

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** South West Wiltshire Area Board  
**Place:** Broad Chalke Village Hall, South St, Broad Chalke SP5 5DN  
**Date:** 20 September 2023  
**Start Time:** 6.30 pm  
**Finish Time:** 8.50 pm

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Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Richard Budden, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Nabil Najjar (Chairman) and Cllr Bridget Wayman (Vice-Chairman)

### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Karen Linaker – Strategic Engagement & Partnership Manager  
Tara Hunt – Senior Democratic Services Officer  
Stuart Honeyball – Director Business Transformation  
Daniel Geeson – Leisure Strategy Infrastructure Officer  
Dominic Argar – Assistant Multimedia Technician

### **Partners**

Wiltshire Police – Inspector Kevin Harmsworth  
Wiltshire Police – Chief Constable Catherine Roper  
Police and Crime Commissioner – Philip Wilkinson OBE  
Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – District Commander Mark Hillier  
Salisbury Hospital Foundation Trust – Tony Mears

**Total in attendance: 30**

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<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
35	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Richard Budden had sent apologies due to a flat tyre. However, Cllr Budden did make it to the latter part of the meeting.</li> </ul>
36	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>In relation to Item 7 the Netherhampton Pitches and Pavilion Community Asset Transfer, Cllrs Nabil Najjar, Pauline Church and Bridget Wayman declared for transparency that they knew one of the applicants who happened to be an officer at Wiltshire Council, however there was no personal relationship. As this did not constitute a disclosable interest they remained in the room and took part in the discussion and vote on the item.</p>
37	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were presented.</p> <p>It was;</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <p><b>The minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</b></p>
38	<p><u>Chairman's Updates</u></p> <p>The Chairman announced that the Area Board would be hosting an 'All things roads' event on Wednesday 8 November at 6.30pm. The likely location would be the Nadder Centre, however this was still to be confirmed.</p> <p>The Chairman also highlighted the Local Plan review and the importance of responding to the consultation, which was running from Wednesday 27 September 2023 to Wednesday 22 November 2023. Further details could be seen in the written update under Information Items.</p>
39	<p><u>Information Items</u></p> <p>The Chairman referred the meeting to the written information items in the agenda pack and encouraged people to look at those items.</p>
40	<p><u>Partner and Community Updates</u></p> <p>The Board received the following verbal updates:</p>

- **Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS), District Commander Mark Hillier**

District Commander Mark Hillier was in attendance to represent the DWFRS rather than Station Manager Nic Courtice as stated on the agenda, Mr Hillier was the new DWFRS representative for the South West Wiltshire Area Board. The DWFRS written update could be found in agenda supplement 2. The service undertook a lot of work on prevention, particularly aimed at those considered most at risk. This was mainly undertaken through their Safe and Well visits. Anyone interested in fire safety should get in touch and further details could be found at <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safe-and-well-visits/>. The service was also undertaking business fire safety checks.

Recruitment was ongoing, further details could be found at <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/on-call-firefighters/>.

Incidents with E-bikes and E-scooters were highlighted, in relation to risks with the batteries failing or 'exploding' when being charged, which could rapidly lead to a fire. The advice was to not leave them charging unattended, particularly overnight. Full details could be found here: <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safety-at-home/causes-of-fires/e-bikes-and-e-scooters/>.

There had not been any spike in incidents, however there had been a fire in an old commercial building in Tisbury.

- **Wiltshire Police – Inspector Kevin Harmsworth**

Inspector Harmsworth gave updates for the Warminster and Salisbury Community Policing Teams (CPTs) who covered the South West Wiltshire community area. Written updates were also included in the agenda.

There had been incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Alderbury and Longhedge and the police were working with partners to try to reduce these. Rural crime was a priority, for example hare coursing. Non dwelling burglaries and relay thefts (keyless car thefts) had reduced, however there had been a spate of burglaries in Broad Chalke. The police were conducting patrols and investigating thoroughly. They were also encouraging preventative measures such as using faraday pouches which can prevent thieves from cloning a car key's signal.

Off road motorbikes had been an issue in St Peter's Place and Bemerton Heath and this had reduced, however it seemed like the issue may have moved to Harnham. The police were supporting Community Speed Watch (CSW) in conjunction with Road Safety teams. Street drinkers and ASB in Salisbury city centre were an issue, however it had reduced. There was a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place, and a

further PSPO was planned.

