

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY 2015 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Desna Allen, Cllr Glenis Ansell, Cllr Pat Aves, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Rosemary Brown, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Chris Caswill, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Terry Chivers, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Christine Crisp, Cllr Anna Cuthbert, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Tony Deane, Cllr Christopher Devine, Cllr Stewart Dobson, Cllr Bill Douglas, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Dennis Drewett, Cllr Peter Edge, Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr Nick Fogg MBE, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Jose Green, Cllr Mollie Groom, Cllr Russell Hawker, Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr Alan Hill, Cllr Charles Howard, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Keith Humphries, Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr David Jenkins, Cllr Julian Johnson, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Simon Killane, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr John Knight, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Magnus Macdonald, Cllr Alan MacRae, Cllr Howard Marshall, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Helena McKeown, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Jemima Milton, Cllr Bill Moss, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr John Noeken, Cllr Paul Oatway, Cllr Stephen Oldrieve, Cllr Helen Osborn, Cllr Jeff Osborn, Cllr Linda Packard, Cllr Sheila Parker, Cllr Graham Payne, Cllr Nina Phillips, Cllr David Pollitt, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Leo Randall, Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philipe, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Jane Scott OBE, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr James Sheppard, Cllr John Smale, Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cllr Melody Thompson, Cllr John Thomson, Cllr Ian Tomes, Cllr Dick Tonge, Cllr John Walsh, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Cllr Philip Whalley, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Roy While (Chairman), Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Jerry Wickham, Cllr Christopher Williams and Cllr Graham Wright

31 **Announcements by Outgoing Chairman**

The Chairman, Councillor Roy While advised Council that he would not be seeking re-election. As outgoing Chairman, he took the opportunity to thank the staff who had supported him during his chairmanship, in particular Jean Potter. He also made the following announcements:

A. 'fly a flag for the commonwealth' ceremony

On Monday, 9 March, Commonwealth Day, the Chairman was joined by Mr. Robert Floyd, Deputy Lieutenant, who represented the Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, for a short ceremony to 'fly a flag for the Commonwealth'. After a

short ceremony, the Commonwealth flag was raised up the flagpole to mark this special day.

The Council was pleased to participate in this national initiative, which enabled people in their local communities to become involved and join with others nationwide in associating themselves with a widespread public expression of commitment to the Commonwealth, appreciation of the values it stands for, and the opportunities offered to its citizens around the world.

Similar ceremonies were held in other Wiltshire towns, including Trowbridge and Swindon.

B. Wiltshire and Swindon youth orchestra

The Chairman had attended the Wiltshire and Swindon Youth Orchestra's Easter concert at the Wiltshire Music Centre, which once again gave a stunning performance.

The Chairman encouraged councillors to attend these concerts to support talented young people and enjoy an evening of true professionalism and musical accomplishment.

C. Business and sports gala dinner.

Wiltshire council and Wessex Chambers of Commerce co-hosted the second business and sports gala dinner in the atrium at County Hall, Trowbridge.

The dinner was held as part of delivering a legacy for Wiltshire, a council-led partnership which aims to encourage people to keep fit and active, boost the local economy and bring communities together, building on the success of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

More than £28,000 was raised at the dinner by businesses and other organisations to help support the next generation of Wiltshire sports. Money raised from the night will boost the foundation fund set up following last year's inaugural dinner, which provides financial help to local elite athletes. Successful applicants receive funding to assist with training, attending competitions, as well as paying for equipment and transport costs to regional, national and international events.

More than 20 businesses sponsored and supported the dinner to assist the budding Olympians, Paralympians and athletes with world-class potential on

their journey to success. The main sponsors were Aerian, CGI and James Hay partnership.

D. Royal visits

The County had been fortunate to have had two further royal visits to the County.

In February Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall visited Dents, glove manufacturers in Warminster. Her Royal Highness then went on to Devizes to officially open Community First's new offices and launch their 50th birthday celebration.

Last week, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh officially opened the new Hayward Care Centre in Devizes run by the charity The Orders of St John Care Trust, with whom the Council worked in partnership to provide quality care services for older people. The new centre was named in honour of local hero Reginald Hayward who served through the first World War and, in addition to the military cross and bar, was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions in 1918 when serving in the 1st Battalion the Wiltshire Regiment. To recognise the honour, a special feature of the visit was the participation of members of the Rifles Regiment, of which his Royal Highness was Colonel-In-Chief. He toured the centre, met residents and staff and also trustees, patrons, representatives of companies involved in the construction, councillors and other members of the local community.

E. Election Day

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the staff who contributed to the smooth running of the elections held on 7 May. The meeting echoed this sentiment.

On the Council's behalf, the Leader thanked Councillor Roy While for his hard work, his contribution to the Council and for being such a wonderful ambassador for the County. She referred to the numerous events he had attended on the Council's behalf, accompanied by his wife at many of them.

The meeting echoed these comments. In particular, Councillor Jon Hubbard added his and his groups' thanks for the way in which Council meetings had been managed in a fair and even-handed manner by Councillor While. Councillor Hubbard also took the opportunity to add his thanks to the staff for their contributions to making the election run smoothly and very efficiently.

Councillor Ricky Rogers added his and his group's thanks to Councillor While, for his dedication and service and for his support for Salisbury FC.

Councillor Clark added his and his group's thanks to Councillor While for his fairness and impartiality.

32 Election of Chairman 2015/16

The Chairman, Councillor Roy While called for nominations for the position of Chairman of Council for 2015/16.

Councillor Richard Britton was proposed by Councillor John Smale and seconded by Councillor Julian Johnson. There being no further nominations and on being put to the vote, it was

Resolved:

That Councillor Richard Britton be elected Chairman of Wiltshire Council for the municipal year 2015/16.

The Chairman read out and signed the declaration of acceptance of office of Chairman of the Council witnessed by the Monitoring Officer.

Councillor Richard Britton in the Chair

33 Election of Vice-Chairman 2015/16

The Chairman called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of Council for 2015/16.

Councillor Allison Bucknell was proposed by Councillor Dick Tonge and seconded by Councillor Chuck Berry. There being no further nominations and on being put to the vote it was

Resolved:

That Councillor Allison Bucknell be elected Vice-Chairman of Wiltshire Council for the municipal year 2015/16.

The Vice-Chairman read out and signed the declaration of acceptance of office of Vice-Chairman of the Council witnessed by the Monitoring Officer

34 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Howard Greenman, George Jeans, Ian Thorne, Tony Trotman, Mark Packard, Nick Blakemore, Desna Allen and Ian West.

35 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

36 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24 February 2015 were presented.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the last Council meeting held on 24 February 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

37 **Announcements by the Chairman**

A. New Wiltshire councillors

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank ex-councillors Nick Watts and Liz Bryant for their service during their time at Wiltshire Council.

He also offered a warm welcome to Councillor Melody Thompson, who would be representing the Chippenham Hardenhuish Division and to Councillor Anna Cuthbert, who would be representing the Bromham, Rowde and Potterne Division.

B. Death of former Councillors

The Chairman drew the meeting's attention to the news of the sad deaths of three former Wiltshire councillors, as follows:

Mr. Colin Read was a Wiltshire County councillor from 2001-2005 in Mere, serving his community with dedication and commitment. In addition to being a Mere parish councillor, he was also chairman of the Wiltshire Rugby Football Union.

Mr. George Applegate was an active councillor in Trowbridge in the 1960s-80s, including a former chairman of Trowbridge Town Council and West Wiltshire District Council (1981-83). He ran several local businesses (heating engineering), farming and water divining throughout the world. He was also a founder member of the Trowbridge Rotary Club.

And finally, Major Colin Stone who was a former Kennet District Councillor who gave dedicated service to his electorate.

C. Big pledge engagement opportunity

The Chairman stated that the previous day had seen the launch of the 2015 Big Pledge – make a difference campaign. He went on to state that this year there were 12 pledges that people could make as an individual, a group, a business

or a community. Wiltshire's Big Pledge was a county-wide campaign endorsed by Wiltshire Council's Legacy Board.

This was part of the ongoing work to encourage Wiltshire residents to lead healthier and more active lives. The campaign aimed to make a difference to an individual's health and wellbeing; and make a difference in the local community. Wiltshire's Big Pledge would challenge people to get healthy, volunteer, or make a positive change in 2015.

Council officers would be on hand during the lunch break and after today's meeting to help Councillors who wished to make a pledge including participating in a photo opportunity to support the campaign.

D. Members' Training on The Sap Portal

The Chairman stated that a training session would be available to members in the Kennet room after this meeting on the use of the SAP portal system for submitting members' expenses.

38 Public Participation

The Chairman reported the receipt of statements and questions from Mr Michael Sprules, Mrs Spickernell, Mr Ian James and Mrs Iris Thompson, details of which were circulated in the agenda supplement. This also included written responses from the relevant Cabinet member and verbal responses as appropriate were given at the meeting. The Chairman provided questioners with the opportunity to ask a supplementary question.

Mrs Spickernell spoke in support of her question, expressing disappointment at the written response she had received, and stated that she felt that too much power was concentrated in the Cabinet at the expense of the wider community and other Councillors.

In response, the Leader, Councillor Jane Scott stated that the Council would take all views into account, but that she felt that the Council and the Cabinet was a good example of transparency in decision making and highly regarded as such. She referred to the openness of meetings of Cabinet where public participation was very much welcomed and Area Boards which centred on issues considered as important by the local communities.

Councillor Sturgis, in response to a supplementary question from Mr Sprules, stated that the manifesto pledges to subject all social housing to the right-to-buy had yet to be drawn up for consideration by Parliament. The Council would respond at the time to any formal consultation on such proposals.

