

MINUTES

Meeting: WARMINSTER AREA BOARD
Place: Chitterne Village Hall, Situated in the centre of the village, next to the Church and village green
Date: 10 May 2012
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 8.55 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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marie.gondlach@wiltshire.gov.uk, Tel: 01225 713 597 or (e-mail)
marie.gondlach@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

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

Cllr John Brady, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Risk

Wiltshire Council Officers

Jacqui Abbott, Warminster Community Area Manager
Barry Pirie, Service Director for Human Resources and Organisational Development
Marie Gondlach, Democratic Services Officer

Town and Parish Councillors

Warminster Town Council – Heather Abernathie (Clerk), Tony Nicklin
Bishopstrow Parish Council
Boyton Parish Council
Brixton Deverill Parish Council
Chapmanslade Parish Council
Chitterne Parish Council
Codford Parish Council – Louis Horeau (Clerk)
Corsley Parish Council
Heytesbury Parish Council

Horningsham Parish Council
Kingston Deverill Parish Council
Knook Parish Council
Longbridge Deverill and Crockerton Parish Council
Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield Parish Council
Norton Bavant Parish Council
Sherrington Parish Council
Stockton Parish Council
Sutton Veny Parish Council
Upper Deverills Parish Council
Upton Lovell Parish Council
Upton Scudamore Parish Council

Partners

Community Area Partnership – Debra Leslie

Total in attendance: 28

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
1	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Warminster Area Board and invited members of the board to introduce themselves.</p> <p>The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Mr Sam Selman and Ms Judy Hible, who had offered advice and information at the Wiltshire Community Bank stand.</p> <p>The Chairman also informed those present that he had agreed for a photographer from the Warminster Journal to attend the meeting and that people were welcome to indicate whether or not they wished to be photographed.</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from: Inspector Lesley Winter, Wiltshire Police Mike Franklin, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services Cllr Francis Morland, Wiltshire Council Chris March, Warminster Town Council</p>
3	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>Decision</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>
4	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no Declarations of Interest.</p>
5	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman made the following announcements:</p>
5.a	<p><u>Cleveland Bridge Weight Restriction</u></p> <p>Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe encouraged people to get involved and make their feelings known as this was an experimental order which could lead to heavy traffic being diverted from the A36 onto the A350.</p>
5.b	<p><u>Polling Station Review</u></p>

	<p>The Chairman encouraged people to take part in the consultation ending on 25 May 2012.</p>
5.c	<p><u>Rural Facilities Survey</u></p> <p>The Chairman encouraged parish clerks to take part in the survey once it has been posted to them.</p>
5.d	<p><u>Review of Mini Recycling Sites and Household Recycling Centre Summer Opening Hours</u></p> <p>The Chairman encouraged those present to fill-in the questionnaire on-line or the paper copies available at the meeting.</p>
5.e	<p><u>11 to 19 Commissioning Strategy Update (Youth Advisory Groups, Volunteers and Income Generation)</u></p> <p>The Chairman drew the meeting's attention to the update included in the agenda.</p>
5.f	<p><u>Informal Adult Education in Wiltshire</u></p> <p>The Chairman invited the meeting to consider the report included in the agenda and to comment on the options for consideration.</p> <p>There were no suggestions of a preferred option from the Warminster Area Board.</p>
5.g	<p><u>Current Consultations</u></p> <p>The Chairman encouraged people to get 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 and invited people to contact her should they have any issues to raise.</p>
7	<p><u>Countering dog fouling on public open spaces - a study of Warminster Common</u></p> <p>Mr Nigel Linge MBE, introduced his report on the findings of an 18 months pilot study of Warminster Common.</p> <p>Mr Linge explained that common sense measures such as regular grass cutting, resurfacing paths, fencing (to avoid "stray" fouling) and bins placed at the entrance of paths all contributed to a noticeable reduction in dog fouling, however enforcement remained an issue.</p>

