thomas – Cabinet Member for Transport, Flooding and Street Scene

Total in attendance: 36

<u>Minute No..</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
41	<p data-bbox="338 342 896 376"><u>Highways and Transport Presentations</u></p> <p data-bbox="338 412 1485 479">The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and handed over to the Highways Matters panel. The panel comprised the following:</p> <ul data-bbox="384 521 1469 819" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="384 521 1469 589">• Councillor Mike Sankey – Melksham Area Board Member and Melksham LHFIFG Lead Representative <li data-bbox="384 598 1193 631">• Samantha Howell – Director Highways and Transport <li data-bbox="384 640 1465 707">• John Derryman – Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office – Community Speed Watch Co-Ordinator <li data-bbox="384 716 959 750">• Chris Clark – Head of Local Highway <li data-bbox="384 759 1437 819">• Councillor Caroline Thomas – Cabinet Member for Transport, Flooding and Street Scene <p data-bbox="338 862 1485 969">Councillor Caroline Thomas introduced a series of presentations on highways in Wiltshire, providing context as to the role and importance and impact of transport across the county.</p> <p data-bbox="338 1010 1485 1117">Samantha Howell then spoke to the strategic context of the highways network in Wiltshire, noting that the Council was responsible for maintaining an extensive network of roads, public rights of way and public transport.</p> <p data-bbox="338 1158 1485 1265">The panel described how the highways network is funded and the investment that has gone into it in recent years and going forward. Samantha Howell further outlined the significance of the Council’s Local Transport Plan.</p> <p data-bbox="338 1305 1485 1413">The panel noted that the major local issues that had arisen from public engagement included highway maintenance, problems with the A350, road safety and the Local Walking and Cycling Improvement Plan (LWCIP).</p> <p data-bbox="338 1453 1485 1561">Chris Clark explained the approach the Council undertakes towards highway maintenance and the difference between reactive and planned maintenance alongside asset management.</p> <p data-bbox="338 1601 1485 1776">He also touched on potholes and explained why the weather conditions over the last twelve months had been so problematic for the roads. The panel also noted the Defect Dashboard that would be further implemented over the coming months to help ensure that the Council’s approach to prevention and repairs remains cost-effective and evidence led.</p> <p data-bbox="338 1816 1485 1924">Councillor Thomas also noted the ‘We’re Targeting Fly-Tippers’ and ‘Don’t Miss with Wiltshire’ initiatives to tackle verge and litter clearance, also noting that the Council was loaning cleaning equipment to local parish councils.</p> <p data-bbox="338 1964 1485 1998">John Derryman from the PCC’s Office noted that the PCC quickly recognised</p>

	<p>road safety as a priority for investment, which manifested itself in the form of community speed watch teams, community speed enforcement officers and road safety officers, alongside more vehicles and state-of-the-art cameras. Wiltshire and Swindon road safety partnership a valuable infrastructure to bring together several organisations concerned with road safety. SID data being used to inform enforcement, encouraged parish councils to get community speed watch teams and SIDs in place.</p>
42	<p><u>Melksham Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Update</u></p> <p>The update was included in the main presentations item.</p>
43	<p><u>Q&A Session</u></p> <p>The panel then opened up for questions from the floor, including from the Area Board Committee. Details of these questions and their responses along with the panel's responses to the questions submitted in advance of the meeting can be found in the separate Q&A document.</p>
44	<p><u>Session Summary and Next Steps</u></p> <p>The panel then concluded the Highways Matters event and thanked those present for their attendance and participation.</p>
45	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jon Hubbard.</p>
46	<p><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>Resolved: To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2023 as a true and correct record.</p>
47	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillor Jack Oatley declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Youth Grant being determined, as he is involved in organisations from which the applicant planned to seek referrals.</p>
48	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman noted and summarised the following briefing notes from the agenda pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Board Priority Report • Cost of Living update • Polling District and Polling Place Review

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Visitor Scheme Update • Archaeology Service Annual Newsletter 2023
49	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>The Chairman noted written updates in the agenda pack from the following partner organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSW Together (Integrated Care System) • Healthwatch Wiltshire • Community First
50	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Committee then considered and determined the following grant applications.</p> <p>Older and Vulnerable Adults Grants:</p> <p>The Riverside Centre requested £480.00 towards a food and community support project with an estimated total cost of £3,000. Councillor Alford moved to award the grant in full and was seconded by Councillor Oatley.</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p>To grant The Riverside Centre £480.00 towards a food and community support project.</p> <p>Great Hinton Community Committee requested £494.78 towards a Great Hinton Heritage Group. The Chairman moved to award the grant in full and was seconded by Councillor Sankey.</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p>To grant Great Hinton Community Committee £494.78 towards a Great Hinton Heritage Group.</p> <p>Young People Grants:</p> <p>The Equivalent Project CIC requested £1,805.56 towards a self-harm support programme with an estimated total cost of £10,000. Councillor Sankey moved to award the grant in full and was seconded by Councillor Holder.</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p>

	<p>To award The Equivalent Project CIC £1,805.56 towards a self-harm support programme.</p>
51	<p><u>Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>The Committee then considered the recommendations arising from the Melksham LHFIG meeting from 2 November 2023 as included in the agenda pack.</p> <p>Councillor Sankey moved to approve the LHFIG's funding recommendations and was seconded by Councillor Oatley.</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p>To approve the recommendations from the LHFIG meeting on 2 November 2023.</p>
52	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked those present for attending and drew attention to the future meeting dates listed below (7:00pm-9:00pm):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 March 2024 • 22 May 2024 • 6 November 2024

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