In response to a question from Mr James, Councillor Sturgis stated that the modelling work regarding flooding was still to be carried out by the Environment

Agency.

In response to a question from Mrs Thompson, Councillor Sturgis stated that officers were satisfied that the design of the proposed scheme was satisfactory and that a road safety audit would take place upon its completion.

Mr McCall gave a statement on behalf of campaign to Better Trowbridge, in which concern was expressed about the division of responsibilities and gave a plea that all Councillors have an opportunity to debate how power should be distributed in the County.

Former Councillor Nick Watts attended the meeting to congratulate the new Councillor for his old division.

Mr Gowen gave a statement on behalf of Group 5. He expressed concern that the Council had withdrawn its grant to the organisation with insufficient consultation. He went on to extol the virtues of the organisation and stated that cancellation of the grant had tarnished its reputation.

Councillor Jon Hubbard, on a point of order, expressed concern that some answers given verbally should have been available in writing.

Councillor Sturgis, in response, stated answers had not been available in time to disseminate in writing and were therefore given verbally at the meeting as allowed for in the constitution.

A copy of questions received together with the written responses given are attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

39 **Petitions**

a) Petitions Received

The Chairman reported the receipt of two petitions for formal presentation at this meeting although neither petition had received the requisite number of signatories to require a Council debate.

i) RUH Hopper Service – 2,043 signatories

Mr Douglas Ross, Chairman of the Trowbridge Link Scheme in presenting the petition on behalf of the users of the Hopper scheme, expressed the concerns of the petitioners and asked that the Council to work with partners to find a mutually acceptable solution that would see a continuation of the service.

ii) Petition to keep the Connect 2 in service – 38 signatories

On behalf of Mrs Elbro, the petition organiser, Councillor Sue Evans,

presented a separate petition on the Hopper Bus calling on the Council to do all it could to retain the service.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ross and Cllr Sue Evans for the petitions and their comments which would be taken into account as part of the consultation on the issue. He also referred them to the related Notice of Motion No. 20 which would be considered later in the meeting. On being moved and seconded by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, it was:

Resolved:

That the petitions and comments be noted and be included as part of the consultation on this matter and be taken into account as part of the consideration of motion no. 20 later in the meeting.

b) Petitions Update

A report by the Democratic Governance Manager was presented which provided details of the 6 petitions received for the period since the last Council meeting.

Resolved:

That Council note the report, the petitions received and the actions being taken in relation to them, as set out in the Appendix to the report.

40 Community Infrastructure Levy

Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property and Waste, presented a report, including a supplement circulated on the 12 May 2015. The Chairman drew Council's attention to the recommendations of Cabinet which had considered the matter at its meeting on the 11 May 2015.

Cllr Sturgis explained that this included the adoption of the CIL charging schedule, planning obligations supplementary planning document, Regulation 123 list and associated community infrastructure policies as set out in the various appendices presented as part of the report. He also drew Council's attention to changes made to the document as circulated in the Agenda Supplement. Cllr Sturgis also explained how the document had evolved, its progression through the draft stage and the consultation mechanisms and feedback including Overview and Scrutiny Committee input. The main principle of the CIL would allow the Council to seek monies for infrastructure especially given that the process for using S.106 Agreements for this purpose had been tightened up considerably.

It was noted that there were some areas that might require further definition. Cabinet had agreed to a further review in due course and had agreed to the preparation of a communication plan to help community and parish groups to understand their role within the strategy. There was an opportunity for new Neighbourhood Development Plans to include a schedule of infrastructure requirements. It was also noted that the Examiner had required two modifications as outlined in the report presented.

Having been duly proposed and seconded, it was:

Resolved

- (i) To note the content of the Examiner's report on the examination of the Wiltshire CIL Charging Schedule (Appendix 1 of the report presented); and accept the modifications in the Appendix of the Examiner's Report, which the Examiner considers are necessary to improve clarity.**
- (ii) That the Wiltshire CIL Charging Schedule proposed in Appendix 3, as amended as set out in (i) above together with the other proposed minor modifications identified in the interest of clarity (Appendix 2 of the report presented), be approved as the appropriate basis for charging CIL in Wiltshire.**
- (iii) To adopt the proposed Regulation 123 List at Appendix 5 and the Instalments Policy as set out in Appendix 6 of the report presented alongside the Wiltshire CIL Charging Schedule in (ii).**
- (iv) To adopt the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document as proposed in Appendix 8 of the report presented.**
- (v) To agree that the Associate Director for Economic Development and Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property and Waste and, the Associate Directors of Finance and Legal and Governance, will undertake the final stages associated with the formal adoption and implementation of CIL, including any minor textual changes to documents in the interest of clarity and accuracy.**
- (vi) To agree an implementation date for CIL of Monday 18 May 2015.**
- (vii) That the Associate Director for Economic Development and Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property and Waste develop a communication plan for parish and town councils, as well as representatives from neighbourhood planning steering groups, to help clarify their role in relation to CIL and the delivery of local infrastructure;**
- (viii) That the Associate Director for Economic Development and Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property and Waste**

monitors the implementation of CIL to determine whether a review of the Charging Schedule is required. In any event, the need for review will be considered by Cabinet within two years of CIL's implementation in Wiltshire.

(Note: in reference to the various appendices in the above resolutions, as emphasised by Cllr Sturgis when moving the recommendations, this includes changes made to them as included in the Addendum to the report circulated in Agenda Supplement 2).

41 Notices of Motion

41a) No. 18 - Community Grants - From Councillors Jeff Osborn and Helen Osborn

The Chairman reported receipt of the above mentioned motion from Councillors Jeff Osborn and Helen Osborn. The wording of the motion was as follows:

"That this Council requires the rules concerning community grants awarded by Area Boards to be amended to allow only one grant per applicant per year".

To assist Council in its consideration of the motion, a briefing note was circulated.

In speaking to his motion, Councillor Jeff Osborn thanked the officers for preparing the briefing note. He expressed concern that some organisations had become serial applicants, that the purpose of the grants has been lost and that organisations should be limited to one grant per year. In his view, this situation had been exacerbated by the removal of revenue grant funding.

However, he accepted that the issue should be should be discussed at an Area Board level and therefore with the permission of his seconder, withdrew the motion.

Motion withdrawn

41b) No. 19 - Burnbake Trust and Group 5 - From Councillors Jeff Osborn and Peter Edge

The Chairman reported receipt of the above mentioned motion from Councillors Jeff Osborn and Peter Edge, worded as follows:

"This Council views with concern the manner in which the policy on voluntary

sector group funding has been implemented. In particular two well regarded voluntary furniture recycling groups, in different parts of the county, have been poorly treated – the Burnbake Trust and Group 5. They have had all their Wiltshire Council funding withdrawn, with little or no consultation.

The consequence is that these organisations are now at risk of closure, with a loss of local community resilience and serious reputational damage to this Council. Council need to reconsider; discuss the matter further with all those involved and seek to salvage something practical from this drastic situation”.

To assist Council in its consideration of the above motion, a briefing note had been circulated.

In speaking to his motion primarily in respect of Group 5, Councillor Jeff Osborn referred to the comments made by the Chair of Group 5 earlier in the meeting. He stated that he remained concerned that there had not been adequate correspondence with the affected groups. Furthermore, he stated that it was a small group fully run by volunteers, who did not charge for the furniture they provided and that they provided a very valuable service to the community. He considered that the reduction in their grant had tarnished the Group’s reputation. He asked that relevant Lead Members visit the organisation to discuss the situation.

Councillor Laura Mayes, the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, in her response focused on two key issues about consultation and what could be done to address the current situation. The Council had committed to making strategic savings for 2015/16 and that all Voluntary and Community Sector organisations had been advised by letter that the Council was looking to make cuts in this area of at least 10%. She apologised that Group 5 did not appear to have received its letter. The Council also wanted all voluntary organisations to be less reliant on the Council being their sole funders.

In relation to the Burnbake, the Council had provided initial set up and regular funding. Burnbake had secured funds from a number of sources including charitable trusts and raised funds itself, leading them to build up significant reserves.

In relation to Group 5, Councillor Mayes explained that it received funding from Selwood Housing and Trowbridge Town Council, it did not try to raise funds itself. She compared it to other similar organisations which made a small charge for their furniture as a way of generating some income and suggested it should try and undertake some fundraising measures. Furthermore, officers had offered to discuss these issues and would continue to offer assistance in Group 5 securing other sources of funding.

On being moved by the Chairman and seconded by the Chairman, it was **Resolved:**

That Motion No. 19 be debated.

On opening the debate initially to Group Leaders, Councillor Jane Scott stated that some funding was available from the Council's emergency fund which could be used to meet a small charge which could be levied by Group 5. A much wider discussion could be had with Group 5 as with other organisations to include providing opportunities for adults with learning difficulties and for trainees and apprentices.

Councillor Jon Hubbard expressed his concern that there had not been adequate consultation with groups prior their funding being reduced or withdrawn, nor that they had been properly supported to find more sustainable funding before implementation of the cuts imposed by the Council to ensure they were sufficiently prepared.

Councillor Ernie Clark felt that it was unfortunate that misunderstandings had arisen especially where groups had had all their funding cut and expressed concern that the users of Group 5 services were often very needy and might not be able afford to pay any charges.

Councillor Ricky Rogers commended Burnbake for their work and stated that a number of its volunteers did so because it was also being supported by this Council. He agreed that withdrawal of Council funding could tarnish a group's reputation.

