

MINUTES

Meeting: WARMINSTER AREA BOARD
Place: Warminster Civic Centre, Sambourne Road, Warminster BA12 8LB
Date: 6 September 2012
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 10.00 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Andrew Davis (Chairman), Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Christopher Newbury and
Cllr Fleur de Rhe-Philippe (Vice Chairman)

Wiltshire Council Officers

Jacqui Abbott, Warminster Community Area Manager
Stuart Figini, Democratic Services Officer

| <u>Agenda Item No.</u> | <u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u> |
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| 1. | <p><u>Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Warminster Area Board, in particular the Leader of the Council – Councillor Jane Scott and Cabinet Member for Resources – Councillor John Noeken.</p> |
| 2. | <p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p>Councillor Keith Humphries – Warminster Broadway Barry Pirie – Service Director for Human Resources and Organisational Development Sheila Thomson – Bishopstrow Parish Council Sandra Samuels – Youth Development Co-Ordinator, Wiltshire Council</p> |
| 3. | <p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>Decision</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p> |
| 4. | <p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillor Pip Ridout declared a pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 12 – Area Board Funding – Community Area Grants as she was a member of the Warminster Carnival Committee. Councillor Ridout remained in the meeting but took no part in the discussion and did not vote.</p> |
| 5. | <p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman made the following announcements:</p> |
| 5.a | <p><u>Participatory Budgeting</u></p> <p>The Chairman drew the Boards attention to the update which gave information about Participatory Budgeting session for young people's projects that would be considered by the Board at its meeting on 8 November 2012. It was noted that a drop in session had been arranged for those interested in applying for a grant and that the deadline for applications was Friday 28 September 2012.</p> |

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| 5.b | <p><u>Police and Crime Commissioners</u></p> <p>The Chairman drew the Boards attention to the update which gave information about the first ever Police and Crime Commissioner for the Wiltshire Police area which would be elected by residents on 15 November 2012. The Commissioner would be responsible for overseeing the Force on behalf of residents, replacing the Wiltshire Police Authority.</p> |
| 5.c | <p><u>Street Lighting Savings - Cabinet Member Decision</u></p> <p>The Chairman drew the Boards attention to the update which gave information about proposals to save money and reduce the Councils carbon footprint by reducing energy usage on street lighting. It was also felt that light pollution would also be reduced if the proposals were agreed and implemented.</p> <p>It was noted that the views of the public were being sought that were relevant to Town and Parish Council areas before further consultations were held.</p> |
| 5.d | <p><u>State of the Environment Report</u></p> <p>The Chairman drew the Boards attention to the update which gave information about State of the Environment for Wiltshire and Swindon. The report was the first of its kind for the area and provided a strategic assessment of Wiltshire's environment.</p> |
| 5.e | <p><u>Litter Picking</u></p> <p>The Chairman drew the Boards attention to the update which gave information about the Community Litter Pick Scheme and how the Council help communities with arrangements.</p> <p>A number of Parish and Town Clerks spoke about their experiences with litter picking in their areas.</p> |
| 5.f | <p><u>Wilts and Swindon Local Nature Partnership</u></p> <p>The Chairman drew the Boards attention to the update which gave information about the Local Nature Partnership for Wiltshire and Swindon and introduced by the Government in June 2011 as a new mechanism to help improve the health</p> |

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| | <p>of the local environment.</p> <p>It was noted that the aim of the Partnership was to raise the profile of the natural environment and enhance partnership working, in particular supporting the environment sector to engage more effectively with the business, community and health sectors.</p> |
| 5.g | <p><u>Warminster Town Council Wards</u></p> <p>The Chairman drew the Boards attention to the update which sought the views of the public on recommendations from the Boundary Committee for England on proposed arrangements for Warminster Town Council Wards to take effect from May 2013.</p> <p>It was noted that any comments should be received by the Council's Election Team by 12 October 2012. Councillor Newbury spoke about the proposals and expressed his support for them.</p> |
| 5.h | <p><u>Barrier Busting Proposals</u></p> <p>The Chairman drew the Boards attention to the update which gave information about how volunteers, community groups and social enterprises could submit ideas to make their neighbourhood a better place to live.</p> |
| 5.i | <p><u>Minerals Sites in Wiltshire and Swindon</u></p> <p>The Chairman drew the Boards attention to the update which gave information about seven new sand and gravel quarries in Wiltshire and Swindon and where submission documents could be viewed.</p> |
| 5.j | <p><u>Current Consultations</u></p> <p>The Chairman encouraged those present to become involved with the on-going consultations which could be accessed on the Wiltshire Council Website</p> |
| 6. | <p><u>Your Local Issues</u></p> <p>The Community Area Manager introduced her report including new issues since the last meeting, on-going issues and those issues since resolved. She invited people to contact her should they have any issues to raise.</p> <p>The Town Clerk for Warminster Town Council, Heather Abernethie, asked the</p> |