	<p>The Chairman thanked Mr Linge for his presentation and also for having put forward potential solutions.</p> <p>An officer from the Highways and Streetscene team also asked Mr Linge for his presentation as he felt that the proposed solutions could be of interest for his team.</p> <p>Cllr Keith Humphries thanked Mr Linge for the group's tremendous work and congratulated him on the value of that work. Cllr Humphries informed the Area Board that he would shortly attend a seminar to consider all gathered evidence and a potential way forward. He offered to report back to the Area Board when appropriate.</p> <p>In response to questions asked the following points were clarified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Police was not responsible for the enforcement of dog fouling prevention notices; • Everyone could be an enforcer but would have to be prepared to sign a witness statement; • It was not advisable to put dog fouling in a compost heap due to the risk of Toxicara Canis larvae (Canine Roundworm) developing.
8	<p><u>Updates from Partners</u></p> <p>Some written updates had been received before the meeting and were included in the agenda.</p> <p>Councillor Pip Ridout explained that CAYPIG was working on existing projects and that there was nothing new to report at this time.</p> <p>Councillor Christopher Newbury explained that there currently were no major new issues for the Fire Authority.</p>
9	<p><u>Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service - Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2012-15</u></p> <p>Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances Scott Taylor was unable to attend the meeting.</p>
10	<p><u>Cabinet Representative - Councillor John Brady</u></p> <p>Councillor John Brady, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Risk, presented his portfolio and explained that the main task was to monitor and set budgets with the Head of Finance.</p> <p>He gave some numbers to give an idea of the scale of the budget and its implications, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 256 Town and Parish Councils with their own precepts;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 203,000 properties in Wiltshire for which Council Tax had to be collected (second equal biggest collection in the Country, only Birmingham had more to collect); • Wiltshire had one of the highest Council tax collection rate in the Country (98%), with 77% paid by direct debit; • The move to a Unitary Council had enabled savings on buildings running costs as they were reduced from 98 buildings to 3 hubs; • Wiltshire Council only has reserves of £11.7M (which made it the 353rd lowest reserves out of 355 Local Authorities); • A balanced budget was expected for 2011-12, at the time there was a predicted surplus of £126,000; • £32M efficiency savings were expected for the next financial year; • Wiltshire Council received only £228 per person for government grants, when the national average was £342. <p>During the ensuing conversation points and issues including the following were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Council had no control over Town and Parish Council's precepts; • There was no disagreement over whether some form of control of borrowing for Town and Parish Councils should be discussed with Central Government; • The Localism Bill included a "power of competence" which meant that Town and Parish Councils could set up businesses to raise money or borrow, for example running village halls as competitive businesses, however it was recognised that the "power of competence" was subject to many conditions and restrictions; • Leadership and good management were paramount to enable Town and Parish Councils to limit any increase in precept to the minimum necessary. <p>The Chairman thanked Councillor Brady for his presentation and for attending the meeting.</p>
11	<p><u>Community Budgets</u></p> <p>Julie Martin, Head of Service - Communities and Inclusion, introduced the report included in the agenda and explained that Community Budgets had been brought out by Central Government and that Warminster Community Area had been offered an opportunity to be part of a pilot with Melksham Community Area.</p> <p>She clarified that Community Budgets were about a joined up approach between Local Government and public sector departments. It would give people more say on how the money was spent but it was not a new budget.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council would produce the information at community level, therefore not creating extra work for the community. Wiltshire Council had not set aside a budget to support the pilot but would be offering officer time.</p>

	<p>The next step would be to set up a workshop on a date to be agreed with the Warminster and Villages Community Partnership (WVCP).</p> <p>The Chairman invited everyone present to comment on the proposal and to consider whether the Warminster Community Area wished to take part in the pilot.</p> <p>During that discussion concerns were raised regarding a number of issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how much change could be achieved as many functions would be statutory; • what was the focus of Community Budgets, what would people / volunteers be expected to do; • what exactly would the pilot exercise be about. <p>A representative of the WVCP explained that they were sceptical about the scope of change possible but would support the project if the Warminster Community wished to get involved.</p> <p>It became clear that more information would be needed on the pilot as well as on Community Budget. It was also acknowledged as crucial for the WVCP, Town and Parish Councils and the Area Board to be involved every step of the way and to be consulted when appropriate.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree in principle to be part of the pilot, subject to the monitoring of the usefulness of the project; 2. To receive more information at a future meeting before organising the workshop; 3. To immediately involve Town and Parish Councils and do so throughout the pilot exercise; 4. To pull out of the pilot exercise at any point.
12	<p><u>Tackling Financial Exclusion</u></p> <p>Emma Cooper Partnership Development Manager - Communities and Voluntary Sector Support, delivered a short presentation and explained that the Joint Strategic Assessment for Warminster had highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 areas most deprived 20% in Wiltshire; • Significant Armed Forces Community; • Decline in rural facilities (post offices).

She explained that the Credit Unions were regulated by the Financial Services Authority and that the Wiltshire Community Bank offered community savings and loan cooperatives where members pooled their savings to lend to one another.

She invited people to watch the short film on Wiltshire Community Bank on http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5aIT_uAvwmo&feature=youtu.be

Collection point on Wednesday mornings at the Warminster Library.