Councillor Graham Payne provide some background on the history of Group 5 and its work. He stated that volunteers had benefitted from new skills leading to further employment after periods of unemployment. He made reference o the letter date 30 December to the Chairman of Group 5 which had not properly addressed. He expressed concern as to the inadequacy of the communication, and explained how misunderstandings had arisen as to the scale of the reduction in funding. Furthermore, he emphasised the importance of keeping local members informed of changes to funding in their communities.

Councillor Alan Hill expressed concern that some of the comments in the debate implied criticism of officers who had no right of reply in Council meetings. The Chairman, in response, drew the meeting's attention to the wording of the motion and asked that subsequent speakers restrict their comments to terms of the debate.

Councillor Helen Osborn stated that Group 5 received £5,000 from Wiltshire Council which was used for rent, storage and some petrol. Furthermore, that as there were only 4-5 volunteers running the service they may not have the capacity for further fundraising.

Councillor Fleur de Rhé-Phillipe stated, that in her experience of working with charities, that organisations needed to be flexible and take help where it could be found.

Councillor Bill Moss referred to the importance of maintaining reserves to mitigate against unpredictable financial circumstances.

Councillor John Thomson made reference to Wiltshire Council's voucher system which enabled people to get furniture, and that this scheme was linked to the voluntary sector who could benefit from this. Furthermore he encouraged the group to discuss their future with the Council.

Councillor Gordon King, reminded councillors that some support was rigorously means-tested, and implored that this be revisited.

Councillor Richard Clewer challenged the view that the removal of Wiltshire Council funding would do damage to an organisation's reputation.

Councillor Laura Mayes stated, in response to some of the concerns raised, that the Council had offered to meet groups, via telephone and email, and had given them a named officer to help them find further source of funding. Councillor Jeff Osborn emphasised the importance of face to face contact.

Councillor Peter Edge, in relation to the Burnbake group questioned the amount of reserves quoted earlier in the meeting, it had £75,000 of restricted reserves and an amount in cash. He gave some background on the group and how it was set up to work with people needing work experience and the valuable service it provided. He encouraged the lead member to continue to have a dialogue with Burnbake.

Councillor Laura Mayes confirmed that she was happy to discuss options on securing alternative funding with both groups as well as any other groups in a similar situation. Councillor Laura suggested the deletion of the following section from the motion given the Council had been proactive in trying to discuss the situation with both groups: *'and seek to salvage something practical from this drastic situation'*.

Councillor Simon Killane supported the motion and the engagement by the lead cabinet member. He also suggested the scrutiny process as an avenue to explore the processes involved in this situation.

Councillor Mayes emphasised that the Council had on several occasions offered to meet with Group 5. In accepting the motion, she considered there had to be commitment from Group 5 to meet with the Council.

On being put to the vote, it was

Resolved

- 1. This Council views with concern the manner in which the policy on voluntary sector group funding has been implemented. In particular two well regarded voluntary furniture recycling groups, in different parts of the county, have been poorly treated – the Burnbake Trust**

and Group 5. They have had all their Wiltshire Council funding withdrawn, with little or no consultation.

- 2. The consequence is that these organisations are now at risk of closure, with a loss of local community resilience and serious reputational damage to this Council. Council need to reconsider; discuss the matter further with all those involved.**

The meeting then adjourned for lunch at 13.00

The meeting reconvened at 13.45

41c) No. 20 - RUH Hopper Service - Councillors Jeff Osborn and Helen Osborn

The Chairman reported receipt of the above mentioned motion from Councillors Jeff Osborn and Helen Osborn worded as follows:

“Council remains concerned with the overall manner in which the decision to cease funding the RUH Hopper has been handled. A decision was made without consulting other agencies, such as Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the RUH and the local Link schemes.

Council notes growing public unease regarding this matter as evidenced by the increasing numbers supporting the relevant petition.

Council urges the Administration to do everything possible to ensure this invaluable service continues and that members and the public are regularly updated on progress towards this objective.”

The Chairman drew Council’s attention to the briefing note circulated to assist Council in its consideration of the motion and to the earlier presentation of two related petitions.

In speaking to his motion, Councillor Jeff Osborn referred to a letter which accompanied a petition from a user of the service which highlighted the difficulties typically faced by members of the public trying to attend RUH appointments. He expressed his hope that a solution could be reached and expressed concern that negotiations with the relevant parties could be so protracted. Ultimately he looked to the Health & Wellbeing Board to bring the matter to a resolution.

In response Councillor Phillip Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, explained that he would be happy to support the motion with some amendments to the wording as follows:

~~*“Council remains concerned with the overall manner in which the decision to cease funding the RUH Hopper has been handled. A decision was made without consulting other agencies, such as Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning*~~

~~Group, the RUH and the local Link schemes.~~

Council notes growing public unease regarding this matter as evidenced by the increasing numbers supporting the relevant petition.

Council urges the Administration to do everything possible to ensure this invaluable service continues and that members and the public are regularly updated on progress towards this objective.”

Councillor Jeff Osborn accepted the amendments to his motion and agreed by his seconder. He also sought an assurance that efforts would be doubled to reach a positive resolution on this matter.

Councillor Whitehead went on to thank the petitioners, and emphasised that their views should also be referred to the CCG and the RUH. He provided some background regarding the service and the meeting he had had with health partners. He emphasised his view that Wiltshire Council had no statutory duty to fund this service and that it should be funded by the Health Service.

Councillor Jane Scott stated that it was never the Council's intention to stop this service without a suitable replacement being in place and asked that the resolution be amended to include reference to referring the petition to the Health & Wellbeing Board to ensure that health partners, who attended that meeting, would be made aware of the issues raised.

Councillor Jon Hubbard acknowledged the efforts being made to address this issue of public concern and he welcomed the suggestion that the petition be presented to the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Councillor Ricky Rogers expressed his support for the growing consensus on this issue.

Councillor John Thomson, who had been the Lead Member when this issue was last debated at Council, stated that Health partners had been consulted but a resolution had not been possible at that time. He stated that he hoped that there would be more constructive dialogue now that a firmer decision by the Council had been proposed.

On being put to the vote, it was

Resolved

- 1. That Council notes public unease regarding this matter as evidenced by the numbers supporting the relevant petition.**
- 2. That Council urges the Administration to do everything possible to ensure this invaluable service continues and that members and the public are regularly updated on progress towards this**

objective.

3. That the petition be referred to the Health & Wellbeing Board.

41d) No. 21 - Reduction in the number of Councillors - Councillors Jeff Osborn and Terry Chivers

The Chairman reported receipt of the above mentioned motion from Councillors Jeff Osborn and Terry Chivers worded as follows:

“That Council recognises the need to economise in these hard times and should therefore instigate a process of reducing the number of members to 70.”

Whilst it appreciates that this cannot immediately happen, as division boundaries will need to be revised, it is important that the process starts now, to indicate to the public that we are serious in our commitment to save money.

The Chairman drew attention to a briefing note circulated to assist Council in its consideration of the motion.

In speaking to his motion, Councillor Jeff Osborn stated that the motion had been drafted in response to the public sentiment that the number of Councillors should be cut in response to decrease in the budget. This would have the effect of reducing the amount spent on members' allowances. However, having read the explanatory briefing note and understanding that the time required to address this was relatively long which would also involve boundary reviews, he stated that he would withdraw the motion.

Motion No. 21 withdrawn

42 Review of Allocation of Seats on Committees to Political Groups and Appointment of Committees

42a) Appointment of Committees and Review of Allocation of Seats on Committees to Political Groups

42b) Appointment of Councillors to Committees

42c) Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairman of Committees

43 Appointments to the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority and Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority

The Chairman referred Council to the various items on the agenda on appointments – numbered 11 (a), (b) and (c), and 12, reports on which were presented. He explained that unless anyone had any comments to make on the individual items, he intended to take them together. The Chairman noted that Group Leaders had been consulted on the principles of what was being proposed.

In relation to item 11 (a) – Appointment of Committees, the Chairman reminded Councillors on the Pewsey and Tidworth Area Committee that they had been convened to meet on the rising of this meeting in order to elect its chairman and vice-chairman and establish the Pewsey Area Board and Tidworth Area Board. It was noted that all Area Boards would be asked to elect their respective chairmen and vice-chairmen at their first meeting in accordance with the arrangements set out in the constitution.

The Leader moved a composite motion as circulated in respect of the appointments noting a correction in the member proposed as vice-chairman of Standards Committee being Councillor Jerry Wickham and this was duly seconded.

On being put to the vote, the Leader's motion was CARRIED and it was;

Resolved:

- (a) **To note this report and the legal requirements.**
- (b) **To re-appoint the following committees with the terms of reference as set out in the Constitution:-**
 - **Strategic Planning**
 - **Area Planning – East, North, South and West**
 - **Licensing**
 - **Standards**
 - **Overview and Scrutiny Management**
 - **Children's Select**
 - **Health Select**
 - **Environment Select**
 - **Audit**
 - **Appeals**
 - **Staffing Policy**
 - **Officer Appointments**
 - **Pension Fund**
 - **Local Pension Board (terms of reference agreed by last Council).**
 - **Police and Crime Panel**
 - **Health and Wellbeing Board**
- (c) **To appoint those Area Boards, constituted as area committees as set out in paragraphs 12 to 14 and Appendix 1**

of the report presented and within the Constitution, to comprise the Unitary Councillors for that area (updated to include newly elected members).