In Mere and Tisbury road safety was a prevalent theme. In recent weeks 5 drink drivers had been arrested. Some of these incidents seemed to be related to the football club, so licensing was being looked at as well. Attendees were encouraged to check police social media for updates from the road safety team on enforcement. ASB and criminal damage had been an issue in Mere and communities were encouraged to report such incidents. A male had been arrested at the 'End of the Road' festival in Tollard Royal for supplying controlled drugs. A misuse of drugs act warrant had been enacted in Mere to deal with the production of cannabis.

Cllr Bridget Wayman highlighted issues with speeding in some of her parishes, particularly on the A350 East Knoyle bypass. Enforcement would be welcomed, as would details regarding any enforcement. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) stated that details regarding enforcement could be found on his website: <https://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk/your-pcc/campaigns/road-safety/>.

Cllr George Jeans detailed issues in Mere with ASB and criminal damage. He stated he would really like to see a dedicated Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for Mere and highlighted the long response times when reporting issues online or by calling 101. Inspector Harmsworth stated that whilst there was no dedicated PCSO solely for Mere, response officers could undertake visible patrols in between call outs. The inspector also highlighted the importance of police volunteers and stated that they were continually recruiting. It was emphasised that if you saw a crime in progress, you should call 999.

- **Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Philip Wilkinson OBE.**

The PCC stated that he had been reassured by Inspector Harmsworth's update as the local priorities were strategically aligned to the priorities set out in his [Police and Crime Plan](#). His plan was being actioned but there were still improvements to be made. The PCC's role was to hold the Police Constable to account, and he met with the Police Constable and her team on a regular basis.

The PCC detailed priorities he was working on. The PCC felt that front line engagement must be improved. In particular the control and communications centre really needed to make improvements. 999 response was good but response to 101 was not up to par.

The PCC stated that he had collaborated with other South West police forces to address county lines drug dealing. 'Operation Scorpion' had been underway for two years and tackled drug related crime. Wiltshire Police was now the top force in the country when it came to county lines disruption.

Local crimes such as speeding were also a priority. Community Speed Watch (CSW) teams coordinated with each other and with the police. Data was being collected from Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) which was analysed so that hot spots could be identified, and enforcement action taken. In 2021, 192 speed enforcement tickets had been issued. In 2023 so far, over 5500 had been issued. It was stated that the aim was not to punish drivers but to deter them from speeding.

Rural crime was another important issue. The number of officers in the rural crime team had been increased, and they now had infra-red night vision equipment and drones. 'Operation Ragwort' had been underway and addressed serious rural crime by organised crime gangs. The PCC wanted the police to be proactive and a new intelligence structure was being set up with other South West forces to tackle the issue.

The PCC had invested heavily in victim support, in particular to support the victims of rape and serious sexual offences through the criminal justice process.

Anti-Social Behavior (ASB) was a challenge. Extra funds had been acquired from government to help tackle this. When there was a spike in ASB in an area, the PCC would convene local stakeholders who would all work together to tackle not just the symptoms but also the causes of ASB.

- **Wiltshire Police Chief Constable, Catherine Roper**

The Chief Constable had been in post now for six months, having joined in February 2023. The force had been in special measures since May/June 2022 and the Chief Constable wanted to let people know how they were improving. The response to the engage process (following being put in special measures) was a priority. The control room was an issue, and the service to victims of crime was not consistent so the force was not as effective as they should have been. There was a large push to make improvements in those areas.

Another concern was that the force had not previously had a strategy, with no priorities or strategic planning and the Chief Constable was working to address that. Regular updates could be found online here: <https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/police-forces/wiltshire-police/areas/about-us/about-us/leadership/elt/chief-constable-catherine-roper/my-updates-to-the-police-and-crime-commissioner/>. The force was also working to improve HR functions, bringing in people with skills.

In response to special measures the Chief Constable had designed a program of work called Evolve. The innovation and improvement strand of that was to reduce bureaucracy and to improve technology, so that officers could spend more time out in the community. Shift patterns were being reviewed, to ensure you had the right people in the right place at

the right time. The proposals had been put out to consultation with officers and it was hoped that they could be put in place in January 2024. Another piece of work was being undertaken on audit and inspection, which measured how the force was doing, looking at the work of teams and providing bespoke feedback for improvement.

