

MINUTES

Meeting: Devizes Area Board
Place: Needham House, Victoria Road, Devizes, SN10 1FA
Date: 20 November 2023
Start Time: 6:30 pm
Finish Time: 8:15 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Iain Wallis (Chairman), Cllr Dominic Muns (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Tamara Reay and Cllr Philip Whitehead

Wiltshire Council Officers

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

Partners

Wiltshire Police – Neighbourhood Sergeant Chris Wickham
Police and Crime Commissioner's Office – PCC Philip Wilkinson
Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – Station Manager Terry Crawford

Total in attendance: 26

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
48	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and the Committee introduced themselves.</p>
49	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received by Councillor Laura Mayes, Noel Woolwrych, Simon Fisher, Julie Rose and Inspector Ben Huggins.</p>
50	<p><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p>To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2023 as a true and correct record.</p>
51	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillor Kelvin Nash declared that he had an interest in an Area Board Initiative grant application that was being discussed at the meeting but not being determined.</p>
52	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman noted that the following briefing notes could be found within the agenda pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Visitor Scheme Update • Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023 – Consultation • Cost of Living Update • Wiltshire Council Archaeological Service Annual Newsletter
53	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>The Chairman noted the written updates from Healthwatch Wiltshire, Community First, BSW Together (Integrated Care System) and Wiltshire AGE UK included in the agenda pack. The Area Board received verbal updates from the following partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Police <p>Neighbourhood Sergeant Chris Wickham guided those in attendance through the contents of Wiltshire Police's latest Area Board update, highlighting progress on 101 triaging, crime statistics and trends (including a rise in burglary) and the work of the community speed enforcement team. Sergeant Wickham also</p>

promoted the use of Wiltshire Police's Community Messaging Service to better engage with the work the police were doing.

The Chairman asked whether anti-social behaviour, which was considered a local priority in Devizes but not a force-wide operational priority, had reduced in volume or been overshadowed by more serious issues. Sergeant Wickham noted that it remained on the police's radar but that it had indeed seen a reduction across the county. Steve Dewar asked if there could be a concerted effort to ensure that the messaging around knife crime made it clearer that while knife crime was a tragic reality even in rural communities, it was still a very rare occurrence and not something of which young people should be anxious.

- **Police and Crime Commissioner's Office**

Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson spoke to the recent improvements being undertaken by Wiltshire Police as a result of his office's work. These improvements included shortening wait times for 999 and 101 calls, enhanced IT systems and higher success rates resolving sexual harassment and assault. He noted the work being conducted to disrupt county lines drug trafficking across the South-West of England, and the measures being taken to address rural crime. He described Operation Ragwort, a plan to build a robust rural crime intelligence network across the South-West. 192 speed enforcement sanctions in 2021, over 12,000 so far in 2023. The PCC noted that anti-social behaviour was indeed dropping but was still subject to scrutiny and needed a collaborative and comprehensive response working alongside Wiltshire Police. He also noted the work being done to improve victim support in the county. He also praised the work of Chief Constable Catherine Roper and endorsed her new Community Engagement Strategy that was being finalised.

Councillor Simon Jacobs asked whether there was a link between a reduction in 999 calls was due to improvements in 101 responses. The PCC responded that it was possibly part of the reason but added that a more pressing issue that emerged from a recent rural crime survey was people not reporting crimes due to a lack of confidence. Councillor Kelvin Nash lauded the work being done to tackle speeding in Devizes but noted the sluggishness of Speed Watch and the difficulties in getting it set up. He added that he would be happy to liaise with future Speed Watch groups to ensure a similar experience was not endured by others.

