

MINUTES

Meeting: Stonehenge Area Board
Place: Phoenix Hall, High St, Netheravon, Salisbury SP4 9PJ
Date: 14 September 2023
Start Time: 6.30 pm
Finish Time: 8.10 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Graham Wright (Chairman), Cllr Robert Yuill (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Dr Monica Devendran and Cllr Mark Verbinnen

Wiltshire Council Officers

Graeme Morrison – Strategic Engagement & Partnership Manager
Tara Hunt – Senior Democratic Services Officer
Dominic Argar – Assistant Multimedia Technician

Partners

Police and Crime Commissioner – Philip Wilkinson (OBE)
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – John Derryman (Head of Strategy, Performance and Oversight)
Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – District Commander Mark Hillier

Total in attendance: 30

<u>Minute No..</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
31	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>There were no apologies for absence. However, it was noted that Cllr Kevin Daley may be slightly late, due to a parish council meeting clash.</p>
32	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were presented.</p> <p>It was;</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>
33	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
34	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements / Information items</u></p> <p>The Chairman referred the meeting to the information items within the agenda pack.</p> <p>In addition, the Chairman stated that further details on the Wiltshire Local Plan Review would be given later in the meeting.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Chairman announced that the Older People and Vulnerable Adults grants would be taken early, following the Chairman's announcements.</p> <p>The Chairman gave details regarding an event he had attended that morning, at the Gul equine assisted and outdoor therapy centre in Shrewton. The Chairman had been present to represent the Area Board, and the Dutches of Edinburgh had also attended the centre to view the work undertaken there. The Dutches had been very friendly to staff, attendees and volunteers and had even recognised one of the late Queen Elizabeth's old horses who now resided there.</p>
35	<p><u>Open Floor - including updates from Partners and Town/Parish Councils</u></p> <p>The Board received the following verbal updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS). District Commander Mark Hillier was in attendance to represent the DWFRS rather than Station Manager Chris Wood as stated on the agenda. The DWFRS written update could be found in agenda

supplement 1. 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/>.

Building works were underway at Amesbury Fire Station. The station would soon be fully crewed during the day, and on call fire fighters would cover the night.

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/>.

The representative also announced that very sadly one of the Amesbury fire fighters, Dean Hardy, had passed away suddenly at his home in August. The entire service was shocked and saddened, and thoughts went out to his family.

Incidents of interest were stated to include a large fire in flats in Sandell Place in Amesbury and a collision on the A303 were very sadly an 11 year old boy lost his life.

In response to questions regarding the recent fire at Sandell Place, the representative stated that the fire was being treated as deliberate and started in a rubbish heap. However, the investigation was ongoing and therefore he could not comment further on the matter.

- **Wiltshire Police – Inspector Ricky Lee**

Inspector Lee had been unable to attend so there was no update from the police, other than the written update in the agenda pack.

- **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson (OBE)**

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) gave an update regarding where the force were in terms of getting out of special measures and the 'engage' process, and on the [Police and Crime Plan](#) which he produced 2 years ago based on the concerns of residents. The PCC's role was to hold the Police Constable to account.

The PCC detailed how, when he was elected, the force contained some

great police officers, however it had been led by Committee, with around 40 boards. He was very robust in his challenges in terms of the huge improvements needed. Then, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection took place, the results of which led to the force being put into special measures, reinforcing his observations and enabling him to push harder for improvements. The PCC stated that he would never stop pushing for improvement, even when the force came out of the engage process. It was thought that in March 2024 the force would be rated 'adequate' and he would continue to push for improvements until the force was rated 'outstanding'.

Under the first priority of the Police and Crime Plan: 'A police service that meets the needs of its communities', the PCC was working on engaging with the community and on improving the contact centre response, in particular the response to 101 calls. Two new mobile police stations had been acquired, bring the total to four. The PCC hoped to see these make regular appearances at town and village locations. The Chief Constable was revising the shift pattern for officers, reducing bureaucracy and introducing new technology, so that officers could spend more time investigating crimes.

Under the second priority 'Reduce violence and serious harm', 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. Also under this priority were rape and serious sexual offences. Wiltshire Police had previously had the lowest successful outcome rate in the UK for these offences (approximately 2%). They were now in the top quarter, however this still only equated to 11% successful outcomes, so he would work further to improve this.

