

# **MINUTES**

Meeting: DEVIZES AREA BOARD

Place: Devizes Community Hub and Library, 25 Sheep Street, Devizes, SN10

1DJ

**Date:** 18 March 2019

**Start Time:** 6.30 pm **Finish Time:** 8.40 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Tara Shannon (Democratic Services Officer), on 01225 718352 or tara.shannon@wiltshire.gov.uk

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## In Attendance:

#### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Anna Cuthbert, Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Simon Jacobs (Chairman), Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Philip Whitehead (Vice-Chairman).

Cllr Richard Clewer was also in attendance.

# **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Andrew Jack (Community Engagement Officer) and Tara Shannon (Democratic Services Officer)

### **Town and Parish Councillors**

Devizes Town Council.
Potterne
Rowde
West Lavington

#### **Partners**

Wiltishire Police Office of the PCC

Total in attendance: 45

Agenda Item No.	Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision
15	Welcome
	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited the Councillors present to introduce themselves.
16	Apologies for Absence
	Apologies for absence were received from:
	<ul> <li>Station Manager Andy Green, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service, and</li> <li>Phil Bevans, Headteacher, Devizes School.</li> </ul>
17	<u>Minutes</u>
	Resolved:
	To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2019.
18	Declarations of Interest
	Cllr Sue Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 15, specifically the grant application from the Devizes & District Association for the Disabled for the Nursteed Community Centre, as Cllr Evans was on the Outside Body for this organisation. Although the interest was non-pecuniary, Cllr Evans stated that she would not take part in the vote on that item.
	Cllr Simon Jacobs also declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 15, specifically the grant application from Devizes Eisteddfod, as he was involved with the group. Although the interest was non-pecuniary, Cllr Jacobs stated that he would not take part in the vote on that item.
19	Chairman's Announcements
	The Chairman made the following announcements:
	Children's Centre Consultation The Chairman announced that there was a consultation underway on new proposals to build on a successful community model for children's centre services. The consultation was available at <a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-consultations">http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-consultations</a> and would run until 20 March 2019, with a report due to go to cabinet later in the spring.

The Chairman invited Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills to give an update on this. Cllr Mayes stated that the model had been changed in 2016 in response to the fact that many children's centres were not very well used. Therefore, the decision was made to take provision out into communities to where the parents were. For example, to parent and toddler groups or community centres. This had been very successful. The consultation was looking at closing 6 more children's centres and taking the work out into the community. The most well used children's centres would not be closed. The proposal would save money but was also more effective, reaching the most vulnerable. The meeting was urged to look at the consultation details online and comment.

#### **Electoral Review Consultation**

The Chairman announced that the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England were now available to be viewed online via their website at:

http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/southwest/wiltshire/wiltshire-unitary-

<u>authority-ua</u> and a consultation had been launched to receive comments. The consultation was open until 15 April 2019 and would be the final opportunity for parties to comment on the proposals.

The Chairman invited Cllr Richard Clewer, Cabinet Member for Housing, Corporate Services, Arts, Heritage and Tourism, who was present at the meeting to comment. Cllr Clewer stated that there were few changes to the outlying regions of the Devizes area however, there were some changes to central Devizes boundaries. Cllr Clewer encouraged the meeting to look at the map of the proposed changes online.

### 20 Partner Updates

Written updates were available in the agenda pack or supplements from Wiltshire Police, The Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service, Healthwatch Wiltshire and the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

In addition to the written updates, the following verbal updates were given by partners present:

#### Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Although not on the agenda, the Chairman invited the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Jerry Herbert, to address the meeting. This was the first time that the Deputy PCC had attended the Devizes Area Board and he was very pleased to do so. Mr Herbert had been working as the Deputy PCC since 1 August 2018 and worked in the role for 2 days a week. The PCC, Angus Macpherson, wanted there to be more community engagement, therefore Mr Herbert was undertaking this as part of his role and was aiming to attend each of the 18 different Area Boards approximately twice a year. Mr Herbert was previously in the army and had worked for a major engineering company. He now

undertook consulting work when not working as the Deputy PCC.