Councillor Tamara Reay asked what more could be done to address rural crime. The PCC replied that he was keen to ensure that there would be zero no-go zones in Wiltshire under his watch. The representative from Rowde Parish Council thanked the PCC for his help in supporting the Parish Council get the Community Speed Watch team in place and Councillor Dominic Muns noted his own positive experience with improved 999 response times. A member of the public asked about speed enforcement on the M4, and the PCC responded that there would always be at least one police chase car situated on the Wiltshire stretch of the M4 at all times.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service <p>Station Manager Terry Crawford introduced himself to the Devizes Area Board following his recent appointment. He noted the following significant statistics from the last quarter: one deliberate fire, five accidental fires and three road traffic collisions. He added that the statistics were wholly satisfactory from his point of view, tending towards the low end of average.</p> <p>Station Manager Crawford's full report is attached to these minutes.</p>
54	<p><u>Area Board Priority Update</u></p> <p>The Strategic Engagements and Partnerships Manager (SEPM), Richard Rogers, noted the report in the agenda pack on the progress being made towards the Area Board's listed priorities.</p> <p>He specifically drew attention to the work being done towards youth, anti-social behaviour, youth unemployment, and building on the recent Safer Streets project.</p>
55	<p><u>Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>Councillor Dominic Muns presented the notes and recommendations from the Devizes LHFIG meeting from 18 October 2023. He moved to accept the recommendations as written and was seconded by Councillor Kelvin Nash.</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devizes Area Board to note the discussions from the LHFIG meeting of 18th October 2023 • To confirm the progress of the high priority schemes agreed by LHFIG • To confirm LHFIG's contribution to the two new schemes at a total cost of £16,500.
56	<p><u>Air Quality and Sustainable Transport</u></p> <p>Councillor Tamara Reay and Richard Rogers updated the Area Board on the recent activity of the Air Quality and Sustainable Transport group, including the opportunities presented by the recently allocated air quality funding, the town centre bus service, Wiltshire Connect, the draft Air Quality Action Plan and Supplementary Planning Document and the status of the Devizes Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), which is now awaiting sign-off.</p> <p>Councillor Simon Jacobs noted that for all the improvements being done towards public buses, they were often very dirty and warranted more regular cleaning. Councillor Tamara Reay echoed the sentiment and explained that the point was noted and would be pursued after the meeting.</p>

Area Board Funding

The Area Board then considered and determined the following grant applications:

Community Area Grants:

- Busy Kids Outdoor Shelter - £2,000 towards new outdoor shelter

It was explained that the Bromham nursery for babies up to 5 years old had lots of outside space that was currently in a state of disrepair. Councillor Philip Whitehead moved to grant the funding in full and Councillor Kelvin Nash seconded the motion.

Resolved:

To grant Busy Kids £2,000 towards a new outdoor shelter.

- Worton & Cheverell FC - £500 towards football goal posts

It was explained that the club had no facilities at the main hub, and that winter training needed to be moved. Seven teams were training at Dauntsey's School, who have allowed the use of their astroturf, which had no goals, and that the club also needed goals for Lavington. Three to four sets would be needed at a total cost of £2,000. Councillor Muns voiced his support for the application, noting the wide reach of the football club across the local villages. Councillor Jacobs asked if the goal posts were transportable, to which it was explained that they were, but not easily, so would likely remain in one location. Councillor Reay thanked volunteers and recognised the importance of youth football clubs for boys and girls alike. Councillor Muns moved to grant the funding in full and Councillor Nash seconded the motion.

Resolved:

To grant Worton and Cheverell FC £500 towards new goal posts.

- The Patch, Potterne - £5,000 towards establishment of building as community asset

It was explained that Potterne Parish Council supported the initiative at the former village school and were, like the Area Board, pleased to see more a comprehensive business plan. Councillor Reay proposed to grant £3,000, which was seconded by Councillor Jacobs. Councillor Whitehead also formally thanked The Patch for their co-operation sending through the additional information the Area Board had requested.

Resolved:

To grant The Patch £3,000 towards the establishment of the former village school as a community asset.

Youth Grants:

- Devizes Netball Club - £1,432 towards coaching equipment and venue costs

It was explained that the netball club planned to expand their junior section from its existing 200 members and planned to continue training at Devizes Leisure Centre and Dauntsey's School but had no equipment at the school. They had, however, raised funding elsewhere to address this. Councillor Jacobs noted that it was good to see Dauntsey's so involved in supporting sports clubs for young people. Councillor Whitehead moved to grant the funding in full; Councillor Jacobs seconded the motion.

