

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** Tidworth Area Board  
**Place:** Memorial Hall, Andover Rd, Ludgershall, Wiltshire, SP11 9LZ  
**Date:** 4 September 2023  
**Start Time:** 19.00pm  
**Finish Time:** 20.45pm

---

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Max Hirst, (Tel): or (e-mail) [max.hirst@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:max.hirst@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Papers available on the Council's website at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

---

## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Christopher Williams (Chairman), Cllr Tony Pickernell (Vice-Chairman) and Cllr Paul Oatway.

### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Graeme Morrison – Strategic Engagement & Partnership Manager  
Max Hirst – Democratic Services Officer  
Jen Salter – Director Families and Children (allocated to the Area Board)  
Dominic Argar – Assistant Multimedia Officer

### **Partners**

Wiltshire Police – Inspector Ricky Lee  
MOD - Lt Col Rupert Whitelegge

Ludgershall Town Council  
Everleigh Parish Council  
Tidworth Town Council  
Chute Parish Council  
Ludgershall Memorial Hall

**Total in attendance: 26**

---

<b><u>Minute No..</u></b>	<b><u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u></b>
40	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Tidworth Area Board.</p>
41	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p>Cllr Mark Connolly Louisa Young</p>
42	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
43	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p><b><u>Decision</u></b>  <b>The minutes of the previous meeting on 10 July 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</b></p>
44	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The chairman referenced an information notice highlighting the Wiltshire Local Plan Review, including an upcoming consultation period in which members of the public would be able to give their views on the Local Plan.</p> <p>The full information note can be found in the agenda pack.</p>
45	<p><u>Information Items</u></p> <p>The following items included in the agenda pack were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSW Together</li> <li>• Healthwatch Wiltshire</li> <li>• Community First</li> <li>• Update on the Council's Activity and Progress on the Climate Emergency (<a href="https://youtu.be/LP2FzC7rHSw">https://youtu.be/LP2FzC7rHSw</a>)</li> <li>• PCC's Across the South-West launch new Rural Crime Survey and Quarterly Newsletter</li> <li>• Wiltshire AGE UK Newsletter</li> </ul>

Partner Updates

## Wiltshire Police – Inspector Ricky Lee

A slight increase in antisocial behaviour was observed during the summer, however overall crime has reduced. The number of PCSOs in the area remains at 50% of capacity, which reflects the national picture.

Communications with youth groups and schools had taken place and there had been work with a local campaign against violence against women and girls. Work with local farmers to tackle rural crime and traveller incursions has continued, and encouragement was given to attendees to be vigilant regarding access to their open spaces.

The local Speedwatch group was highlighted as very successful and well equipped, and their assistance was praised.

## MOD – Lt Col Rupert Whitelegge.

Praised the work of the Fire Service for their help when a building locally known as “The Stables” set fire. It was stated that the building will be restored and returned to use.

The 25 units and 12,000 troops of Tidworth Garrison was designated as mostly deployed.

## Town and Parish Councils

Ludgershall – New businesses had been opened meaning the high street have a complete set of shops. An upgrade to the skate park had been initiated including adding gym equipment. A new flagpole had been fitted to the local war memorial.

Tidworth – The written update was noted, which can be found in the agenda pack.

Everleigh – The written update was noted, which can be found in the agenda pack.

Chute – Hosted a successful local fair and flower and vegetable show. The local pavilion is in the process of being refurbished. Chute are also looking for football teams to play in the local area. Cllr Chris Williams (Chair) noted the loss of bus services in the area and stated that Wiltshire Council were aware of the situation and working on a solution.

Ludgershall Memorial Hall noted an improvement in the level of bookings and are happy with progress since the COVID Pandemic.

Police and Crime Commissioner

The board welcomed the Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson OBE, who gave a verbal presentation.

Points to note:

The Police and Crime Commissioner had been in post for 2 years and described his main aim as to challenge the Wiltshire Police Force to perform better than it had been in order to reach the level it should be.

Wiltshire's Police Force was described as having some fantastic police officers, which unfortunately had not been given the support and resources needed.

Four priorities were stated as central to the work of the PCC and his office:

- A more effective and efficient Police Force, including an improvement to response times.
- A reduction in violent crimes, specifically sexual crimes which has improved from a 2% conviction rate to over 11%, with the expectation that this figure will continue to improve. Drug crimes have also been prioritised through Operation Scorpion to focus on specific targets committing drug crimes. Wiltshire Council is now the top Force in county line drug disruption.
- Tackling crimes highlighted by the community, specifically road safety. Community Speedwatch was highlighted as really important to this priority and enforcement statistics had massively improved through ticketing and other enforcement actions. Antisocial behaviour was also highlighted as a community priority.
- Rural Crime. The local Rural Crime Unit had been given better equipment in the form of drones and night vision to better tackle specifically organised crime gangs committing rural crimes against farmers. Operation Ragwort was highlighted as a specific initiative to tackle this.

The board also welcomed the Chief Constable, Catherine Roper, who gave a verbal presentation.

