

MINUTES

Meeting: MELKSHAM AREA BOARD
Place: Bowerhill Village Hall, Halifax Road, Melksham, SN12 6QN
Date: 18 June 2014
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 9.00 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Pat Aves, Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman), Cllr David Pollitt, Cllr Jonathon Seed (Vice Chairman) and Cllr Roy While

Wiltshire Council Officers

Allison Sullivan - Community Area Manager
Kevin Fielding - Democratic Services Officer
Sean Chacksfield - Media Relations Officer
Sarah Dicker - Project Co-ordinator, Corporate Support Team

Town and Parish Councils

Melksham Town Council – Bruce Sanders
Melksham Without Parish Council – Paul Carter
Atworth Parish Council – Mitch Roberts
Keevil Parish Council – Myra Link
Broughton Gifford Parish Council – Lesley Holdway
Seend Parish Council – Joan Savage & T Carr

Partners

Community Projects Support Officer – Phil McMullen
Wiltshire Police – Sgt James Williams
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – Kieran Kilgallen
Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service – Mike Franklin

Total in attendance: 43

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<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
1	<p><u>Appointments</u></p> <p>Cllr Jon Hubbard was elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>Cllr Jonathon Seed was elected as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>The Melksham Area Board made the following appointments to outside bodies and working groups for the forthcoming year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Area Transport Group (CAT-G) – Cllr Jonathon Seed & Cllr Pat Aves. • Melksham Community Area Partnership – Cllr Pat Aves. • Shadow Community Operations Board (SCOB) – Cllr Roy While. • Youth Advisory Group (YAG) – Cllr Jon Hubbard.
2	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome, Introduction and Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Bowerhill Village Hall for the meeting of the Melksham Area Board.</p> <p>There were the following Chairman's Announcements which were covered in the agenda pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Recycling Sites – update. • Garden Waste Consultation. • Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Consultation. • Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Consultation.
3	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Terry Chivers, Colin Goodhind – Melksham Community Area Partnership and Dr Rob Matthews – Spa Medical Centre.</p>

4	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 April 2014 were agreed as the correct record.
5	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were none.</p>
6	<p><u>Cold Calling Initiative Update & Bid for Community Support Officer Time.</u></p> <p>The Chairman advised that the bid for Community Support Officer time from Melksham Community Safety Group, a core group within the Melksham Community Area Partnership had been put on hold.</p> <p>The two respective Chairmen hadn't been able to arrange a date to meet and discuss the issues raised in the bid, it was therefore agreed that the bid should be deferred until the next Area Board meeting.</p>
7	<p><u>Safe Places Initiative</u></p> <p>i.Sarah Dicker – Project Co-ordinator, Corporate Support Team, Wiltshire Council and Phil McMullen – Community Support Officer, Melksham Area Board gave a short presentation that outlined Safe Places.</p> <p>Points made included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Places was a scheme that provides members of the public a safe space to go to if they unexpectedly need help when out and about in society. Safe Places are identified by a bright round orange sticker that states “Safe Place”. Safe place locations are provided with a resource pack to assist them in helping a member of the public. Support is immediate and not ongoing. • Safe Places pilot schemes in Salisbury and Devizes and have both been successfully handed over to the community following initial set up by the Implementation Steering Group (ISG) • Work had begun on starting schemes in Chippenham, Westbury, Melksham and Trowbridge with schemes looking to start in the near future in Calne, Malmesbury and Warminster. • That there had been some 21 expressions of interest from organisations/businesses in Melksham to support the scheme.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Phil McMullen already had experience of rolling out the scheme in Westbury. <p>ii. Safe Places Workshop</p> <p>Alison Sullivan – Melksham Community Area Manager hosted an interactive workshop that looked to set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would a Safe Places Project look like in Melksham? • What needs to be done to develop a Safe Places Initiative in Melksham? • Who needs to be involved? • How will we move this forward? <p>The Chairman thanked Sarah Dicker, Phil McMullen and Alison Sullivan for the presentation and workshop.</p>
8	<p><u>Yarn Bombing</u></p> <p>Martina Batchelor – Melksham Oak School gave a short presentation that outlined Yarn Bombing, which was the art of enhancing a public place or object with graffiti knitting.</p> <p>It was hoped that the tree in Melksham Market Place could be yarn bombed by the residents of Melksham for the Christmas period as a way of knitting the community together.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Martina Batchelor for her presentation and hoped that local people would get involved in this exciting project.</p>
9	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>The following Partner updates were noted:</p> <p>Melksham Community Area Partnership (CAP) – Phil McMullen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Melksham Without Parish Council had provided MCAP with funds of £1,500 to use on projects that would be used in the Melksham Without community area.

Wiltshire Police – Sgt James Williams

- The written report contained in the agenda pack was noted.
- While reductions around both types of burglary was strong for the whole sector there were five incidents over the last spring break week involving residents who went on holiday in their caravans were targeted. The absence of a caravan usually parked on a drive can be an indicator of an empty home. It was agreed that local beat officers would speak to caravan owners to warn them of the risk of thefts in the area.
- That local Speedwatch volunteers and Police offers were now monitoring traffic using Snowberry Lane.