Knife crime had been in the news a lot recently and was considered a big problem. Thankfully, in Wiltshire it was not such a problem. Wiltshire being one of only four counties in the UK where knife crime had gone down last year. Wiltshire Police were engaged in Operation Spectre, whose aim was to get knifes off the streets.

Regarding funding, Mr Herbert stated that 60% of funding came from central government and 40% came from local taxation via the Police Precept of people's Council Tax. Following a recent consultation, the Wiltshire Police precept would be going up. Wiltshire was the fourth lowest funded police force in the UK per head of population and faced unique challenges due to the geography of the county with a large area and a mix of rural and town populations. The rise in the precept would fund an extra 41 police officers next year. There would also be a focus on fraud and child sexual exploitation. Mr Herbert invited the meeting to let him know of any issues which he would try to address.

Cllr Anna Cuthbert stated that the PCC had been lobbying for funding and asked whether he had, had any success. The Deputy PCC stated that he had met with the funding commissioner in November. The funding formula was to be revised as part of a current spending review. However, the spending review had been delayed due to Brexit. It was probable that the review would happen in the summer and the OPCC would be able to update on this later in the year.

#### Wiltshire Police

Following on from the Deputy PCC, Acting Inspector Pete Foster stated that funding for the police was a national issue. Updating on local crime, it was stated that burglaries in the Devizes area remained low in number. A person had been caught who was praying on elderly women, stealing their purses. They had been arrested and would be going to court in April. A male had been arrested for exposing himself in charity shops. One drug dealer had been arrested for selling class A drugs. There had been several arrests for drink and/or drug driving, as well as others for having no MOT or insurance. They were also working with the prison to reduce contraband.

A member of the audience asked whether the police or anyone at the meeting had noticed that there had been an increase in rough sleepers in Devizes recently. The police stated that they were unaware of that, although there was one male known to be rough sleeping who was being engaged by multiple services. Another member of the audience worked for Devizes Open Doors, which was an outreach service that amongst other things helped rough sleepers. Due to funding cuts they had lost one of their outreach workers and Wiltshire Council was urged to reinstate the funding.

In response to a question regarding whether the police could help to remove videos on social media platforms that showed people how to make knives and covert blades, it was stated that it was the platform providers responsibility to remove this type of content.

A member of the audience from Stanford Court thanked the police for

their work in reducing anti-social behaviour in and around their car park. The situation had got much better thanks to the intervention, however it was now getting worse again. Acting Inspector Foster stated that he would feed this back to his team.

## 21 <u>Devizes Car Parking and Market Place</u>

## **Devizes Market Place Parking Petition**

The Chairman introduced the item, informing the meeting that an e-petition had been received which met the threshold for a debate at the Area Board in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.

At the invitation of the Chairman the petition organiser, Mr Pawlak, presented the petition which had received over 717 signatures, and which requested the council to renegotiate the transfer of responsibility to Devizes Town Council for the management of Devizes Market Place and allow the town council to keep the car parking facilities there for the benefit of townspeople, visitors and local businesses.

A decision had been taken by Cabinet on 15 January 2019 that as part of the Service Devolution & Asset Transfer Package to Devizes the car parking in the Market Place would be removed.

In presenting his petition Mr Pawlak explained that the petition had come about after the announcement on 19 January 2019 which stated that car parking in the Market Place was being removed. Mr Pawlak felt that many people were very concerned about this and thought that the removal of parking from the Market Place would be detrimental to the town. They also felt that they should have been involved in meaningful discussions with Wiltshire Council and Devizes Town Council regarding the future use of the Market Place. The petition ran from 22 January 2019 until 21 February 2019 and achieved 717 signatures online. Mr Pawlak stated that several hundred more people had signed physical petition sheets. Although these had not been submitted to the Board, it was stated that the combined figure of about 1,000 signatories showed the strength of feeling regarding the issue.