Resolved:

To grant Devizes Netball Club £1,432 towards coaching equipment and venue costs.

Older and Vulnerable Adults:

- Devizes Men's Shed - £270 towards first aid training.

It was explained that first aid training was required to continue operating the Devizes Men's Shed, which for the six people necessary would actually amount to £405, but as the initial application was based on training for four people, thus the amount only being £270. The Chairman moved to grant the £270 and was seconded by Councillor Nash, with Councillor Reay also commending the work of the Men's Shed in the community.

Resolved:

To grant Devizes Men's Shed £270 towards first aid training.

Area Board Initiatives:

Richard Rogers noted that an Area Board Initiative was missed off the grant report in the agenda pack due to an administrative error, so could not be determined at the meeting, but could be passed under delegated authority as the total amounted to under £1,000, so would be discussed at the meeting and determined at a later date. The Chairman then invited Councillor Kelvin Nash to summarise the initiative.

	<p>Councillor Nash detailed the plan to run a Christmas event in Devizes at a cost of £500. It would be a community-focused event involving young people, older and vulnerable adults, and all in between. The Chairman noted his approval at the involvement of Christians Against Poverty. Councillor Philip Whitehead added that he wholly supported the initiative and suggested that informal feedback is collected after the fact to inform and improve future endeavours.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that all Members present were in support of the Initiative and explained that Members would collaborate with the SEPM to carry the Initiative forward under delegated authority.</p>
58	<p><u>Open Floor and Group Discussion</u></p> <p>Introducing the next item, the Chairman noted the importance of public engagement at Area Boards and encouraged people to bring any questions or comments to the Committee's attention.</p> <p>Benson Miyoba from Champions in Community, a non-profit project group across 5 counties, introduced himself to the Area Board. Benson explained how as a resident in Devizes, he saw a pattern of youth offending and was later commissioned to work with a small group of the highest-risk offenders as a mentor and was also a champion of community outreach for the Football Association (FA). The Area Board, including Sergeant Wickham from Wiltshire Police, applauded the work he had been doing so far and encouraged the prospect of future collaboration.</p> <p>Rowde Parish Council noted that they were still discussing their neighbourhood plan and asked what other progress there was regarding the Wiltshire Housing Plan? Councillor Whitehead responded that the Local Plan was going through the process and having completed Regulation 19 should now carry legal weight. He speculated that it would probably be finished around 2025, with Devizes, Bishops Cannings and Urchfont's Neighbourhood Plans at a similar stage. He noted that the county was still suffering from the lack of 5-year housing land supply, adding that this was fundamentally a national government policy issue and encouraging Parish Councils to continue pressing forward with their own Neighbourhood Plans.</p> <p>Responding to a query about whether Neighbourhood Plans only carried legal weight for two years, Councillor Whitehead clarified that this was only the case if the Council's Local Plan wasn't in place, which he denounced as a ludicrous rule but an unfortunate reality. He added that if and when problems with the Local Plan are solved, Neighbourhood Plans would remain valid for their entire lifespan as intended. Councillor Muns suggested that West Lavington Parish Council write to their local Member of Parliament (MP) to encourage him to help address the 5-year housing land supply issue Councillor Whitehead alluded to, remarking that the MP for Devizes, Danny Kruger, supported the idea and was keen to receive testimonies from constituents as evidence.</p>

59	<p><u>Urgent items</u></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>
60	<p><u>Date of the Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that the date of the next meeting would be 26 February 2024. He added that it was a Highways Matters event with Highways Officers and the Cabinet Member for Transport, Flooding and Street Scene in attendance.</p>



DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

WILTSHIRE AREA BOARD REPORT

Community Safety Plan

DWFRS Community Safety Plan can be found on the DWFRS website;

<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>

Prevention

We are committed to making a real difference to the lives of people in Dorset and Wiltshire. Our aim is to reduce the level of risk and harm to our communities from fire, targeting those most at risk. We do this primarily through our Safe and Well visits.