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – Mike Franklin

Mike Franklin made a short statement re the proposed merger with Dorset Fire & Rescue Service but advised the meeting that he was unable to answer any questions on the proposed merger or consultation.

Points made included:

- That Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority was facing an annual budget shortfall of between £3.1m-3.9m which it needed to resolve by 2017/18.
- The Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority wanted to protect frontline services that could be significantly threatened if this money was not found. Following an options appraisal the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority are currently developing with Dorset Fire Authority a business case to combine our political authorities, this would allow us to rationalise management, reduce the costs of support departments and indeed strengthen our prevention and youth education activities.
- No decisions had or would be made until September 2014 when the business case would be considered.
- As part of developing this document we would be consulting our staff, the public and other key stakeholders such as the police, local authorities etc. The consultation would involve a leaflet and questionnaire which would be put in public libraries and buildings and made available on-line. It would also be sent to a large number of local people in Wiltshire and Dorset and key groups including town and parish councils. Residents forums would be independently run as would business and voluntary sector forums.
- A draft business case for consultation would be produced that would be supported by a suite of more technical documents. These would be

available through our website or upon request. Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority would be promoting this exercise through our websites, social media and the press. We would set up a helpline and e-mail address to support any queries.

- The consultation runs from 21st July to 20th October.
- Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority are determined to protect frontline services and ensure the Services we provide internally and to our communities are Safe, Strong and Sustainable.

Cllr Jonathon Seed advised that he was disturbed that Mike Franklin was unable to answer any questions on the proposed merger and that the consultation appeared to have one option – a merger with Dorset Fire & Rescue Service.

Mike Franklin advised that Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service were planning to hold meetings to give more information on the proposed merger with the Chief Fire Officer in attendance.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Chief Fire Officer – Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service outlining the Melksham Area Board's disappointment over the consultation process.

Decision

- **That the Melksham Area Board urges Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service to consult on all available options when considering cost savings with its proposed merger with Dorset Fire & Rescue Service.**

Melksham Town Council – Bruce Sanders

- The written report was noted.
- That the Melkham Food & Drink Festival had been a great success.

Atworth Parish Council

- That Atworth Parish Council would be holding a day of celebration at the Atworth recreation ground to mark 100 years of the Atworth village hall.

Melksham Chamber of Commerce – Graham Ellis

- The Chamber needed to highlight what its role was, and what it could do

	<p>for local businesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Melksham railway service was going from strength to strength. • That the Chamber of Commerce was looking to hold a consultation “where shall we be in 2020”. <p>Melksham Heritage Discovery Fair – Lisa Ellis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Melksham Heritage Discovery Fair would be held on Saturday 5 July at Well House Manor, Melksham. <p>The day would include talks and group discussions and a book signing, and an opportunity to have old photos scanned for free.</p> <p>Melksham Senior People’s Forum – Brian Warwick</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the group would be holding two meetings per month from January 2015. • Work had begun on the planning of this year’s Seniors Christmas party. • The Summer 2014 newsletter was currently being put together. • That the Shed Club were looking to find a more suitable meeting place. An industrial unit would be idea for club use. <i>Note: Teresa Strange who was at the meeting advised that the Scouts would be happy for the Shed Club to meet at the Scout Hut.</i> • That it was International week of older people during October. <p>The Chairman thanked everybody for their updates.</p>
10	<p><u>Grant Funding</u></p> <p>Councillors were asked to consider the following Grant Applications:</p> <p>i.Community Area Grants:</p> <p>Decision Melksham Scout Hut - To replace rotten doors and windows awarded £1,642.00. Reason <i>The application met the grant criteria 2014/15.</i></p>

	<p>Decision Atworth Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group - Laptop & Projector awarded £610.00 with the condition that other community groups would be able to use the lap top and projector if required.</p> <p>Reason <i>This application met the grant criteria 2014/15.</i></p> <p>ii.Councillor Initiative Grant:</p> <p>Decision Cllr Jon Hubbard – Cold Calling Initiative signage awarded £280.</p>
11	<p><u>Community Transport Group - joint project with Devizes Area Board at Caen Hill</u></p> <p>The Councillors were asked to consider a decision made by Community Area Transport Group on 29th April 2014 regarding a joint project with Devizes Area Board at Caen Hill.</p> <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To award Area Board funding of £1,750.
12	<p><u>Any Other Items of Public Concern</u></p> <p>Cllr Pat Aves advised that she sought assistance from the Area Board in tackling continuing flooding issues at Shurnhold, Melksham. Representatives of Broughton Gifford Parish Council advised that they were suffering similar flooding issues.</p> <p>Cllr Jonathan Seed advised that he would follow up both of these issues.</p> <p>It was agreed that these issues would be revisited in more detail as an agenda item at the September Melksham Area Board meeting.</p>
13	<p><u>Close</u></p>