The Chairman thanked Mr Pawlak for his petition and his contribution to the meeting. The Chair announced that Devizes Town Council would give an update on the proposals for the Market Place and then the meeting could debate the issue. It was;

#### Resolved:

To note the petition.

### **Devizes Car Parking and Market Place**

The Chairman invited Cllr Kelvin Nash and Mr Simon Fisher (Clerk) from Devizes Town Council (DTC) to give their presentation regarding Car Parking

and the Market Place.

Mr Simon Fisher stated that there had been a lot of debate regarding the Market Place and its future use. A parking review had been conducted the previous year and people had been very concerned regarding the original changes proposed. Devizes was a wonderful town with a great retail mix and Devizes Town Council wanted it to continue to flourish. However, retail was changing. They needed to focus on how we would use our towns in the future. Devizes Town Council wanted Devizes to be a great place to visit with lots going on. Mr Fisher referenced a report by Mary Portas, who said that towns should "Put in place a 'Town Team': a visionary, strategic and strong operational management team for high streets. Town Teams should focus on making High Streets accessible, attractive and safe".

Devizes Town Council had recruited a Town Centre Manager called Mark Hill who was now in role and whose job was to manage and promote the Market Place and The Shambles. He had previously worked with a number of other markets, including Salisbury Market and had a good record of turning failing markets around.

The Market Place freehold was due to be transferred to Devizes Town Council on 1 April 2019 and they would accept full responsibility for the upkeep. Devizes Town Council would then be able to lease back a minimum of 50% of the space to Wiltshire Council as a chargeable car park. Wiltshire Council would then install charging machines, install signage, operate the car park, retain revenues and be responsible for enforcement.

In future Devizes Town Council would operate up to 50% of the space under restricted community use and have the option to access the whole Market Place for larger community events.

Devizes Town Council were to consult on their plans. The consultation was to involve focus groups which would include retailers & local businesses; tourism & event providers; conservation groups; local Wiltshire Councillors and members of the community. It was hoped that these focus groups would be set up and meet quickly so that Devizes Town Council could feedback to the community soon. The focus groups would have input on aspects Devizes Town Council could control such as the size of the parking space; the size of the community space; the layout; what should be in the community space; what kind of events should be promoted and what the impact on the conservation area would be. The feedback from the focus groups would then be put out to wider consultation to the whole community.

Devizes Town Council were aware that businesses and residents felt it was important to have some free short term parking spaces. Although parking in the Market Place would become chargeable Devizes Town Council were looking at other possible solutions that would be consulted on.

After the consultation Devizes Town Council would make the final decision, conforming to the principles set by the negotiated agreements between Devizes Town Council and Wiltshire Council and with due consideration to the consultation feedback.

Once the Market Place plans were finalised, Devizes Town Council would conduct a town wide review of parking signage. Ensuring that there was clear signage into the centre from each direction and clear indication of long and short stay parking.

#### **Debate and Questions**

In response to a question from a Market Place business owner in the audience, who had originally been involved in early consultation, who thought that the free parking places were staying and now felt un-consulted and uninvolved, Simon Fisher stated that Devizes Town Council had done a lot of consultation at the start and this had been fed back. The Market Place parking was pay and display, although this had not yet been implemented. The parking there either stayed as pay and display or would be displaced to other locations. It had been agreed that the space was too big for community use generally hence the current solution of part pay and display parking, part community use space.