Under the third priority 'Tackle crimes that matter most to local communities', a lot of work had been undertaken regarding Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). 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. ASB was down by 48%. 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, using the skills the PCC had used in the military to tackle terrorism.

The fourth priority was 'Improve the experience of victims and deliver

justice'. A lot of money had been put into this, in particular to support the victims of rape and serious sexual offences through the criminal justice process. Likewise, the work to improve the contact centre would help to improve experiences, but there was still a lot of work to do.

A question was asked regarding gypsy/traveller illegal encampments, and why those from the encampment who were known to be committing crimes were not arrested, and why they were not prosecuted over the mess left behind at these sites. In response the PCC stated that he felt those committing crimes should be arrested, and he was trying to implement cultural change within the force so that they were more proactive. He also noted regarding the mess left behind, that Wiltshire Council could enforce for fly tipping.

A question was asked regarding the planning application submitted for the new police station at High Post, as it was for a three storey building which would be visible from Old Sarum and there was a large amount of local objection to the proposal. The PCC responded that they were perusing four different options for the police station. He would not close down any option at this time. All of the sites were facing more and more complex issues. The PCC stated that everyone wanted a police station in the south of the county, but no one wanted it to be near them. The site at High Post would go through the planning process, which was a democratic legal process.

- **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – John Derryman (Head of Strategy, Performance and Oversight)**

Mr Derryman explained that he undertook a lot of work on Community Speed Watch (CSW). Across Wiltshire and Swindon there were over 100 CSW teams with over 1000 volunteers. They wanted to make better use of the data collected by Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). They were the first police force in the UK to accept data from SIDs into their system. There had been around 117 submissions since July with over 5 million journeys logged. That data was then analysed to identify hot spots so that targeted enforcement could take place. Data regarding enforcement could be seen on the PCC website: <https://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk/your-pcc/campaigns/road-safety/> and local data could be seen on page 65 of the agenda pack. Mr Derryman thanked everyone involved and encouraged any parishes with a SID that was not registered, to get it registered. A Road Safety Partnership Manager had recently been recruited who would help to strengthen the use of data.

A member of the audience highlighted that speed and safety assessments had taken place in their villages, which sometimes gave inaccurate results regarding the number of accidents, as only accidents where someone was injured were recorded. This was felt to be a problem and that all accidents should be included.

	<p>Mr Derryman stated that the Road Safety Partnership Manager role would hopefully improve this. They were aiming to get to a point where on the website, you could put in a postcode and it would tell you about accidents, enforcement and the safety profile for that postcode. Data was collected from the police, fire service and ambulance service, but it was acknowledged that better data was required, which needed to be available more quickly and be available online for residents to view.</p> <p>An audience member queried which were the best SIDs, as some were now available where you could download the data via Bluetooth, and whether advice could be given regarding that. Mr Derryman stated that any SID from which you could download data was good. The EVOLIS SIDs seemed to be most compatible with the police systems. Data needed to be downloaded in csv files. However, it was noted that other SIDs were available.</p> <p>In response to questions about the placement of SIDs, it was explained that they would check the placement of a SID prior to accepting data from it. If a SID was placed too close to where a speed limit changed, for example where a 60mph limit goes to a 30mph limit, then it may pick up people outside of the 30mph limit and it would seem that they were speeding, when they were not. This would essentially give false data. Hence the location checks that took place to ensure they were placed correctly, and that data fed into the system was sound and accurate.</p> <p>The PCC highlighted that they did not want to penalise motorists but wanted to deter them from speeding. It was hoped the effect of robust enforcement was that people would be deterred from speeding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town and Parish Councils There were no updates.
36	<p><u>Stonehenge Area Board Priorities</u></p> <p>Our environment</p> <p>Cllr Graham Wright gave an update on the Wiltshire Climate Strategy, which was adopted in February 2022.</p> <p>The council were on the path to carbon neutral (net zero) and would try to achieve this by 2030.</p> <p><u>Transport</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council had installed 10 replacement and 6 brand new Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points. Most of the fast-charging units would be replaced by mid-2023. • Town and Parish Councils had applied for grant funding to install public EV charging infrastructure in their communities.