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| | <p>Area Board to consider, at its next meeting, an on-going problem with the conversion of the Pavilion in Warminster Town Park into a new cafe, with a view of moving the issue forward.</p> <p>The Chairman felt that some of the issues highlighted in the letter could be investigated before the next meeting, in particular issues surrounding ownership and maintenance. The Area Board were reminded that they had agreed a grant of £4,000 towards the project and the Town Council were concerned that this grant would have to be returned if the project stalled for much longer.</p> <p>The Area Board agreed with the Chairman that the matter would be added to the agenda for the next meeting and that some of the issues highlighted in the letter should be investigated and reported to the next meeting.</p> |
| 7. | <p><u>Updates from Partners</u></p> <p>Some written updates had been received before the meeting and were included in the agenda. The Area Board received verbal updates from Warminster Town Council, the Warminster and Villages Community Partnership and CAYPIG.</p> |
| 8. | <p><u>The Legacy of 2012</u></p> <p>The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jane Scott and Service Director of Communications, Laurie Bell made a presentation on the events that took place throughout the County during the year, discussed the effect that the year had on Wiltshire communities and spoke about how the legacy of 2012 could continue into 2013 and beyond. The presentation highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key events for the year included the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, Olympic Torch Relay that came through the County in May and July, the festival of celebration at Hudson’s Field, Salisbury and Michael Johnson being part of the Torch Relay at Stonehenge and Salisbury Cathedral • The impact of the events on the community included over 225,000 people attending events, hundreds of street parties, events, concerts and the way that communities came together to celebrate • The impact of the events on the economy included an additional £1m being spent on event days, hotels and B & B’s in Salisbury being fully booked in the week commencing 9 July, highest number of visits to the Visit Wiltshire website since records began in 2008 and a substantial return on the Council’s investment of £290,000 • The impact of the events on publicity to Wiltshire included <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee event – local, regional, national and international – advertising value £191,000 – circulation 100 million 2. Olympic torch and Hudson’s Field so far... local, regional, national and international – advertising value £890,000 – circulation of 250 million + |

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| | <p>3. Footage of Stonehenge and Michael Johnson coverage – advertising value £2.7million – circulation 50 million + per day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the events on culture included the events being the biggest partnership event, close working with area boards and town and parish councils, great team building for over 1,000 Wiltshire Council staff working at the events and learning of new skills and experiences, and lasting relationships being formed. • The impact of the events on legacy included the need to build on the success of the year, the setting up of a Legacy Board which would focus on health and sport for all, business events and promotions, annual event or activity in every community area, and more partnership working <p>The Chairman thanked Councillor Scott and Laurie Bell for their presentation.</p> |
| 9. | <p><u>Cabinet Representative</u></p> <p>Councillor John Noeken spoke about his role as Cabinet Member for Resources and gave an overview of Customer Services and Systems Thinking.</p> <p>Councillor Noeken explained that he had been a Cabinet member for six years and was assisted by Councillor Bucknell. The Council Services that were part of the portfolio included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resources and organisational development • ICT • Procurement and commissioning • Customer services • Shared services team • Business management programme • Business transformation (systems thinking/lean) • Legal and Democratic Services • Councillor Development • Registration Service and Coroners <p>The Area Board were informed that there had been a big culture change for council employees in relation to IT, since the County Council and Districts becoming one authority – Unitary Council, as staff and Councillors were now able to work from anywhere in the County, whether it was at home or any council building. This culture change enabled the council to begin a transformation programme which included the rationalisation of the buildings it owned, especially as some buildings were no longer ‘fit for purpose’ and agreeing common terms and conditions for all staff.</p> <p>Councillor Noeken then made a presentation on Customer Services and Systems Thinking. The following issues and comments were made during the presentation:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of Customer Services • Statistics about the number of full time staff employed in Customer Services, the number of phone calls received per month, face to face enquiries per month and number of emails received per month • Details of the services either delivered or supported by Customer Services • A few key achievements including, being Wiltshire Council Team of the Year in 2010/2011, delivery of the new 'Tell Us Once' service, playing a key part of Waste and Recycling roll out , and bringing their professional skills to system thinking reviews • How Systems Thinking works for the customer so that the customer can communicate with the Council in the way the customer prefers whether its by, phone, web, email or face to face • The council services that have already be subject to Systems Thinking and those that were being included in the programme. • Performance improvement has consistently been between 40-400% with the same or less resources • Negotiations were continuing with the Broadband providers to supply connections for the outlying areas of the County <p>The Chairman thanked Councillor Noeken for attending and contributing throughout the meeting.</p> |
| 10. | <p><u>Digital Literacy in Wiltshire</u></p> <p>Sarah Cosentino, Wiltshire Online Project Manager spoke about helping local people access free computer support to learn about the basics of computers and the internet.</p> <p>Sarah highlighted challenges, the importance of having the ability to go online, the solutions, issues in the Warminster area and how to become a local digital champion volunteer to support local people get on line. In Particular the following issues wee raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 68,000 people in Wiltshire have never been online and many more have only used the internet very occasionally as they didn't have access, equipment of skills • The importance of being online meant that you could save money on bills and shopping, 90% of all new jobs required basic IT skills, the use of social media could reduce isolation and loneliness, understanding technology keeps your children/grandchildren safer and the aging population can keep their independence longer • Possible solutions would include recruiting volunteer coordinators and digital champion volunteers who would offer free support in community venues such as libraries or in someone's own home, partnerships with local and national organisations and working with schools • In Warminster about 4,800 people were not online and in order to help |