Cllr Richard Clewer, Cabinet Member for Housing, Corporate Services, Arts, Heritage and Tourism stated that agreed changes from the parking review last year had not yet been implemented however all the Traffic Regulation Orders had gone through. The proposals for on street parking were separate to the asset transfer. With regards to the asset transfer, Wiltshire Council had a policy that no strategic assets should be transferred (which included chargeable car parks). Hence the compromises that had been made regarding Devizes Market Place. The proposals would go back to the Wiltshire Council Cabinet on 26 Match 2019. In response to audience comments that there were problems with parking enforcement, as people would park all day in a short stay space, Cllr Clewer stated that he would speak to Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste regarding this. On street parking issues would need to be discussed with Devizes Town Council and Cllr Bridget Wayman.

A member of the audience stated that as a pedestrian, he welcomed the idea that some of the Market Place would be free of cars. He thought that if the Market Place and the Wharf could become successful community spaces it would be really good for the town. He also requested that there be more cycle racks in the Market Place as he felt that cycling should be encouraged.

Mr Pawlak requested clarification on free parking in the Market Place. As he understood it, under the current proposals, there would be no free parking in the Market Place other than disabled spaces, all other spaces would be pay and display. Devizes Town Council confirmed that this was correct. However there would be some free spaces nearby.

A member of the audience stated that they knew several people who would not

be able to afford to pop in to town on a daily basis to use the shops if the free parking places were removed. There would be a percentage of people who no longer came to the Market Place.

Devizes Town Council stated that one of the proposals would change the timings of on street parking bays. Some of the free 30 minute parking spaces from the Market Place would be replaced by 30 minute on street parking nearby. This would in turn displace what had previously been 1 hour spaces to a slightly further out location which currently had 2 hour parking. These 2 hour spaces would then be displaced out to car parks. In all car parks, parking would remain free after 6pm and free on Sundays.

A member of the Federation of Small Businesses spoke, stating that he was part of the original working group. He did not have an issue with parking timings being reduced for on street places. Outside his business cars generally parked for around 20 minutes. He did not think there would be increased flow as this was already happening. He hoped this would be included in the consultation Devizes Town Council were undertaking. He was hoping to get an expert on parking from the Federation of Small businesses to come and present and invited Devizes Town Council and the Area Board to attend.

When asked for clarification on timings and dates for all the changes, Devizes Town Council stated that the asset transfer would take place on 1 April 2019. However, the package had only been agreed by Devizes Town Council a few days before the Area Board so timings had not yet been finalised. Wiltshire Council were keen for the changes to be implemented as soon as possible. Devizes Town Council hoped that it would be short term — a matter of weeks/months for the changes to be implemented.

The Chairman thanked Devizes Town Council for all their hard work on this issue and thanked the audience for their questions.

Devizes Town Council also stated that they were taking the Shambles on. They hoped the space could be used in the evenings and invited the Area Board to hold a meeting there (which had been pencilled in for July).

The Chairman also thanked Cllr Richard Clewer for the asset transfer and looked forward to all that could be achieved for Devizes.

## Highways Schemes 2019-2020

Cllr Philip Whitehead gave a brief update on highways schemes (not CATG items). The spend on highways had doubled since 2014. If Wiltshire Council resurfaced and repaired all Wiltshire roads it would cost approximately half a billion pounds, therefore priorities had to be identified. The annual spend on highways was around £21 million. The report for the proposed Highways Schemes for 2019-2020 could be found in the agenda, page 61 had full details

of the Devizes proposals. Spend varied year by year but was fairly evenly balanced over the coming five years. It was;

## Resolved:

#### **That Devizes Area Board:**

- (i) Welcomed the road surfacing work and repairs carried out in 2018/19 and noted the improvement in the overall condition of Wiltshire's roads in recent years, but acknowledged that further investment was still required.
- (ii) Approved the highway maintenance scheme list for 2019/20 prepared for the Area Board.
- (iii) Noted the new provisional five year programme, which would be reviewed annually to ensure best value for money and whole life costing for the highways asset.

## 23 Open Floor

The Chairman invited residents to ask questions of their local councillors.