- (d) To approve the aggregate number of committee places available to members of the Council being 174 and the number on each committee as follows:-

(Appendix 3 – schedule of committee places)

Committee	Total Number of Places for Elected Members	Conservative Group Allocation (60 seats)	Liberal Democrat Group Allocation (21 seats)	Labour Group Allocation (4 seats)	Independent Group Allocation (12 seats)	UKIP (1 seat)
Strategic Planning	11	7	3	-	1	-
Area Planning Committees						
North	11	8	1	-	2	-
South	11	6	2	2	1	-
East	8	7	-	-	1	-
West	11	7	2	-	2	-
Licensing	12	8	2	-	2	-
Overview and Scrutiny Management	15	8	4	1	2	-
Children's Select	13	8	3	1	1	-
Environment Select	13	7	4	1	1	-
Health Select	13	7	3	1	2	-
Standards	11	7	3	-	1	-
Police and Crime Panel	7	4	2	-	1	-
Audit	11	6		-	1	1
Appeals	8	5	1	1	1	-
Staffing Policy	9	5	2	-	1	1
Officer	5	3	1	-	1	-

Appointments						
Pension Fund	5	4	1	-	-	-
TOTALS:	174	107	37	7	21	2

(e) To approve the nominations of Group Leaders, as set out in Appendix 2 for the appointment of councillors and substitutes to serve on committees in accordance with the agreed scheme of committee places until the next occasion membership is reviewed under the provisions of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989.

(f) To reappoint the following co-opted non-voting members to the Standards Committee:

Mr John Scragg
Miss Pam Turner
Mr Paul Neale
Mr Philip Gill MBE, JP

(g) To appoint the following non-elected members to the Children's Select Committee:-

<u>Non-Elected Voting Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mrs L Swainston	Church of England
Dr M Thompson	Clifton Diocese Roman Catholic Church
Vacancy	Parent Governor (Secondary- maintained)
Vacancy	Parent Governor (Secondary – academy)
Mrs A Kemp	Parent Governor (Special Educational Needs)
Mr K Brough	Parent Governor (Primary)
<u>Non-Elected Non-Voting Members</u> (Up to Five) Chloe Lintern (Member) Freya Pigott (Deputy)	School, Children and Young People representatives
Ms Cathy Shahrokni Ms Kim Hunte (Deputy)	Further Education Representative
Miss S Busby	Secondary Schools Headteacher Representative
Miss T Cornelius	Primary School Headteachers Representative
Mr J Hawkins	School Teacher Representative

(h) To appoint the following Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen:-

Committee	Chairman	Vice Chairman
Strategic Planning Committee	A Davis	A Trotman
Area Planning Committee – Eastern Connolly		C Howard M
Area Planning Committee – Northern Hutton		T Trotman P
Area Planning Committee – Southern Devine		F Westmoreland C
Area Planning Committee – Western Licensing Committee	P Ridout	C Newbury J Knight D Allen
Standards Committee	J Johnson	J Wickham
Audit Committee	A Deane	R Britton
Staffing Policy Committee	A Bucknell	J Smale
Officer Appointments Committee	J Scott	J Thomson
Pension Fund Committee	T Deane	C Howard
Health and Wellbeing Board	J Scott	delegated to the Board

(j) To note that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, the Select Committees, Area Boards and the Police and Crime Panel will be asked to elect their respective Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen at their first meeting following the annual meeting of council.

(k) To appoint the following councillors to serve on the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority for 2015/16

Conservative (6)	Liberal Democrat (2)	Independent (1)
C Devine G Payne M Groom C Newbury B Wayman J Knight	P Edge B Jones	E Clark

(l) **To appoint the following Councillors to serve on the Wiltshire and Dorset Fire Authority for 2015/16:**

Conservative (6)	Liberal Democrat (2)	Independent (1)	Labour (1)
C Devine G Payne M Groom C Newbury B Wayman J Knight	P Edge B Jones	E Clark	Rogers

Council had agreed at its last meeting to establish the Local Pension Board as required by the relevant Regulations. Councillor Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Finance, Performance, Risk, Systems Thinking, Procurement and Welfare Reform presented a report which asked Council to approve appointments to the Board, namely 3 scheme member representatives, a Group 3 employer representative and the Independent Chairman to the Local Pension Board (LPB) following the completion of a recruitment process.

Councillor Tonge stated that, currently, there were no persons nominated for Group 1 and Group 2 employer representatives and that these appointments would come back to Council for approval. He also highlighted minor changes made to the Board's terms of reference under delegated powers to include at paragraph 80 which should refer to expenses and not allowances and replacing reference to independent remuneration panel with administering authority.

Resolved

To approve the following appointments to the Local Pension Board:

1. As Scheme member representatives:

- **David Bowater – Active Member, Wiltshire Council**
- **Mike Pankiewicz – Active Member, Wiltshire Council & Unison**
- **Representative**
- **Barry Reed – Retired Member, Unison Representative**

2. As Employer representatives (Group 3):

- **Lynda Croft**

3. As Independent Chairman:

- **Howard Pearce**

45 Annual Reports

45a) Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 2014/15

Councillor Simon Killane, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee presented the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2014/15. Cllr Killane highlighted the work carried out during the year and particularly the work undertaken to positively challenge the work of Cabinet; how the Select Committee's workplan was prioritised to ensure consistency with the Council's Business Plan; the work to develop scrutiny arrangements for the SWLEP, the work to enhance budget scrutiny, allowing Members of the opposition to present for scrutiny their alternative proposals. Furthermore, Councillor Killane singled out the Financial Planning Task

Group for praise in their hard work.

Cllr Killane then gave the opportunity to the chairmen of the Select Committees to comment on relevant key activities during the year for their respective committees.

Children's Select Committee - Councillor Jon Hubbard commended the great team, and in particular the support from officers Henry Powell and Emma Dove. Highlights of the year included: the SEND task group led by a co-opted member; the setting up of a standing task group on Childhood Sexual Exploitation, with a focus on preventative work; and that a Schools Improvement task group was being established. Furthermore, he thanked the Vice-chair and Members of the committee and in particular thanked the co-opted members of the Committee for their hard work.

Health Select Committee – Councillor Christine Crisp stated that the Select Committee had had a busy year with the dramatic changes in the landscape of Health services, including some high profile working groups in Homecare and Mental Health. Furthermore, she expressed the desire that the Select Committee would continue to work productively with partners and the new Health & Wellbeing Board. She expressed her thanks to Vice Chair and the other members of the Committee for their hard work.

Environment Select Committee – Councillor Peter Edge expressed his thanks to the members of the Committee and the officers supporting the Committee. Highlights of the year included the Community Infrastructure Levy task group, the Waste task group, work on Investing in Highways, Flood plan and Car Parking Review. In the coming year the Committee would be looking at Community Transport, Neighbourhood Planning and Gypsy and Traveller issues.

Councillor Simon Killane, in summary, thanked the Chairs for their hard work and commended the report to the meeting.

Resolved:

To receive and note the Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny for 2014/15.

45b) Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel 2014/15

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Laura Mayes introduced this item. She explained that the role of the Corporate Parenting Panel was to secure Councillor involvement and commitment throughout the Council to deliver better outcomes for children and young people who were looked after. All Councillors were reminded of their responsibilities as a "corporate parent" for children and young people who were looked after in Wiltshire.

Councillor Alan Macrae, Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding presented and guided Council through the Annual Report on the Corporate Parenting Panel.

A presentation was made by Bethany Lewis, Jo Harris and Claire Ashton discussing their work as Children in Care Council members and their experiences.

Councillor Macrae expressed his warm thanks for the excellent presentation, thanked members for their generous donations of Christmas presents and encouraged their attendance at future Panel meetings. Furthermore, he thanked Lisa Pullin, Democratic Services Officer, for her hard work in supporting the Panel meetings and Karen Reid, Head of Service for Virtual Schools and the young people who had contributed so successfully to the meetings of the Panel.

The Chair added his thanks for the excellent presentation.

Councillor Jon Hubbard, as a member of the Panel, gave thanks to the officers who supported their work, encouraged Members to visit Aspire House and to attend future Panel meetings.

Resolved:

- (a) To receive and note the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel and ratify the improvements required to strengthen Corporate Parenting in Wiltshire.**
- (b) To Record the Council's thanks for the young people who presented, namely Bethany Lewis, Jo Harris and Claire Ashton.**

45c) Annual Report on Executive Decisions Taken Under Special Urgency Provision

Council received an annual report as required by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) Regulations 2012 concerning decisions taken by Cabinet under the Special Urgency procedure. The report related to the period since the last such report to Council in May 2014.

The Leader confirmed that two decisions had been taken by Cabinet using the Special Urgency procedure during this period. A report on the Porton Science Park and a Report on the Better Care Plan, details contained in the report. She confirmed that the relevant Regulations had been complied with and that this was a procedure only used in exceptional and urgent circumstances.

Resolved:

That Council notes the report presented and that two decisions had been taken under the special urgency provisions since the last report to Council.

46 Minutes of Cabinet and Committees

The Chairman moved that Council receive and note the following minutes as listed in the separate Minutes Book and this was duly seconded by the Vice-Chairman:

Cabinet - 15 March, 21 April 2015
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 3 March 2015
Children's Select Committee - 27 January, 14 April 2015
Environment Select Committee - 17 February, 14 April 2015
Health Select Committee - 10 March 2015
Strategic Planning Committee - 11 February, 11 March, 22 April 2015
Northern Area Planning Committee - 18 February, 11 March, 1 April 2015
Eastern Area Planning Committee - 19 February, 2 April 2015
Southern Area Planning Committee - 26 February, 19 March, 9 April 2015
Western Area Planning Committee - 25 February, 8 April, 29 April 2015
Audit Committee - 10 March 2015
Staffing Policy Committee - 4 March 2015
Joint Strategic Economic Committee (SWLEP) - 1 April 2015
Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board - 26 March 2015
Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee - 12 March 2015
Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel - 5 March 2015
Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority - 12 February 2015

The Chairman then invited questions from members on points of information or clarification on the above minutes and gave the Chairmen of those meetings the opportunity to make any important announcements on the work of their respective Committees.