Sustrans and Wiltshire Council Schools Project.

- These helped to explore transport and climate change and helped schools to develop an Active Travel Plan.
- A toolkit for all Wiltshire schools had been available since July.
- A film had been created by Sustrans and school students.

Climate Action Planning for local councils

- Several events had taken place, including a workshop on 27 March 2023, and a follow up event on 17 May 2023.
- An ongoing network was being developed to share learning and progress. Communication was key.

Solar Together

- The Solar Together scheme was highlighted with approximately 700 installations in 2022.
- Residents, community organisations and businesses could sign up to by solar panels, the volume of customers would lead to a bulk buy discount for all.
- Another Solar Together scheme had been launched in June 2023.

Attendees were encouraged to look at the Wiltshire Council climate webpages for further information <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/climate-change>.

Community Engagement

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling gave an update on how the board was engaging with the community, in particular in relation to the Wiltshire Local Plan Review consultation.

It was explained that the Local Plan was a document which governed all decisions related to planning. It was a large document which contained numerous policies. Cllr Blair-Pilling suggested that anyone with an interest in housing, protecting the environment, biodiversity and many more housing related issues should look at the draft Local Plan. It was a vitally important policy document which would shape Wiltshire's future for 15 years to come. Wiltshire Council would soon be consulting on the draft Local Plan. The consultation would open on Wednesday 27 September 2023 and run to Wednesday 22 November 2023. The council was holding various drop in events and a webinar (see pages 43 – 45 of the agenda for details) and there was information available on the website: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8037/The-Local-Plan-review>.

As part of their community engagement, the Area Board also wanted to hold presentation events for people in the area. Cllrs could explain in detail what the process was, what the plan consists of and to highlight principal themes such as affordable housing and biodiversity. It was noted that the event would not be a debate, as this was not the time to express views, that was what the

	<p>consultation was for. However, it would help to ensure that everyone had an understanding of the plan and the process involved. Cllrs advocated that as many people as possible attended and then take part in the consultation in order to ensure their views were heard.</p> <p>Two events would be held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 4 October 2023, 7pm, Durrington Jubilee Pavilion, Recreation Road SP4 8HH • Wednesday 11 October 2023, 7pm, Durrington Jubilee Pavilion, Recreation Road SP4 8HH <p>Cllr Wright would send an email out to parishes personally inviting them.</p>
37	<p><u>Supporting Young People</u></p> <p>Cllr Mark Verbinnen gave an update as Area Board lead on supporting young people.</p> <p>A LYN meeting had been held on 7 September 2023, which was well attended, and a good discussion was had about activities local youth groups had undertaken over the summer.</p> <p>Prior to the summer holidays an event had been held at the Avon Valley Academy, where the Red Devils (British Army Parachute Display Team) parachuted in, this was really successful and enjoyed by all. Whilst there the children were surveyed on what they wanted, and the results of the surveys would be analysed.</p> <p>There were no applications for youth grant funding, so Cllr Verbinnen encouraged youth groups to apply for funding.</p> <p>Cllr Wright also detailed a free, fun event, for children aged 11 and over, which would be taking place on Tuesday 10 October 2023, from 5pm to 8pm at the Durrington Recreation Ground. The event would include Zorb's, cooking, henna tattoos, sports, arts and crafts, with free hot dogs and drinks.</p>
38	<p><u>Health & Wellbeing Group</u></p> <p>Cllr Monica Devendran, as the Area Board Health and Wellbeing lead gave an update to the meeting.</p> <p>The next Health and Wellbeing group meeting would take place on 28 September.</p> <p>The group were also hoping to hold another Christmas Concert in partnership with Celebrating Age. Last years event had been very successful and details for this years event would be available soon. Depending on demand it was possible that 2 events would be held.</p>