A resident stated that they had written to Cllr Laura Mayes regarding flooding at the Windsor Drive/London Road traffic lights. The reply stated that the drains needed work and this would be looked at. The resident stated this was incorrect and the problem was due to the curvature of the road. He felt this was very dangerous as the access/exit points for the crossing went through the water.

Cllr Mayes stated that she would forward the information to Cllr Whitehead. It was confirmed that this was on the section of road that had just had works completed on it. Cllr Whitehead would get an inspection done and it was under warranty so the issues could be resolved.

There were no further questions.

### 24 <u>Local Youth Network</u>

Representatives of DOCA, Bromham Youth Club, Wiltshire YFC and West Wiltshire Special Needs spoke in support of their applications. The West Wiltshire Special Needs application was moved up the agenda and considered under Chairman's Announcements as the representative had to leave the meeting early. Andrew Jack, Community Engagement manager detailed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Legacy application as their representative was unable to attend.

The applications for Youth Grant Funding were considered by the Board and it was;

## Resolved;

• To grant Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts (DOCA), £3,978.00,

towards their Young people's Carnival Incubator project;

- To grant Bromham Youth Club, £4,798.00, for the Bromham Youth Club, 2019/20;
- To grant 21st Century Legacy, £1,000.00, towards Be the Best You Can Be coaching;
- To grant Wiltshire YFC, £2000.00, towards their Devizes Summer 2019 Pop Up Youth Café;
- To grant Wiltshire YFC, £5,000.00, for the Potterne Youth Centre 2019:
- To grant Wiltshire YFC, £3,500.00, towards Devizes Pop Up Provision;
- To grant West Wilts Special Needs Activity Scheme, £400.00, towards their Special needs fun days, 2019.

The Chairman thanked all the applicants for their applications and their hard work.

## 25 Health and Wellbeing Group

Cliff Evans, Chairman of the Devizes area Health and Wellbeing Group gave a brief update to the meeting. The group were committed to running another Health and Wellbeing day on 15 June 2019. They would be applying for funding for this event. They had already received applications for space on the green at the event. Exhibitors would cover the whole range of Health and Wellbeing, from Alzheimer's Support to personal trainers. The HWBG wanted to communicate and share what was available. There would also be demonstrators, for example exercise groups and team sports. So far around 20 groups had signed up to take part.

Representatives from Bromham Good Neighbours and Devizes Men's Shed spoke in support of their applications for Health and Wellbeing funding.

The Board considered the applications for Health and Wellbeing funding and it was;

## Resolved;

- To grant Bromham Good Neighbours, £300.00, for their combating loneliness and social isolation project;
- To grant Devizes Men's Shed, £800.00, for additional workspace for their Shed.

## 26 Community Area Transport Group (CATG)

Cllr Philip Whitehead gave an update on the CATG. The minutes for the CATG meeting on 6 March were contained in the agenda pack. There had been very

good attendance from Parish Councils.

It was stated that the Devizes to Poterne footpath extension may have to be mothballed. An independent road safety audit had found that more land was needed to make the footpath wider. Negotiations had been ongoing to try to acquire this land but as yet had been unsuccessful. If this issue was not resolved they would be unable to continue the project and it would be removed from the CATG list.

The implementation of the proposed speeding restriction in the High Street in Worton was to be combined with carriageway maintenance works which would make the work cheaper.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Whitehead for the update.

## 27 Air Quality

Cllr Peter Evans gave an update on the Devizes Air Quality and Transport Strategy Group. The notes from the meeting on 8 March 2019 were included in the agenda pack.

Air Quality data had been submitted to the national organistation for analysis. It was hoped this would be completed by the end of March and uploaded to the website.

The Canal Towpath work had been delayed as the developer contributions had not been received. Therefore the work would be rolled forward to 2019/2020.

Works on the Gains Lane crossing were due to begin that evening and should take a 2 or 3 nights to complete.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Evans for the update.

### 28 Community Engagement Manager Update

The Chairman formally welcomed and introduced the new Devizes Community Engagement Manager, Andrew Jack. The Chair invited Andrew to give an update.