A Safe and Well visit is **FREE** and normally lasts about one hour covering topics such as:

- Using electricity safely
- Cooking safely
- Making an escape plan
- What to do if there is a fire
- Keeping children safe
- Good practice – night time routine and other points relevant to you
- Identifying and discussing any further support the occupier may need

Are you or anyone you know:-

- Over the age of 65?
- Need a smoke detector?
- Have a long-term health condition?
- Suffer from poor hearing or sight loss?
- Would you struggle to escape in the event of a fire?

If you can answer yes to more than one of these questions, then please call us on 0800 038 2323 or visit <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>



Protection

On-going interaction by Protection Team members with Local Authorities, Private landlords and tenants regarding fire safety-related matters: external cladding systems; fire detection and warning systems; fire resisting doors (& self-closers); combustibility/fire resistance of construction materials; commercial and residential sprinklers systems and water-mist suppression systems

General Enquiries

If you have a general fire safety enquiry regarding commercial property, please email fire.safety@dwfire.org.uk and the Fire Safety Team will respond in office hours.

Fire Safety Complaint

If you wish to tell us about fire safety risks in commercial premises, such as locked or blocked fire exits, you have three options:

- You can email the fire safety department at enforcement@dwfire.org.uk
- Call 01722 69 1717 during office hours (9am-5pm).
- Call our Service Control Centre on 0306 799 0019 out of office hours (5pm-9am)

On Call Recruitment

Have you always wondered if you could join the fire service, but haven't had the opportunity to find out more? Have you found yourself seeking your next challenge, keen to give back to the local community or wanting to learn new skills including leadership and teamwork? Then becoming an on-call firefighter is for you.

As a paid position, on-call firefighters commit anywhere between 60 to 120 hours per week, during which time they must be able to respond to the station immediately.

Many have 'normal' jobs during the day, then upon their return home make themselves available overnight or during the weekends. Some of our crew respond from their workplaces during the day, and we are very grateful to their employers for releasing them to perform their vital duties.

Anyone over 18 years old can apply (although you can also apply once you are 17½) you must be able to respond and attend the fire station within 5-8 minutes, you have a good standard of physical fitness (i.e. you are generally active), and you must have the right to work in the UK.

Further information on becoming an On Call Firefighter can be found at www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/on-call-firefighters/ or should you have any questions, you can call **01722 691444**.

Recent News & Event

Businesses urged to plan for new fire safety legislation

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is supporting Business Safety Week, which runs between 11 and 17 September.

This campaign by the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) helps businesses understand their fire safety responsibilities and therefore remain safe, legal, and compliant.

To find out more about this, please visit:-

<https://www.dwfire.org.uk/news/businesses-urged-to-plan-for-new-fire-safety-legislation/>

Student accommodation



#WelcomeToLifeAtUni

There are things you can do to improve your safety and security as a student, especially if you're moving into new accommodation.

Every year, around 350 18-24 year olds are injured in accidental house fires started by cigarettes, smoking materials and cooking. Therefore, you need to make sure that you're familiar with the basics of fire and gas safety, as well as home and personal security.

To find out more information, please visit :-

<https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safer-housing/student-accomodation/>



Storms and power cuts



When stormy weather is forecast, there are things we can all do to make sure we're prepared and staying as safe as possible.

For information on ways to stay safe in adverse conditions, please visit:-

<https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/storms-and-power-cuts/>

Demand

	Deliberate Fires					
	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Devizes	4	3	1	0	1	0

	Accidental Dwelling Fires					
	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Devizes	1	0	0	2	1	2

	AFA's Domestic					
	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Devizes	1	5	3	8	3	2



AFA's Non Domestic						
	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Devizes	6	1	4	4	1	5

RTC's						
	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
Devizes	3	1	1	1	2	0

Incidents of note

**Station Manager
Email
Mobile number**

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