Resolved:

That the above mentioned minutes be received and noted.

47 Dates of Council meetings 2015/16

On report by the Chairman, it was

Resolved:

To approve the Council meetings for the remainder of 2015/16 as follows:

2015
14 July

20 October

2016

2 February (if required)

23 February (budget meeting)

10 May (Annual Council)

48 Councillors' Questions

The Chairman reported receipt of questions from Councillors Terry Chivers, Jeff Osborn, Helen Osborn, Chris Caswill and Ernie Clark details of which were circulated in Agenda Supplement No. 1 together with responses where available from the relevant Cabinet member. Details of questions and written responses provided are attached as Appendix ? Verbal responses were also provided as indicated.

Questioners were permitted to each ask one relevant supplementary question per question submitted and where they did so, the relevant Cabinet member responded.

Question 4 – Councillor Chivers – Supplementary question – would provision be made for payments to be made by direct debit or standing orders?
Councillor Tonge explained that whilst this would not be available for the first payment, the Council was looking at direct debits for subsequent payments. No decision had yet been made, assessing all factors to ensure the process would be cost effective.

Councillor Helen Osborn – Questions 5-8 – Supplementary question – asked why the extra costs were not accounted for such as asbestos and other difficulties encountered and why were the contractors not there rather giving up half way through.

Councillor Thomson explained that the contractors had not given up half way through. The Council wanted to make changes to the contract and the quote from the contractor in place was too high in our opinion and alternative arrangements were made with another contractor.

Question 10 Councillor Chris Caswill – Supplementary question – whether Councillor Sturgis had read all the consultation responses received to the Draft Chippenham Site Allocation Plan

Councillor Toby Sturgis explained that he had not yet read all responses which were currently being itemised. In his opinion a large proportion of the responses suggesting the Plan was unsound was an orchestrated response.

Question 13 – Councillor Caswill - Supplementary question – asked when will Councillor Sturgis be able to provide written responses to these questions?
Councillor Sturgis explained that these were verbal responses.

Question 14 – Councillor Caswill – Supplementary question – original timetable provided for revised plans to come before this Council meeting so there is therefore a need for a revised timetable and when will this be made public? Councillor Sturgis explained that the revised timetable could not be made public until such time as we have considered the responses.

Question 17 – would you agree that this particular part of the Care Act was an example of a government delegating responsibility to local authorities without adequate evidence of the impact of such delegation? Councillor Humphries explained that prior to the pre-election campaign, there was a lot of lobbying with the government who was in the process of reviewing financial support to councils and we await the outcome of this.

Question 18 – wouldn't you accept that reports from the CQC stating that on occasions medicines not provided, residents on occasions not given adequate care plans? Councillor Humphries explained that every care plan produced by Mears has been reviewed, now have a fantastic system in place for dealing with medicines and it was working with pharmacies on a new regime which will be cascaded out to others who needs further support.

Question 21 – Councillor Caswill – Supplementary question - asked whether given the response if Councillor Whitehead was not in favour of councils providing litter bins?

Councillor Whitehead explained that the Council year after year provides more bins and year after year there is more litter. He provided pictorial evidence which highlighted that negating a little problem was down to education rather than providing additional litter bins.

Question 22 – Councillor Caswill – Supplementary question – asked if Councillor Whitehead would undertake to circulate details to town and parish councils?

Councillor Whitehead confirmed that as soon as the documentation was ready it would be so circulated.

Question 25 – Councillor Caswill – Supplementary question – asked when did Councillor Scott anticipate that the names of the preferred bidders will be available in the public domain?

Councillor Scott explained that this was not a process owned by the Council but a CCG process in which case, Councillor Caswill might like to contact the CCG.

Question 28 – Councillor Ernie Clark – Supplementary question – asked was it the intention of the Council that town and parish councils would be invited to fund minor repairs to play areas rather than simply remove broken equipment and if so, when would this approach commence?

Councillor Jonathon Seed explained that it was adopted this financial year. If any of the play areas need to be repaired with no funds available to do so, then the relevant town or parish council would be contacted with a cost estimate and asked for its decision.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – membership of Area Boards

Appendix 2 – membership of Committees

Appendix 3 - Councillors' questions

(Duration of meeting: 11.00-16.30)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Yamina Rhouati, of Democratic & Members' Services, direct line 01225 718024, e-mail

Yamina.Rhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

This page is intentionally left blank

Area Boards: Electoral Divisions**Amesbury Area Board****Electoral Divisions 6**

Amesbury East
 Amesbury West
 Till & Wylve Valley
 Durrington & Larkhill
 Bulford, Allington & Figheldean
 Bourne & Woodford Valley

Members

John Noeken
 Fred Westmoreland
 Ian West
 Graham Wright
 John Smale
 Mike Hewitt

Bradford on Avon Area Board**Electoral Divisions 4**

Holt & Staverton
 Winsley & Westwood
 Bradford on Avon North
 Bradford on Avon South

Members

Trevor Carbin
 Magnus Macdonald
 Rosemary Brown
 Ian Thorn

Calne Area Board**Electoral Divisions 5**

Calne Rural
 Calne North
 Calne Chilvester & Abberd
 Calne Central
 Calne South & Cherhill

Members

Christine Crisp
 Glenis Ansell
 Tony Trotman
 Howard Marshall
 Alan Hill

Chippenham Area Board**Electoral Divisions 10**

By Brook
 Chippenham Cepen Park & Derriads
 Chippenham Cepen Park & Redlands
 Chippenham Hardenhuish
 Chippenham Monkton
 Chippenham Queens and Sheldon
 Chippenham Hardens and England
 Chippenham Lowdon and Rowden
 Chippenham Pewsham
 Kington

Members

Jane Scott
 Peter Hutton
 Nina Phillips
 Nick Watts
 Chris Caswill
 Desna Allen
 Bill Douglas
 Linda Packard
 Mark Packard
 Howard Greenman

Corsham Area Board

Electoral Divisions 4

Box and Colerne
Corsham Pickwick
Corsham Without & Box Hill
Corsham Town

Members

Sheila Parker
Alan Macrae
Dick Tonge
Philip Whalley

Devizes Area Board

Electoral Divisions 7

Bromham, Rowde and Potterne
Devizes & Roundway South
Devizes East
Devizes North
Roundway
The Lavingtons & Erlestoke
Urchfont & The Cannings

Members

Liz Bryant
Simon Jacobs
Peter Evans
Sue Evans
Laura Mayes
Richard Gamble
Philip Whitehead

Malmesbury Area Board

Electoral Divisions 4

Brinkworth
Malmesbury
Minety
Sherston

Members

Toby Sturgis
Simon Killane
Chuck Berry
John Thomson

Marlborough Area Board

Electoral Divisions 4

Aldbourne & Ramsbury
Marlborough East
Marlborough West
West Selkley

Members

James Sheppard
Stewart Dobson
Nick Fogg
Jemima Milton

Melksham Area Board

Electoral Divisions 6

Melksham Central
Melksham North
Melksham South
Melksham Without North
Melksham Without South
Summerham and Seend

Members

David Pollitt
Pat Aves
Jon Hubbard
Terry Chivers
Roy While
Jonathon Seed

Pewsey and Tidworth Area Committee

Electoral Divisions 6

Pewsey Vale
Pewsey
Burbage & The Bedwyns
The Collingbournes & Netheravon
Ludgershall & Perham Down
Tidworth

Members

Paul Oatway
Jerry Kunkler
Stuart Wheeler
Charles Howard
Chris Williams
Mark Connolly

Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board

Electoral Divisions 6

Cricklade and Latton
Lyneham
Purton
Royal Wootton Bassett East
Royal Wootton Bassett North
Royal Wootton Bassett South

Members

Bob Jones
Allison Bucknell
Jacqui Lay
Mollie Groom
Mary Champion
Chris Hurst

Salisbury Area Board

Electoral Divisions 8

Salisbury Fisherton & Bemerton
Village
Salisbury Bemerton
Salisbury Harnham
Salisbury St Edmund & Milford
Salisbury St Francis & Stratford
Salisbury St Mark's & Bishopdown
Salisbury St Martin's & Cathedral
Salisbury St Paul's

Members

John Walsh

Ricky Rogers
Brian Dalton
Helena McKeown
Mary Douglas
Bill Moss
Ian Tomes
Richard Clewer

South West Wiltshire Area Board

Electoral Divisions 5

Fovant & Chalke Valley
Mere
Nadder & East Knoyle
Tisbury
Wilton & Lower Wylde Valley

Members

Jose Green
George Jeans
Bridget Wayman
Tony Deane
Peter Edge

Southern Wiltshire Area Board

Electoral Divisions 5

Alderbury & Whiteparish
Downton & Ebbles Valley
Laverstock, Ford and Old Sarum
Redlynch & Landford
Winterslow

Members

Richard Britton
Julian Johnson
Ian McLennan
Leo Randall
Christopher Devine

Trowbridge Area Board

Electoral Divisions 9

Hilperton
Southwick
Trowbridge Adcroft
Trowbridge Central
Trowbridge Drynam
Trowbridge Grove
Trowbridge Lambrok
Trowbridge Park
Trowbridge Paxcroft

Members

Ernie Clark
Horace Prickett
Nick Blakemore
John Knight
Graham Payne
Jeff Osborn
Helen Osborn
Dennis Drewett
Steve Oldrieve

Warminster Area Board

Electoral Divisions 5

Warminster Without
Warminster Broadway
Warminster Copheap and Wylde
Warminster East
Warminster West