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| | <p>this a minimum of 2 volunteer coordinators and 20 digital champions were being recruited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire online were promoting the availability of wifi hotspots in rural communities and supporting, signposting and encouraging new local computer groups and courses • Details of how to become involved as a volunteer were explained and also how people could pre-register for support with computer basics. • Other ways the community could become involved included letting Wiltshire online know of pubs, internet cafe and community halls that were wifi enabled <p>For further information people were encouraged to contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Cosentino, Wiltshire Online Project Manager : sarah.cosentino@wiltshire.gov.uk <p>The Chairman thanked Sarah Cosentino for her presentation and wished her continuing success for the future.</p> |
| 11. | <p><u>Housing, Allocations, Need and Potential Opportunities for New Housing</u></p> <p>Janet O'Brien, Head of New Housing for Wiltshire Council made a presentation about the housing needs and affordable housing options in the Warminster area.</p> <p>Janet spoke about the housing stock profile for Warminster, the number of people on the housing register, under occupied homes and extra charges they would incur, in particular the following issues and challenges were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The allocation provisions in the Localism Act 2011 came into force on 18 June. Together with new social housing allocations guidance published on 29 June, the Localism Act gave councils more freedom to manage their own waiting lists. The Council now had the option to exclude certain groups if it was appropriate – such as those with no local connection to Wiltshire or those who had no identified housing need etc. • The Council were currently undertaking a consultation to find out what the community would like to see changed when determining who should be allocated social housing and what priority they should be given. • Possible priorities could include a local connection to a particular area, exclusion of certain groups from being able to register, such as those with high rent arrears or who caused anti social behaviour, giving additional priority to those who volunteer, those who are employed in an area, seeking training or who were volunteering • Parish Councils could request a Rural Housing Needs Surveys to determine the type of affordable housing need for their area, the results of which would be used as evidence for neighbourhood planning • It was noted that Chitterne Parish Council had a survey completed in December 2012 and Longbridge Deverill and Crockerton had a survey currently being carried out |

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| | <p>The Chairman thanked Janet O'Brien for her presentation.</p> |
| <p>12.</p> | <p><u>Area Board Funding - Community Area Grants</u></p> <p>The area board considered the following applications seeking 2012/13 Community Area Grant funding:</p> |
| <p>13.</p> | <p><u>Sukosta Theatre Company</u></p> <p>The Community Area Manager explained that the proposal from Sukosta was for a 'How We Move' project in Warminster. It would involve an intergenerational programme of five workshops with diverse groups in the community. The workshops would develop participants' awareness of theatrical movement and space and would also develop the health and well being of participants.</p> <p>The Board asked a number of questions of Sukosta Theatre Company and felt that more work and information was required in the following areas:</p> <p>The level of interest for the project in Warminster – how many people were interested in taking part in the workshops? What was the level of consultation and involvement with groups and individuals? How involved was the Army, the Athenaeum and the Youth Centre as mentioned in the application?</p> <p>The budget for the project – it was unclear how much the total project would cost and how much match funding was available. How much would each workshop cost pro rata?</p> <p>Warminster villages – how involved were the communities in the surrounding area, was there a desire for the project in the villages?</p> <p>Other area boards – the Members were interested in Sukosta's applications to other boards – how many had been approached?</p> <p>It was noted that Sukosta could apply to the Board again, however the level of information provided and consultation and involvement with the community would have to be expanded for the Board to make an informed decision.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that in light of the concerns expressed at the meeting, that it would be appropriate to defer consideration of the grant request so that Sukosta would have an opportunity to respond to the issues and concerns raised.</p> <p>Decision:</p> |

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| | <p>That the request for a Grant of £3,600 from Sukosta be deferred in order for them to respond to the issues and concerns raised by the Area Board.</p> |
| 14. | <p><u>Warminster Carnival Committee</u></p> <p>The Community Area Manager explained that the proposal would contribute towards Warminster annual carnival for the town and surrounding villages and that it would benefit 3,000 to 10,000 people.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <p>To award Warminster Carnival Committee £334.07 towards the Warminster Annual Carnival.</p> |
| 15. | <p><u>Your Area Board - Your Ideas, Your Reactions, Your Suggestions</u></p> <p>There were no comments from those present.</p> |
| 16. | <p><u>Future Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>The Chairman confirmed the future meeting dates as follows and drew the meeting to a close:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 November 2012 - Warminster Civic Centre at 7.00pm • 10 January 2012 - Warminster Civic Centre at 7.00pm • 7 March 2013 - Warminster Civic Centre at 7.00pm |
| 17. | <p><u>Evaluation and Close</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Warminster Area Board will be held on 8 November 2012 - Warminster Civic Centre at 7.00pm</p> |