Andrew Jack gave his contact details to the meeting; tel - 01225 713109; mobile - 07769 917270 and email: <a href="mailto:andrew.jack@wiltshire.gov.uk">and invited</a> people to contact him. Andrew explained that he had been the Marlborough Area CEM for 7 years. There had been many changes within the CEM team which had been reduced to 13 CEM's covering 18 community areas. Andrew would be the Devizes CEM for the foreseeable future. He would be in Devizes a lot and hoped to work out of the library one day a week so that people could pop in and see him. Once the day had been finalised he would publicise it. The

CEMs worked to support local communities; support vulnerable people; help communities to do more for themselves and give advice on grant funding and project development.

The CEM gave an update on National Armed Forces Day which would take place on 28, 29 and 30 June in Salisbury. Friday 28 June was aimed at serving members of the forces, Saturday for families and Sunday for the community. Sunday included an attempt to break the world record for the largest Human Poppy. The CEM had met with Devizes Royal British Legion about their plans to participate in Sunday's events. The Devizes Area Board were offering to fund transport to Salisbury, there would be more information on this nearer the time. Andrew was looking for a community group to take part in the tapestry project.

The Great British Spring Clean would be taking place from 22nd March to 23rd April. People could register their litter pick with Keep Britain Tidy who could provide branded bin bags. There was some litter picking equipment available that Andrew may be able to help people get and he could also help with getting Streetscene to collect the litter afterwards.

The CEM announced that grant funding levels should remain the same for the next financial year:

- Capital funding: £49,000
- Youth Funding (revenue): £24,000
- Health & Wellbeing funding (revenue): £6,700

He was happy to support projections and develop applications so contact him for details.

Comments from the audience included suggestions of people and organisations who may be able to help with National Armed Forces Day, for example the history teacher at Devizes School, the cadets in Lavington and the Potterne Royal British Legion.

The representative of Devizes Men's Shed stated that they were pleased a permanent CEM had been appointed as it had been a bit difficult over the last few months when there had been several changes.

The Chairman thanked Andrew for the update.

The Chairman also proposed a vote of confidence in Graeme Morrison, the previous Devizes CEM, as he had been excellent at his job and always available. It was;

#### Resolved:

To record a vote of confidence in Graeme Morrison, the previous Devizes CEM.

## 29 Area Board Funding

Representatives of St James Church, Devizes & District Association for the Disabled, Devizes Eisteddfod, The Fulltone Orchestra, West Lavington Village Hall, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Cllr Peter Evans spoke in support of their applications.

The Fulltone Orchestra application had been considered earlier in the meeting under Chairman's Announcements, as their representative had to leave the meeting early.

An extra application which was not published in the original agenda but was detailed in agenda supplement 1 was also considered. This was a member led initiative from Cllr Peter Evans.

The Board considered the applications to the Community Area Grants Scheme as detailed in the agenda and supplement. It was;

### Resolved:

- To grant St James Church, Devizes, £5,000.00, for their St James Community Hub project;
- To grant Devizes & District Association for the Disabled, £2,380.31, towards new carpets for the Nursteed Community Centre;
- To grant Devizes Eisteddfod, £941.53, towards a digital piano for Devizes Eisteddfod;
- To grant The Fulltone Orchestra, £5,000.00, towards the Fulltone Festival;
- To grant West Lavington Village Hall, £2,455.50, towards upgrades on the village hall;
- To grant Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, £979.27, towards the Devizes Orchard and Playing Fields Volunteer Group;
- To grant Cllr Peter Evans, Member Led Initiative, £1000.00 for Promotional activity and an evening event for the Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race.

## 30 <u>Urgent items</u>

There were no urgent items.

## 31 Close

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and announced that the next ordinary meeting of the Area Board would be held on 13 May 2019, 6.30pm, at the Devizes Hub and Library, Sheep Street, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1DJ.