Points to note:

The Chief Constable had been in post 6 months and described policing in Wiltshire as a situation where fantastic staff had earned her trust and confidence, however, operational issues had led to the force being graded poorly and placed in special measures. This was noted as largely being due to not recognising vulnerable persons and their challenges. Although Wiltshire is the safest county in the country, when incidents had occurred the response was

	<p>not adequate.</p> <p>The Chief Constable was very conscious that the foundations of Wiltshire Police needed to be rebuilt, and that as trust and confidence in the force had declined the morale within the force had declined as a result.</p> <p>Rebuilding the fundamentals of Wiltshire Police would lead to being brought out of special measures. This included work already underway on the business-as-usual delivery plan, restructuring the senior management and performance frameworks and refocusing crime-tackling priorities.</p> <p>Other areas of improvement included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visibility on the roads to deter criminals.</li> <li>• Recruitment activities, with emphasis given to opportunities for those in a gap year.</li> <li>• The Evolve programme, allowing those most involved in day-to-day activity to give their views on where improvements can be made.</li> <li>• Auditing and inspections, ensuring progress had been made through regular reports to the PCC. Every 6 months the Chief Constable and PCC attend Whitehall to face numerous questions and explain how improvements had been made.</li> <li>• The speed at which calls are answered. The Chief Constable receives a daily report on the number of calls and how quickly the needs of the caller had been understood and actioned. Teams have arrived quicker than national targets.</li> </ul> <p>In response to a question about recruitment, it was clarified that 162 new police officers have been recruited since the PCC was appointed. Recruitment was mentioned as having been overhauled to improve these numbers further and making use of military veterans who had a lot to offer to Wiltshire Police. Recruitment had been made not just at Police Constable level but at every rank and department.</p> <p>In response to a question about foot patrols, it was clarified that mobile police stations had been deployed to improve contact with the public. Commitments had been made to ensure regular patrols and presence and “hotspot” policing based on intelligence that was gathered.</p>
48	<p><u>Grant Application and Planting Support Team (GAPS)</u></p> <p>Caroline Roofe (Woodland Officer) gave a presentation about Wiltshire Council’s new GAPS Team.</p>

	<p>The PowerPoint is included in the minutes.</p> <p>The Main Points covered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK Climate Targets and Wiltshire’s woodland cover and commitment to planting trees.</li> <li>• The GAPs Team and how it provides support to Schools, Community Groups, Parish Councils and Farmers.</li> <li>• Funding Options for those wanting to get involved.</li> <li>• The Tree Warden Scheme and the work they do to look after and maintain trees in their respective areas across the county.</li> </ul>
49	<p><u>Detached Youth Work Project</u></p> <p>Graeme Morrison, the Strategic Engagement &amp; Partnership Manager (SEPM) gave an update on the proposed Detached Youth Work Project in Tidworth and Ludgershall.</p> <p>The PowerPoint is included in the minutes.</p> <p>Tidworth Town Council representatives highlighted the magnet the local skate park was proving to be as an almost informal youth club. It was suggested that a local youth worker operating nearby would allow support and contact to be given.</p> <p>Cllr Paul Oatway referred to a “Blue Bus” initiative that is a mobile youth centre travelling to rural areas providing activities and food.</p> <p>A point was made about more active contact and support with young people being needed to increase confidence among them that they are being thought about and supported.</p>
50	<p><u>Area Board Priority Update</u></p> <p>Cllr Christopher Williams, Chairman, updated the Board that Tidworth Leisure Centre has numerous projects being undertaken to improve and modernise the building and he had visited to be shown current work relating to the reception area.</p>
51	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>Tidworth Community Area Board Applied for £5,000 towards their Detached Youth Work in the Community Area.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Christopher Williams and Seconded by Cllr Tony Pickernell it</p>

	<p>was:</p> <p><b><u>Resolved</u></b>  <b>To award Tidworth Community Area Board £5,000 towards their Detached Youth Work.</b>  <b><u>Reason</u> – <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></b></p>
52	<p><u>Urgent items</u></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>
53	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Tidworth Area Board will be held on 13 November 2023.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

























---

---

---





!

"

!

#

%

#

&

#

'

#

#

\$

(

)

&

\$

\*

#

+  
!

#

&

,

\$

#

./

#  
#

0

1

#

% 2

3

4

#

-

' # 5 &  
5 6 # \$ #  
\* " # ' # ' # !  
7 # ' # ' # !  
\$ 8 # + 8 # "  
- 8 8 # ! # +  
- ! # 8 # ! # + &



5

!

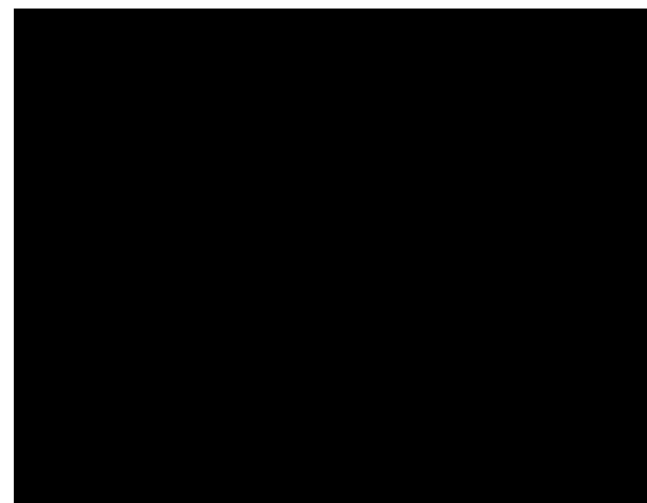
,

#

-

5

&



9 \$

: \* 6 ' # \* ' # ! ' # \* # " !