In response to questions asked it was explained that:

- The general rule was to save for 10 weeks before one could borrow money; however an emergency loan was also available;
- There was no interest paid on savings however dividends were paid, last year 2% had been paid to savers;
- There currently were 600 members, with a budget of £160,000 with 70% on loan.

13

Warminster and Villages Community Partnership - Request for Funding

Debra Leslie, Co-ordinator for the Warminster and Villages Community Partnership (WVCP), explained that the partnership was going through a period of change and restructuring and wished to defer their request for funding until those changes had been implemented.

Decision:

To defer the request for funding until the WVCP was ready to present it again.

14

Area Board Funding

The Community Area Manager presented an overview of spending for 2011-12 and reminded people that the deadline for application for grants for Jubilee / Olympics celebrations was 19 May 2012.

£41,780 had been spent in 2011/12 on main grant applications and £4,750 for grants for Jubilee / Olympics celebrations as follows:

Upton Scudamore Community Association	£300
Codford Village Jubilee Celebrations	£300
Maiden Bradley	£200
Boynton Parish	£300
Upton Lovell	£300
Corsley Playng Field	£300

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15	<p><u>Area Board Funding - Community Area Grants</u></p> <p>The area board considered the following applications seeking 2011/12 Community Area Grant funding:</p>																								
15.a	<p><u>Warminster Athenaeum Trust</u></p> <p>A representative of the Athaneum trust explained that the development was in phase 4 and this application focused on the refurbishment of the toilets. The Athaneum was achieving 75% of usage, with shows on most weekends.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <p>To award the Warminster Athaneum Trust £5,000 towards the Athaneum Development Phase 4.</p> <p>Reason:</p> <p>The application met the 2012/13 grants criteria and demonstrated a link to the Community Area Plan where there is a commitment to support the development of the Athenaeum.</p>																								
15.b	<p><u>Warminster Christmas Lights</u></p> <p>The Community Area Manager introduced the application and explained why she had had to recommend refusal. She pointed out that she had been informed by the applicant that this would be their last request as all the equipment would then have been updated / brought to standards.</p> <p>The Warminster Town Clerk explained that some of the existing lights had been used for 20 years and the upgrade had been essential to keep up with current regulations.</p>																								

	<p>Members of the public asked the board to consider awarding the grant as they felt the lights were a focal point and attracted many visitors to the town.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note that this is the fourth application by the Warminster Christmas Lights. 2. To award the Warminster Christmas Lights £2,000 towards the improvement to the Christmas lights. <p>Reason:</p> <p>This application is for brand new equipment for safety reasons and provides a benefit to the community.</p>
15.c	<p><u>Warminster Sequence Dancers</u></p> <p>The Community Area Manager introduced the application and explained why she had had to recommend refusal.</p> <p>Mrs Barbara Parry, Secretary for the Warminster Sequence Dancers, explained that the club met once a week with live music once a month and that the enjoyment the members of the club got from the live music was incommensurable. In answering questions she explained that the club's income was solely based on members paying to attend; this had to cover all running costs including hiring the room.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <p>To award the Warminster Sequence Dancers £1,800 towards a monthly organist.</p> <p>Reason:</p> <p>This provides health benefits to the members of the Warminster Sequence Dancers.</p>
16	<p><u>Community Area Transport Group</u></p> <p>The Chairman introduced the report included in the agenda.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree the following expenditure:

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Folly Lane signing and lining</td> <td>£1,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chapmanslade signing and lining <i>Chapmanslade Parish Council is contributing an additional £500</i></td> <td>£4,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wessex Court – Cycle Barrier</td> <td>£800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boreham road / Woodcock road (topo survey to allow development of options for possible substantive bids)</td> <td>£1,500</td> </tr> </table> <p>2. To agree the “C” class road review for the following routes: C270, C25 and C10.</p>	Folly Lane signing and lining	£1,500	Chapmanslade signing and lining <i>Chapmanslade Parish Council is contributing an additional £500</i>	£4,000	Wessex Court – Cycle Barrier	£800	Boreham road / Woodcock road (topo survey to allow development of options for possible substantive bids)	£1,500
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17	<p><u>Your Area Board - Your Ideas, Your Reactions, Your Suggestions</u></p> <p>There were no comments from those present.</p>								
18	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates, Evaluation and Close</u></p> <p>The Chairman confirmed the future meeting date as follows and drew the meeting to a close:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 July 2012 – Chapmanslade Village Hall • 6 September 2012 – Warminster Civic Centre • 8 November 2012 – Warminster Civic Centre • 10 January 2013 – Warminster Civic Centre • 7 March 2013 – Warminster Civic Centre 								