Members

Fleur de Rhe- Philippe
Keith Humphries
Christopher Newbury
Andrew Davis
Pip Ridout

Westbury Area Board

Electoral Divisions 4

Ethandune
Westbury East
Westbury North
Westbury West

Members

Jerry Wickham
Gordon King
David Jenkins
Russell Hawker

**Appointment of Committee Members
Agreed by Annual Council 13 May 2014**

Strategic Planning Committee (11)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
A Davis	G Ansell	-	T. Chivers	-
S Dobson	D Jenkins			
C Howard	G Wright			
W Moss				
C Newbury				
A Trotman				
F Westmoreland				
Substitutes:				
J Shepherd	B Douglas		E Clark	
M Douglas	H Marshall		D Drewett	
P Oatway	N Watts		G Jeans	
J Wickham	I West			

Area Planning Committee – East (8)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (0)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
M Connolly	-	-	N Fogg	
S Dobson				
P Evans				
R Gamble				
J Kunkler				
P Oatway				
C Howard				
Substitutes:				
E Bryant			T Chivers	
J Sheppard			E Clark	
P Whitehead			D Drewett	
C Williams			J Osborn	

Area Planning Committee – North (11)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
C Crisp	H Marshall	-	S Killane	-
M Groom	C Hurst			
P Hutton	M Packard			
S Parker				
T Sturgis				
A Trotman				
P Whalley				
Substitutes:				
C Berry	D Allen		E Clark	
M Champion	G Ansell		T Chivers	
H Greenman	B Douglas		D Drewett	
J Lay	N Watts			

Area Planning Committee – South (11)

Conservative Group (6)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)	Labour Group (2)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
R Britton	B Dalton	I McLennan	G Jeans	-
R Clewer	I West	I Tomes		
C Devine				
J Green				
M Hewitt				
F Westmoreland				
Substitutes:				
A Deane	P Edge	J Walsh	T Chivers	
L Randall	H McKeown	R Rogers	E Clark	
J Smale	G Wright		D Drewett	
B Wayman	M Macdonald			

Area Planning Committee – West (11)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (2)	UKIP (0)
A Davis	T Carbin	-	E Clark	-
J Knight	M Macdonald		D Drewett	
C Newbury				
H Prickett				
P Ridout				
J Seed				
R While				
Substitutes:				
J Wickham	N Blakemore		T Chivers	
F de Rhé Philippe	R Brown		J Osborn	
K Humphries	S Oldrieve		R Hawker	
G Payne	G King			

Licensing Committee (12)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (2)	UKIP (0)
A Bucknell	D Allen	-	G Jeans	-
S Evans	N Blakemore		D Drewett	
J Green	N Watts			
M Hewitt				
S Jacobs				
L Randall				
P Ridout				
Substitutes:				
E Bryant	G Ansell		N Fogg	
A Davis	B Douglas		E Clark	
H Greenman	T Carbin		J Osborn	
W Moss	H Marshall			

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (15)

Conservative Group (8)	Liberal Democrat Group (4)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (2)	UKIP (0)
C Crisp	J Hubbard	J Walsh	J Osborn	-
S Dobson	G King		S Killane	
A Hill	M Packard			
J Lay	Ian Thorn			
P Ridout				
B Wayman				
P Whalley				
J Noeken				
Substitutes:				
M Douglas	G Ansell	R Rogers		
H Greenman	T Carbin		G Jeans	
P Oatway	D Jenkins		H Osborn	
C Berry	N Watts		E Clark	

Children's Select Committee (13)

Conservative Group (8)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
M Champion	P Aves	R Rogers	H Osborn	-
M Douglas	J Hubbard			
S Evans	C Hurst			
J Lay				
S Jacobs				
W Moss				
C Crisp				
P Whalley				
Substitutes:				
C Berry	T Carbin	J Walsh	T Chivers	
J Shepherd	P Edge		D Drewett	
A Davis	I Thorn		J Osborn	
S Dobson	H Mckeown			

Environment Select Committee (13)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (4)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
P Evans	L Packard	I McLennan	D Drewett	
J Green	B Dalton			
M Groom	P Edge			
J Lay	M Macdonald			
C Newbury				
J Sheppard				
B Wayman				
Substitutes:				
A Deane	B Jones	I Tomes	T Chivers	
M Hewitt	T Carbin	R Rogers	N Fogg	
E Bryant	R Brown		G Jeans	
P Whalley	I West		J Osborn	

Health Select Committee (13)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (2)	UKIP (0)
M Champion	B Jones		J Osborn	
C Crisp	G King	J Walsh	C Caswill	
M Douglas	H Mckeown			
J Noeken				
J Knight				
N Philips				
P Ridout				
Substitutes:				
C Berry	T Carbin	I McLennan	D Drewett	
S Evans	D Jenkins	R Rogers		
J Johnson	N Watts		H Osborn	
P Evans	P Aves		T Chivers	

Standards Committee (11)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
A Bucknell	D Allen		T Chivers	
H Greenman	T Carbin			
J Johnson	R Brown			
J Noeken				
P Oatway				
H Prickett				
S Parker				
Substitutes:				
M Douglas	G Ansell		E Clark	
J Wickham	M Macdonald		D Drewett	
P Ridout	H Marshall			
J Smale	B Jones		G Jeans	

Police and Crime Panel (7)

Conservative Group (4)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
R Britton	G Ansell	-		
C Howard	T Carbin		C Caswill	
P Hutton				
J Johnson				
Substitutes:	B Dalton		E Clark	
C Berry	L Packard			
S Evans	I Thorn		N Fogg	
T Trotman	H McKeown		J Osborn	

Audit Committee (11)

Conservative Group (6)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (1)
R Britton	R Brown	-	H Osborn	D Pollitt
A Deane	S Oldrieve			
S Dobson	L Packard			
J Johnson				
S Parker				
J Sheppard				
Substitutes:				
P Evans	H McKeown		T Chivers	
M Hewitt	I West		N Fogg	
J Lay	M Packard		G Jeans	
J Noeken	D Jenkins		J Osborn	

Appeals Committee (8)

Conservative Group (5)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (0)	UKIP (0)
C Berry	H Marshall	I Tomes	-	-
A Bucknell	B Douglas			
A Davis				
A Deane				
S Parker				
Substitutes:				
M Hewitt	P Aves			
J Knight	P Edge			
P Oatway	G Wright			
F Westmoreland	D Allen			

Staffing Policy Committee (9)

Conservative Group (5)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (0)	UKIP (1)
A Bucknell	B Jones	-	-	D. Pollitt
M Hewitt	D Jenkins			
J Scott	G Wright			
J Smale				
S Wheeler				
Substitutes:				
F de Rhé Philipe	D Allen			
P Evans	M Packard			
W Moss	N Blakemore			
A Trotman	S Oldrieve			

Officer Appointments Committee (5)

Conservative Group (3)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
F de Rhe Philipe	J Hubbard	-	N Fogg	-
J Scott				
J Thomson				
Substitutes:				
K Humphries	P Edge		T Chivers	
L Mayes	B Jones		D Drewett	
J Seed	G King		G Jeans	
S Wheeler	H McKeown		J Osborn	

Pension Fund Committee (5)

Conservative Group (4)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (0)	UKIP (0)
A Deane	M Packard	-	-	-
C Howard				
S Parker				
R While				
Substitutes:				
F de Rhe Philippe	C Hurst			
C Newbury	I Thorn			
P Whitehead	B Jones			
	G King			

This page is intentionally left blank

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 May 2015

Item 17 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without South Division

**To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning,
Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property and Waste**

Question 1

Residents a of Wiltshire who have signed up for the green waste collection tax. Have been issued with a sticker to place on their bin to identify they have paid the green tax. If a bin has been stolen, or damaged by the Councils contractor will there be a £25 charge for a replacement bin.

Response

Verbal Response: The £25 delivery charge will apply to residents who ask the council to retrieve their garden waste bin, but who then decide to opt-in to the new chargeable collection scheme within a year. Bins that are lost or damaged would not be subject to a delivery fee. From 15 June 2015 only garden waste bins with a council-issued label will be emptied.

Question 2

Question withdrawn by member

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 May 2015

Item 17 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without South Division

To Councillor Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet Member for Hubs, Heritage & Arts, Governance (including information management), Support Services (HR, Legal, ICT, Business Services, Democratic Services)

Question 3

How many local Parish and town Councils have been forced to increase council tax to provide services that should be provided by Wiltshire council?

Response

Verbal Response: I take the word 'should' to be determinative - in other words they are services the council *has* to provide under its statutory duty, and the answer is no parish or town council is required to raise funds to pay for any activities that the council has to provide.

If you extend that to say activities that a local council might think the council *ought* to provide, which could be many and varied, then it's up to that parish or town council to increase their precept accordingly in order to provide services that their residents want.

But the short answer to your question is none.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 May 2015

Item 17 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without South Division

To Councillor Richard Tonge, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Risk

Question 4

As from April 1st all residents of Wiltshire are being charged £40 in the form of a green bin tax. Payment can be made by credit or debit card, by cheque or by phone.

What arrangements are being made for residents without bank accounts that wish to pay by cash.

Response

At 6th May 30676 payments had been made of which 105 were cash. Cash payments can be made at the three hubs and Snuff Street in Devizes. Like all payments to the council we promote methods that are the most cost effective and secure for the customer and the council.

Item 17 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Helen Osborn, Trowbridge Lambrok Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards and Broadband

Question 5

May the Council please be informed of the extent of the current overspend on the Corsham campus and the reasons for this?