	<p>Cllr Devendran introduced the applications for Older People and Vulnerable Adults Grants (these were taken earlier in the meeting after Chairman’s announcements).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silver Salisbury Group, Silver Stonehenge intergenerational reminiscence project requested £500.00. <p>Irene Kholer of Silver Salisbury, spoke in support of the application.</p> <p>Cllr Monica Devendran proposed that the grant be awarded in full, this was seconded by Cllr Robert Yuill.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Silver Salisbury Group was awarded £500.00 towards their Silver Stonehenge intergenerational reminiscence project.</p> <p><i>Reason - The application met the Older People and Vulnerable Adults Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Music Centre, Celebrating Age project, requested £1,500.00. <p>Rebecca Seymour of Celebrating Age Wiltshire, spoke in support of the application.</p> <p>Cllr Monica Devendran proposed that the grant be awarded in full, this was seconded by Cllr Graham Wright.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> Wiltshire Music Centre was awarded £1,500.00 towards their Celebrating Age project.</p> <p><i>Reason - The application met the Older People and Vulnerable Adults Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></p>
39	<p><u>Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>The Board considered the report and funding recommendations arising from the last LHFIG meeting held on 16 August 2023.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr Graham Wright, seconded by Cllr Monica Devendran, it was;</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p>To note the discussions of the Stonehenge LHFIG meeting held on 16 August 2023.</p> <p>To approve the LHFIG funding recommendations to the following</p>

	<p>schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-22-14 Amesbury Salisbury Street signage review, £0 • 1-23-2 Beverley Hills Park entrance dropped kerbs Amesbury, £2275 • 1-23-3 Stonehenge Road Amesbury SLA, £2175 • 1-23-4 Holders Road Amesbury school signs £750 • 1-23-5 Trinity grain LTD Shrewton Signs £0 • Batch 002 Waiting restrictions batch 2023/2024 £7000 • 1-23-7 Kilford Close Streetname plates Amesbury £1125 • 1-22-16 Figheldean sign and lining improvements £2175 • 1-23-15 Pedestrian crossing assessment Larkhill £2175 <p>Cllr Graham Wright and Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling gave an update on the speed limit trial that would take place in Netheravon. A speed assessment had been undertaken, as residents wanted the speed limit reduced from 50mph to 40mph. The response from experts stated that people do not slow down when speed limits are reduced, and this was one of the reasons why the change was refused. The Netheravon Parish Clerk questioned this and with the support of Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling it had been arranged that Netheravon would undertake a trial reduction in speed limit from 50mph to 40mph. This would be monitored for a year to see if it was effective. The Transport Regulation Orders had been completed and the new 40mph signage would be installed hopefully in the first week of November. In order to monitor the trial, there was a new Community Speed Watch (CSW) team in Netheravon. Three Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) had been purchased and would be installed when the correct positions were identified. The data from these would be downloaded. The police would also undertake some speed checks. Netheravon Parish Council were keen to support the trial and Cllrs would follow the trial with interest.</p>
40	<p><u>Community Area Grants</u></p> <p>Cllr Robert Yuill introduced the Community Area Grant applications. 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 followed by any questions or comments by the Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Transport South Wiltshire, Amesbury HOPPA Community Bus Engine Replacement, £2,500. <p>A representative from Community Transport South Wiltshire spoke in support of their application.</p> <p>Cllr Yuill commented that the service was very well regarded.</p> <p>Cllr Yuill proposed that the grant be awarded in full, this was seconded by Cllr Graham Wright.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p>

Community Transport South Wiltshire was awarded £2,500 towards Amesbury HOPPA Community Bus Engine Replacement.

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

- The South Newton and Stoford Community Speed Watch (CSW) Team, purchase of Speed Indicator Device, £1,404.

Steve Black, co-ordinator of the CSW team spoke in support of the application.

Cllr Yuill, seconded by Cllr Kevin Daley, proposed that the grant be awarded in full.

Decision

The South Newton and Stoford Community Speed Watch (CSW) Team was awarded £1,404 towards the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device.

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

- Woodford Village Hall, installation of infra-red heaters in Woodford Village Hall, £1,320.

Graham Parks, the building manager, spoke in support of the application.

Cllrs queried whether the hall was affiliated with the Parish Council. It was explained that although the Parish Council used the hall on occasion, they were a separate organisation and therefore were not affiliated.

Cllr Yuill, seconded by Cllr Wright, proposed that the grant be awarded in full.

Decision

Woodford Village Hall was awarded £1,320 towards the installation of infra-red heaters on Woodford Village Hall.

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

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