Regarding the response to 101 calls, it was acknowledged that this was not swift enough, and an improvement plan had been implemented, which was being tracked. It was not going as fast as the Chief Constable hoped so more resources were going to be allocated to it. 999 response times to calls and for officers to arrive were all within Service Level Agreements.

Mobile police station van numbers were increasing and would be more visible, helping to improvement engagement and the service.

The Chief Constable thanked her teams as they had all responded well to the changes.

Inspector Harmsworth, the Chief Constable and the PCC responded to questions from Members and attendees in relation to speeding, enforcement and county lines.

- **Salisbury Hospital / NHS Foundation Trust – Tony Mears (Associate Director of Strategy)**

Mr Mears updated on some of the challenges faced by the Salisbury Foundation Trust (SFT). Finance was a really big issue, as was the elective backlog and the NHS wait list. It was hard to discharge people from hospital back out into community settings, which caused further delays. Industrial action was another issue, although this had not been as bad in Salisbury as in other areas. Wiltshire had a significant ageing population and a shrinking working population, so the SFT would be delivering more complex care, to more people, with a smaller workforce. This would mean there would need to be change in practices in order to cope. The SFT has a nationally significant high turnover in staff which had an effect. The reasons behind that were not yet fully understood. Children's mental health was an issue highlighted by JSNA data, and the boater and traveler communities needed support to get the outcomes they needed.

Mr Mears stated that it was an exciting time to be in care and that collaborative care had opened some doors. Money had been set aside for health and equality at work, and this would be targeted at the poorest areas. Mr Mears hoped that his presence at these meetings going forward would show that the hospital was trying to engage with communities more.

Highlights were detailed, including the Stars appeal, which raised funds to

	<p>support patients and staff at the hospital and funded the patient Wi-Fi there. Falls on wards had reduced 20% which was really positive. A new ward was being constructed and suggestions for the name of the ward were being taken. The SFT was in the top 10 trusts for low ambulance wait times.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Collaborative Steering group, which addressed health and wellbeing issues, was briefly discussed with the hope that another Wiltshire Councillor could be added to the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Wiltshire and Swindon Prepared Resilience Event – Cllr George Jeans</b>  Cllr Jeans gave a brief update on the Wiltshire and Swindon Prepared Resilience Event which he had attended. It had been a useful event with many scenarios discussed, such as a national loss of power. It was highlighted that new landlines did not work if there was a power cut and that mobile phones would run out of power if not charged, therefore a total loss of communications was possible. The idea of community hubs was discussed. A hub where information could be exchanged, and help provided would be really useful and was something that communities should consider. </li> </ul> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for their updates.</p>
41	<p><u>Netherhampton Pitches and Pavilion Community Asset Transfer</u></p> <p>At the Chairman’s invitation, Karen Linaker, Strategic Engagements and Partnerships Manager (SEPM) introduced the item.</p> <p>The SEPM explained that Community Asset Transfers (CATs) occurred when a community group wanted to take over the management and maintenance of Wiltshire Council facilities which they had been using for a long time. The CAT scheme existed to facilitate this. There were two community groups involved in the CAT application being considered and they would form one group to manage the facility. The Area Board had a duty to consider the application and approve or refuse it as they saw fit.</p> <p>The applicants then spoke to the application.</p> <p>James Repper of the Wheatsheaf Cabin Crew RFC explained that the club had been formed in 1991 and had been playing on the Netherhampton pitches since the year 2000 at least. The club had not previously been able to get grant funding as they had no security of tenure. At present, Wiltshire Council were responsible for maintenance of the site and the club used it as tenants. Therefore, by joining with Salisbury FC Youth to form the Netherhampton Sports Association they would be able to take the asset forward and run with it. They had requested a 25 year lease, as that was the minimum term that would enable them to apply for grant funding. The club managing the site would also take the</p>

costs of maintenance away from Wiltshire Council.

Paul Corfield of Salisbury FC Youth also spoke to the application. He explained that there was so much funding that they were currently unable to get. The club had applied for the Home Advantage programme, and if the asset transfer went through, this meant that they would be able to get £250,000 from the Football Council. That would enable them to do everything required and provide some ongoing funds for the club. There were nearly 300 Children in the club, and they also coached an additional 60-70 children as well as helping to coach children for two schools in the local area.