Response

Verbal Response: Springfield Community Campus in Corsham is nearing completion. The first phase opened last August, providing a new and expanded library, café, climbing wall, exhibition space and a variety of multi-purpose community rooms for hire. The final phase includes a complete refurbishment of the former leisure centre including swimming pool, wet changing rooms, a new health suite, extended fitness suite and a spin studio. The refurbishment incurred an additional cost due to the need to replace the plumbing and electrics, as well as moving asbestos. The sports hall, two squash courts and the movement studio also required unexpected refurbishment following flooding last December.

These factors combined and a change in contractor led to an increase cost of around £3.4million, which will be met from the Campus budget.

Question 6

What is the estimated completion date for the Melksham campus and is it likely to come in on budget?

Response

Verbal Response: Work to delivery new football and rugby pitches and facilities at Woolmore farm in Melksham will commence in the next few weeks. New facilities will be the first phase of the new Campus and will see new clubs playing from the new venue for the 2016/17 season.

Clearance of protected newts on the site has meant a delay in the building programme and this means both clubs will contain to play at their existing premises for the 2015/16 season.

Woolmore farm is a significant investment of around £6million; the Campus site at Melksham House will commence following relocation of the clubs in May 2016. The Area Board is working with the COB [and] will review the design plans to ensure they are within the approved budget. This works commences in the next few weeks to consider revisions and external funding contributions.

The campus is scheduled to open early 2018. We've actually also invested £21,000 to enable the football and rugby clubs to continue the use of their facilities, as there was some work which had been delayed because they were expected to move. We felt it was only fair to do that work for them.

Question 7

Is the NHS still committed to involvement with the campus programme?

Response

Verbal Response: The NHS is committed to being part of the campus programmes and we're in negotiations with them on various campuses on the space and involvement they wish to pursue.

Question 8

What is the capital borrowing requirement for completion of the first seven campuses?

Response

Verbal Response: *It is estimated to be in the region of £50m as was set out in previous reports to members.*

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 May 2015

Item 17 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without South Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards and Broadband

Question 9

Wiltshire Council has known about the presence of newts on the new site for Melksham Town FC and Melksham Ruby for some time.

Why was it left so late before these two clubs were told that they would be remaining at their present grounds for another season?

Is it really the newts holding the move up or just a red herring as suggested in the Editorial of The Wiltshire Times?

http://www.wiltshiretimes.co.uk/news/12882708.Newts_delay_Melksham_developments_by_a_year/

Response

Verbal Response:

Wiltshire Council has known about the presence of newts on the new site for Melksham Town Football and Melksham Town Rugby for some time, and your question was 'Why was it left so late before these two clubs were told?'

The site was identified for the proposed rugby and football club at Woolmore farm as previously dedicated under licence by Natural England as a habitat mitigation in conjunction with the development at Melksham Oak Community School. As such Wiltshire Council has always been aware of the presence of reptiles on this site, and the necessity to secure further licence from Natural England to disturb] the inhabitants of great crested newts.

It should be noted that great crested newts are afforded full protection under the wildlife and countryside protection act 1981, as amended [by the] The conservation of habitats and species regulation (2010).

It is illegal to capture, injure or kill any wild animal protected under this legislation. It is also illegal to damage or destroy any aspect of their habitat without licensed consent from Natural England. Failure to comply with the requirement of this legislation can result in a custodial sentence up to 6 months.

The project team worked with their appointed specialist and Natural England to demonstrate an effective level of migration associated with the development . Also to secure sufficient habitat areas and connectivity between breeding ponds across the site. In order to make the licence acceptable to Natural England it was first necessary to secure the planning permission for the site. Planning was finally received on 16 July 2014, later than anticipated due to the sensitive nature of the site and necessary highway information.

On receipt of planning permission the licence application was made to Natural England, including a detailed reason statement to justify the council's case for further distributing protected species on this site. The licence from Natural England was received on the 28th October 2014 approximately 6 weeks later than their original target date, processing the application and listing the licence.

The licence requires an area in question be suitable fenced to enable the effective trapping and removal of the protected species outside of the development area. The licence also states the trapping period must take place over a minimum of 30 days, and the area can only be deemed clear following a period of 5 consecutive days where no reptiles are identified in the traps.

Also, most importantly, the licence precludes any trapping taking place where any night time temperatures fall below 5 degrees. On receipt of the licence and preparations of the reptile fencing it became apparent temperatures had fallen below the required level. As such the operation was postponed pending increased temperatures.

The trapping process has now commenced and it is anticipated that the work will commence on site shortly . Work to deliver the new football and rugby pitches and facilities at Woolmore farm in Melksham will commence in the next few weeks. New facilities [will be]for the first phase of the new campus, and will see the clubs playing from the new venue for the 2016-17 season.

The clearance of protected newts on the site has meant a delay in the build programme and this means that both clubs will continue to play at their existing premises for the 2015-16 season.

Woolmore farm is a significant investment of around £6million. The campus site at Melksham House will commence following the relocation of the clubs in 2016. The Area Board is working with the COB and review the design plans to ensure they are within the approved budget. This work will commence in the next few weeks to consider revisions and external funding contributions and the campus is scheduled to open early 2018.

Item 17 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

**To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning,
Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property and Waste**

Question 10

How many responses were received to the Draft Chippenham Site Allocation Plan? What number and percentage of the total said that they found the Plan to be unsound?

Response

Verbal Response: We have received 570 representations from 332 contributors of whom 270 contributors stated that they thought the draft Chippenham Site Allocations Plan unsound.

Question 11

When will all the public responses to the Draft Chippenham Site Allocation Plan be loaded onto the Council web site? As of 5th May, nearly one month after consultation closed, no responses from the CAUSE 2015 residents group have appeared there, when will they be available?

Response

Verbal Response: All of the responses are now available on the Council's consultation portal, including the representations from CAUSE 2015.

Question 12

How many hectares of land does Wiltshire Council own in each of the Areas C, D and E respectively of the Draft Chippenham Site Allocation Plan?

Response

Verbal Response: Wiltshire Council owns 77 hectares in Area C, 194 hectares in Area D, and 2.8 hectares in Area E.

Question 13

The official 2011-2016 Wiltshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2, Appendix 1 Chippenham Community Area, includes a southern link road and costs for the river crossing. Why is this now being airbrushed out of the Council's plans?

Response

Verbal Response: Proposals for development south west of Chippenham contained within the draft Chippenham Site Allocations Plan (proposal CH1) include the requirement that the "Design and layout of development must not prohibit a potential future road connection to land to the east", so not prejudicing the scope for a southern link road in future development plans for the town that look beyond 2026. A southern link road is not being 'airbrushed' out of Council plans. However, it is not needed in the period to 2026.

Question 14

What is the revised timetable for the preparation of the Chippenham DPD? Does this now include reconsideration by the Cabinet?

Response

Verbal Response: Officers are currently considering all comments received to determine whether issues of soundness have been raised requiring further consideration by Cabinet, as set out in the resolution of Cabinet on 10 February 2015. If issues of soundness requiring further consideration by Cabinet have been raised, then this will be put on the Forward Work Plan.

Item 17 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Protection Services, Adult Care and Housing (exc strategic housing)

Question 15

How much additional funding has been provided to the Council by Central Government to assist with the implementation of the Care Act 2014, which came into effect on April 1st?

Response

The Council will receive £2.7m of direct grant, plus £2.5m from the Better Care Fund.

Question 16

At 2015 prices, what do you estimate the additional annual cost to the Council of implementing the Care Act will be, after any Government additional funding has been taken into account?

Response

The most recent national model used to gauge the impact of the Care Act on the council suggests a total financial impact for carers and support of £5 million. Assessment accounts for £0.5m and support £4.5m. The details are in a paper presented to cabinet on 20th January 2015.

Question 17

How many additional assessments for carers do you expect the Council will need to carry out in Wiltshire? Are the staff in post to do this work?

Response

This is a very difficult question to answer. The Census tells us there are 48,000 carers in Wiltshire. Carers Support Wiltshire, who do all the work for us on our behalf, have identified only 8,000 carers registered with them.

Of the others there'll be lots of people who don't want to be identified as carers for one reason or another and haven't come forward.

What we can say is that last year we carried out assessments on 1200 carers and our modelling is based on 100% increase in that to 2400. But the truth is, in reality, we have no way of knowing how many of those extra 40000 people are going to come forward.

as the Care Act came into force and that hasn't happened. So whether they'll be another one later when the winter period comes on we just don't know.

But we are monitoring the situation as carefully as we possibly can, and if we need extra staff, we will work with Clearance Support Wiltshire to take them on and I also refer you to the Cabinet report in January 2015 in which we spelt out our new model of support for Carers - a new model of assessment and support - which will reduce the number of assessments we actually need to do.

When questioned at the last Council, meeting about the Help to Live at Home Service, your response included the statement that *"At the moment things are going well, and we need to keep them that way."* Since then the Care Quality Commission has found that a second of the four Council HTLH providers, MiHomeCare, is now falling seriously short of the required standards. They 'require improvement' in three out of five inspection categories and are found to be Inadequate in terms of safety. The report states bluntly "The service is not safe." More than one breach of the Health and Social Care Act Regulations is recorded.

At the same time, the CQC web site continues to rate the Mears HTLH service as 'Requires Improvement'. This comes after three inspections in less than a year and (we are told) many hours of work by Council officers to help improve the service. The latest inspection was announced to Mears in advance and does thankfully report some improvements, as one would expect after the amount of attention that has been given over the last 11 months. However the service still 'requires improvement' in four out of five inspection categories and the situation is far less satisfactory than suggested in your upbeat response at the February Council meeting. For example, the CQC found in December that "whilst improvements had been made to the (Mears) service, the administration of people's medicines was not safe".

Question 18

I appreciate that Cabinet administrations, relying on their political majorities, often find it awkward to admit to getting things wrong. But isn't it time in this case to say sorry to those vulnerable Wiltshire people who have relied on the Council's contractors, but have been let down by them, and even sometimes been put at risk?

Response

The CQC report on Mears was published on February 27th 2015 and refers to an inspection that took place in December 2014 at the time restrictions on the company were lifted. The problem is that assessment will stay on the CQC website saying Mears are in need of improvement even though all those improvements have been put in place, and it will stay there until the next CQC inspection which could be 12-18 months time. I think that's grossly unfair, there's a lot of lobbying - not just from us - from across the country to have that system changed but that's the way it is. It does not mean that Mears, at the moment, are in need of improvement.

I'm sorry you think our contractors have let people down but I would like to point out that our customers don't think that is the case.

A recent survey of customers supported at home has shown that the proportion who say that our services have made them feel safe and secure has risen over three years from 83% to 88%.

In addition the official statistics - in the 6 months up to March 2015 our Help to Live at Home (HTLAH) providers carried out 300,000 visits across all four HTLAH providers to customers. The total number of complaints across all the companies concerning standards in care, late visits and missed calls amounted to just 54 which is about 0.18%.

H2LAH is a complex and innovative service. It involves over 600 staff and several thousand customers with 600,000 visits made annually. Everybody in the system strives to give the best service possible but as in any complex human system situations arise and occasionally things dip.

It is important we learn from such events – safeguarding is paramount. It's something we all care about in our world of adult care, and when we need to, we work to support our providers, to get things back on track as quickly as we can.

Nobody who works with adult care is complacent. We work with the CQC. We have a quality assurance inspection routine in place and are looking to enhance this by working with Health Watch to design an even more robust system.

Therefore, although we have had problems to overcome, and I don't doubt there will be other problems in the future, overall I stand by what I said before, this is a complex system and generally it is working well and we will strive to keep it like that.

Question 19

The whole Better Care Strategy and the widely shared ambition to keep people out of hospital depends on good quality care at home. Isn't it time also to recognise that the commissioning of private, for-profit HLTH services in Wiltshire has not adequately met the needs of Wiltshire residents, and to put in place some urgent actions that build on that recognition?

Response

Nationally over 40% of care providers are requiring improvement under CQC inspections and they are a mixture of charities, not for profit and private companies. Of the 4 HTLAH providers, one is a charity, one is a not for profit company and two are "for profit". Nationally there are some well-known national charities and non-profit organisations which have fallen foul of new CQC inspection regime.

During the next 12 months the Council will begin the process to consider a strategy for the re commissioning of the HTLAH / outcome focused commissioned contracts as they become due.

We will be working with all aspects of the Council including Scrutiny, its customers and partners to determine the most appropriate commissioning strategy and will take into account all the learning gathered in the first years of operation.

Question 20

And should there not be a plan B, for example changing contractors, or considering bringing these services back into the public sector?

Response

As part of Q19

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 May 2015

Item 17 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Question 21

Will you make clear your reasons for refusing to replace any damaged or destroyed litter bins throughout the County? When will you be reviewing this antisocial policy?

Response

It must be noted that it is not the lack of a litter bin that is antisocial but the dropping of litter.

It is vital that dropping litter is not given an excuse. There can never be a reason for dropping litter, it is vital the message is given that litter must be disposed of in the correct manner.

If a litter bin is not available take the waste home and put it in your bin.

Whilst the council has a statutory duty to collect litter, it also has a moral duty to avoid unnecessary costs. Collecting litter is one such avoidable cost.

Town and parish councils can provide litter bins and empty them if it is a local priority on their land or Wiltshire Council's land at an appropriate location.

Town and parish councils can relocate the council's current litter bins if they feel this will help address a litter issue and the location is appropriate.

Certain businesses can be requested to remove their litter or their customers litter from up to 100m from their shop frontage. Many businesses provide litter bins themselves to control this litter. For example many local village shops.

A number of organisations provide sponsorship for the direct provision of litter bins, for example McDonalds.

The council is endeavouring to highlight to everyone that collecting litter is an easily avoidable cost. By a small number of irresponsible people not dropping litter the council would save considerable sums. It must be recognised that the vast majority of people are responsible and dispose of their waste correctly. Regrettably it is the

council's experience that it still has to litter pick areas even though there are litter bins present.

When looking at service prioritises the council must undertake the service which meets the demand. Litter is dropped in the town centres even though there are numerous bins, or dropped on the rural highways even though there are litter bins in lay byes.

The council when prioritising its services must fund reactive litter picking, which is proven to remove litter, over litter bins which it has experience of not preventing litter deposits. Education and enforcement are also important and this work must also be continued. However, the council will be pleased to support local communities who may wish to provide litter bins themselves, or undertake community litter picking initiatives or relocate existing litter bins.

Item 17 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards and Broadband

A policy has been imposed on Area Boards which requires any issue or proposal coming to a Community Area Transport Group (CATG) to have the support of the relevant Town or Parish Council. It does not allow a CATG to proceed with any solution without that support. This effectively gives Town and Parish Councils a veto, even if the elected Wiltshire Councillor supports action being taken.

Question 22

Given that Wiltshire Councillors are encouraged to be 'community leaders', would you not agree that this policy diminishes the role of all Wiltshire Councillors in the areas they represent?

Response

Verbal Response: It does depend to some extent on the nature of the project. If it is a straight forward project we're actually in the process of producing a pricing list and a set of documentation for parish councils and town councils.

What we want to happen is that Ideas are passed to parish and town councils much much earlier to get their approval because that actually wastes less of our officer time. Because if our officers spend time on producing plans and they do not get through the parish council that is costing us a huge amount of money and slows down other projects going forward.

So we are producing this to go through. If it is a more complicated project then it may well be that we do an initial summary of it, it goes to the parish and town council. If we then have to do more work, they may want to revisit it at some stage but that will only be on complicated systems. So the parish or town council will have access to the requisite amount of expert support.

Question 23

CATGs benefit from the professional high quality advice of Council officers when they make their decisions. What steps will you take to make sure that advice is available to Town and parish Councils when they consider whether they are going to support or veto proposals put forward by members of the local public?

Response

Draft Verbal Response: All CATG proposals are forwarded to the local town or parish council for consideration, together with a request for financial support. Highways officers are only requested to investigate and report on a proposal where there is support from the town or parish council.

Question 24

Given these difficulties, will you consider revising the Area Board CATG Terms of Reference so that they only require Town and Parish Councils to give an opinion, without the power of veto?

Response

Verbal Response: *No*

Item 17 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council

According to the papers of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 25 March, the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group is now engaged in re-commissioning 'Adult Community Services' for Wiltshire residents. This rather dry term doesn't fully convey the large range of what is involved, which is the provision of (to quote the HWB paper):

Community Beds (inc Step up), Community Geriatrician/Frail Elderly Service,

Stroke Therapies Neurology Stroke, Speech and Language Therapy (SALT),

MIU, Continence, CTPLD, Hearing Therapies, Tissue Viability Lymphedema,

Diabetes, Dietetics, Podiatry, Community Outpatient Musculoskeletal (MSK)

Physiotherapy & Extended Scope Physiotherapy (ESP), Orthotics, Wheelchairs, Cardiac (PACE) & Respiratory Services (COPD), Core Community Teams (inc Care Co-ordinators) Outpatient Department services, and Fracture Clinic

Question 25

In the HWB papers it was reported that four organisations had been chosen to go forward to the next stage in the selection process, but these four were not named. As Chair of the HWB, you presumably know who these four are. Will you take this opportunity to make their names public?

Response

Wiltshire CCG is leading the re-commissioning process for adult community services. As part of this, the CCG invited the four organisations that have been chosen to go forward to the next stage in the selection process to make their names public. However, not all have chosen to do so, which means these cannot yet be announced publicly in this part of the procurement process.

Question 26

What part is Wiltshire Council playing in this commissioning process?

Response

As per the paper which went to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Wiltshire Council has been invited to nominate two representatives to the procurement panel.

Question 27

The HWB paper referred to in the previous question states that the aim is “to secure the most advantageous (Adult Community) services for the people of Wiltshire”. In your view, as Leader of this Council, could the award of this service contract to a private sector for-profit company be advantageous for the people of Wiltshire?

Response

Wiltshire Council will be placing an emphasis on ensuring that, whichever organisation is selected, there will be close working between adult community services, social care teams, GP practices and the acute hospitals. This is crucial for delivering the vision of care outlined in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Better Care Plan – with care at or closer to home and local services clustered around GP surgeries. The final decision on which organisation is best placed to deliver this rests with the CCG, however Wiltshire Council will do all it can and will work with partner organisations to ensure high quality services, free at the point of delivery, are made available to Wiltshire residents - with a strong emphasis on sustained investment in integration of services.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 May 2015

Item 17 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Ernie Clark, Hilperton Division

To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Question 28

I am advised that this council no longer has enough money to replace broken equipment in the play areas it is responsible for. Is this true? If it is, how does this equate with the WC wish to get our children fitter?

Response

A considerable number of play areas across the county are provided and funded by the town and parish councils. To ensure a harmonised policy across the county, with all town and parish councils being treated the same, the council continues to seek to asset transfer these facilities to the local community. The council has a budget of circa £145k for the inspection and maintenance of its 184 facilities. The council's priority is to fund the inspection of these facilities to ensure they are safe. When major repairs are required the relevant town or parish council will be contacted to confirm if they wish to fund the repair or take on the facility. If this is not an option the council will prioritise its funding to ensure the safety of the facility.