Daniel Gleeson (Leisure Strategy Infrastructure Officer) stated that all the details were contained within the agenda report and appendices. It was highlighted that the site was seen as key within the FA Local Facilities Plan and was also a site of interest and a target site for the current Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy. This was currently being reviewed and it was thought that it would be a strategic target within the new plan. It fit well with the Local Plan Review when looking at housing growth and the strain on local supporting infrastructure. Sport England had also listed the site to be protected as playing fields for the community.

The Chairman stated that this was not a decision which the Area Board would take lightly. They had sought professional opinions and had spent a lot of time prior to the meeting analysing the application as they wanted to ensure they made the right decision for both Wiltshire Council and for the community.

The Chairman opened the item for debate, and proposed that the Area Board:

Approve the leasehold transfer subject to:

- a) Compliance with the recommendations of the Asset Gateway & Capital Programme Board meeting of 14th March 2023.
- b) Agreement of lease terms (based on the council's standard CAT transfer lease precedent).

This was seconded by Cllr Pauline Church.

During debate Members stated that they had spend a lot of time offline discussing the application, CATs were quite common to town or parish councils, but were rarer to community groups. Members had asked questions regarding the financial due diligence and had been satisfied by the responses received that it was sound. The number of houses built around the Wilton and Netherhampton area was highlighted, and there was a definite need for sporting facilities such as this, particularly for women and youth teams. The South West Wiltshire community area fell below Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) averages for a number of issues related to health and wellbeing. So, Members felt the CAT was positive and the proposal would help to keep the population fit and ageing well.

	<p>In response to a question regarding Salisbury Rugby Club, their relationship to the group and whether they could collaborate, Mr Repper stated that they were different types of clubs. Salisbury Rugby Club were a more standard club, and the Wheatsheaf Cabin Crew were an “old school rugby union pub club”. However, they were collaborative and did lend each other players.</p> <p>In response to further questions Mr Corfield explained the Salisbury Youth FC used a far larger proportion of the site and that girl’s football had taken off amazingly.</p> <p>Members commented that there had been much correspondence regarding the CAT which it was hoped had all now been resolved. Members thought that this was a great idea and hoped that, if approved, Wiltshire Council would be swift to complete the legal agreement and works required to make good the pavilion. The Chairman stated that he would be happy to contact the responsible officer to try to get things moving as quickly as possible. Following this the proposal was put to the vote and it was,</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <p><b>To approve the leasehold transfer subject to:</b></p> <p><b>a) Compliance with the recommendations of the Asset Gateway &amp; Capital Programme Board meeting of 14th March 2023.</b></p> <p><b>b) Agreement of lease terms (based on the council’s standard CAT transfer lease precedent).</b></p>
42	<p><u>Dark Night Skies</u></p> <p>Unfortunately, Linda Nunn, Cranborne Chase AONB Director, was unable to attend the meeting and therefore sent apologies. It was hoped that the presentation would come to a future meeting.</p>
43	<p><u>Area Board Priorities</u></p> <p>Karen Linaker, Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager (SEPM) gave an update on the Area Board Priorities.</p> <p>The Area Board priorities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the local economy</li> <li>• Addressing environmental issues with the AONB</li> <li>• Community Safety</li> <li>• Older people and vulnerable adults health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Youth engagement</li> </ul> <p>Particular points to note under the environmental priority were that the Big</p>

	<p>Green Week events had been delivered. The idea of an environment themed conference was being discussed.</p> <p>Under the health and wellbeing priority the popular Celebrating Age programme continued. A special Christmas intergenerational event was planned for 12 December. The Area Board digital inclusion project was oversubscribed so new sessions were being planned.</p> <p>Under youth engagement, the Board was continuing to support 20 youth clubs in partnership with the Mere based youth charity Seeds4Success. The potential for a new youth counselling initiative was being explored, to meet identified existing need.</p>
44	<p><u>Local Highways and Footpaths Improvements Group</u></p> <p>Cllr Bridget Wayman gave an update on the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG). The last meeting had been held on 6 September and the minutes were included in the agenda pack. It was noted that accidentally one recommendation in the minutes had not been updated. The omission was around the C55 Kilmington Speed Limit Assessment and Cllr Jean’s request that funding be allocated to allow the TRO work to progress. Due to the process for awarding LHFIG funding, that recommendation could not be approved at the Area Board meeting and instead would come to the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Wayman proposed that the minutes of the LHFIG meeting be noted, and the funding recommendations approved. This was seconded by Cllr George Jeans. It was,</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To note the minutes of the LHFIG meeting which took place on 6 September 2023</b></li> <li>• <b>To approve the following funding recommendations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>4f – Improvements to the Junction of Crow Lane and North Street, Wilton – £656.25</b></li> <li>○ <b>4g – Pedestrian Safety Improvements at Junction of A30 and Fovant High Street £1,684.69</b></li> <li>○ <b>4h – Pedestrian Safety Improvements in Fovant High Street – £1,833.37</b></li> <li>○ <b>4i – C12 Speed Limit Assessment – £2,175.00</b></li> <li>○ <b>4j – Donhead St. Andrew Kissing Gates – £237.00</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
45	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Board noted the budgets remaining for allocation at the meeting and heard from representatives in attendance who gave a brief overview of their project</p>

followed by any questions by the Board.

Area Board Initiatives:

- South West Wiltshire Area Board Health And Wellbeing Group, £500 towards Celebrating Age Christmas Big Band Tea Party.

Cllr Richard Budden spoke in support of the application, however he highlighted that there had been concerns raised regarding how people would get to the Nadder Centre, where the event was scheduled to take place.

Members discussed the application and the possible transport issues, with Members stating support for the event and that they did not feel that the transport issues were a reason not to approve the application. There was time prior to the event to address issues and if required further funding could be provided to help.

Celebrating Age Wiltshire, who were also in attendance at the meeting, highlighted that this was a common issue that was usually overcome satisfactorily by the means of family support, car sharing, link schemes and sometimes care homes providing transport.

Cllr George Jeans, seconded by Cllr Richard Budden proposed that the grant be awarded in full.

**Decision**

**The South West Wiltshire Area Board Health And Wellbeing Group was awarded £500 towards the Celebrating Age Christmas Big Band Tea Party.**

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

Community Area Grants

- Semley Village Hall, £469 towards loft insulation to reduce energy use.

Dave Perry, a trustee of the hall spoke in support of the application.

Cllr George Jeans, seconded by Cllr Bridget Wayman, proposed that the grant be awarded in full.

**Decision**

**The Semley Village Hall was awarded £469 towards loft insulation to reduce energy use.**

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

- Friends of Broad Chalke Playground, £5,000 towards upgrading the children’s playground.

The Chairman of Broad Chalke Parish Council spoke in support of the application on behalf of the Friends of Broad Chalke Playground as they had been unable to attend.

Councillors congratulated the group on the incredible amount of money they had raised towards the project.

Cllr Nabil Najjar, seconded by Cllr Bridget Wayman proposed that the grant be awarded in full.

**Decision**

**Friends of Broad Chalke Playground was awarded £5,000 towards upgrading the children’s playground.**

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

- Broad Chalke Cricket Club, £2,500 towards non turf match pitch refurbishment.

Declan White, club secretary spoke in support of the application.

Cllr Nabil Najjar, seconded by Cllr Pauline Church proposed that the grant be awarded in full.

**Decision**

**Broad Chalke Cricket Club was awarded £2,500 towards non turf match pitch refurbishment.**

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

**Older and Vulnerable Adults Grants**

- Wiltshire Music Centre, £1,500 towards Celebrating Age Wiltshire.

Rebecca Seymour, Creative Director of Celebrating Age Wiltshire spoke in support of the application.

Cllr Richard Budden, as lead councillor for health and wellbeing, stated his support for the project.

Cllr Nabil Najjar, seconded by Cllr Richard Budden proposed that the grant be awarded in full.

**Decision**

**Wiltshire Music Centre was awarded £1,500 towards Celebrating Age Wiltshire.**

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

**Delegated Funding:**

The Board noted the following funding awards which had been made between meetings under the SEPM Delegated Funding Process, due to a matter of urgency:

- The Langford Parish Hall, £234.18 towards their community kitchen.
- Mere Town Football Club, £968.88, towards MTFC youth equipment (Youth Grant).