

## WILTSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of a MEETING of the POLICE AUTHORITY held at POLICE HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, DEVIZES on WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2002.

**PRESENT:** Mr. H. A. Woolnough, C.B.E. (Chairman), Mr. G. J. Baskerville, Mr. D. Benfield, Mrs. M. Boulton, Mr. B. Ford, Mrs. M. E. M. Groom, Mr C. J. Hoare, Mr. P. S. H. Lefever, Mr. F. E. Palmer, Mr. Paul W. L. Sample, Miss A. J. Scofield, Mrs. M. Sitaram, Mr. K. Small, Mrs. C. A. Soden and Mr. W. Spiers.

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29) **Mrs. Beryl Jay** The Chairman referred to the death of Mrs. Jay on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2002 and paid warm tribute to her contribution to the work of the Authority since her appointment in 1995. Members and officers stood in silence in memory of Mrs. Jay.

30) **Apologies** Apologies for absence were submitted by Miss C. A. Wallin.

31) **Public Questions**

Community Support Officers (CSO's): P.c. Phil Davenport, Chairman of the Wiltshire Constabulary Joint Branch Board of the Police Federation asked the following question 'After the successful bid for CSO's, what benefit do the Police Authority believe these officers will bring to the people of Wiltshire over and above the work carried out by regular police officers, 'specials', support staff and street wardens'.

The Chief Constable confirmed that Wiltshire had been awarded funding to recruit 15 CSO's. She saw CSO's as an additional resource, supporting community beat officers and providing increased visibility and reassurance. They would help with intelligence gathering and be a point of contact in villages and other areas where there was no regular police presence.

32) **Declarations Of Interest** The Clerk reported that, following the adoption of a local Code of Conduct by the Authority and the written declaration of interests by members, the following reminder would now be included on all Authority and Committee agendas:

'A member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the Wiltshire Police Authority at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration or when the interest becomes apparent.'

33) **Minutes Of The Previous Meeting**

Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2002.

34) **Chairman's Announcements**

a) Kevin Small: The Chairman congratulated Mr Small on his recent appointment as Leader of Swindon Borough Council

b) "Justice For All" – Criminal Justice System White Paper: The Chairman spoke briefly about the contents of this White Paper. Although much of the White Paper was about reforming criminal justice processes beyond the role of the police service, there were a number of key proposals affecting the service.

From a police authority perspective, the White Paper proposed a more joined up approach to performance management of the system. Given their responsibility for police performance, this was an area of particular interest to police authorities.

- c) **Police Reform:** The Chairman gave a short progress report on the police reform programme. He mentioned, in particular, the work of the policing bureaucracy task force which would look at identifying and suggesting solutions for the blockages and frustrations which prevent officers from spending more time on front line activities away from police stations. A report and action plan had now been published.

The Chairman also spoke about the requirement on police authorities to produce three year strategic plans; the transfer of health and safety responsibilities from Chief Constables to Police Authorities and the arrangements for a new complaints system.

The Chairman also mentioned that arrangements were being made to hold a series of national briefings on the PNB (Police Negotiating Board) Agreement.

- 35) **Third Round Of Appointments Of Independent Members** The Clerk circulated details of the guidance received from the Association of Police Authorities (APA) on the next round of appointments of independent members to police authorities.

The Clerk said that the local Selection Panel had met to consider arrangements and had agreed to publicise the appointments as widely as possible. The closing date for applications was **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2002.**

*Resolved: To circulate to all members' details of the publicity arrangements for these appointments.*

- 36) **Future Conferences**

*Resolved: To approve the attendance of Miss Scofield at the Third National Independent Advisory Group Conference being held in Leeds on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2002.*

The role of these advisory groups, which were independent of the police, was to critically appraise police practices/policies and improve community and race relations. One of the objectives of the conference was to discuss the role of such groups in the implementation of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

- 37) **Minutes Of Meetings** Copies of the following minutes were circulated and the Chairman of each Committee and Panel summarised the main points arising from the meetings:

- Complaints Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2002
- Standards Committee – 26<sup>th</sup> June, and 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2002
- Best Value Panel – 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2002
- Human Resources Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2002
- Partnerships Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> July, and 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2002
- Finance and Major Projects 24<sup>th</sup> July, and 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2002
- Audit and Monitoring Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2002

In addition, Mr. Hoare spoke about the work of the Strategic Drafting Group. A joint Force/Authority planning away day had recently been held at Urchfont Manor to discuss the Joint Corporate Plan process and the impact of the new Three Year Strategic Plan required by the Police Reform Act 2002. It had been a very worthwhile day and Mr. Hoare expressed his thanks to Alex Eaves who would shortly be transferring to a new post within the Corporate Development Department.

Arising from the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Major Projects Committee, Mr. Benfield and the Chief Constable spoke briefly about the Government consultation on possible changes to the police funding formula and the detrimental impact this would have on policing in Wiltshire. The proposals were of great concern and representations would be made on behalf of forces and police authorities in the South West region.

Resolved:      *To note the above and to ask that representations on the possible changes to the funding formula be made to all Wiltshire Members of Parliament.*

- 38) **Chief Constable's Review** The Chief Constable presented her review of operational matters and Force Initiatives since the previous meeting under the following Strategic Aims:

- Reducing And Detecting Crime
- To Develop Safer Communities Through Partnership
- To Seek, In Partnership With Other Agencies, To Reduce Road Traffic Casualties
- To Respond Promptly To Calls For Assistance.

After her review, Miss Neville responded to questions on the following matters:

- Anti-social behaviour orders (ASBO's) – the procedures involved in applying for ASBO's.
- The reasons for the reduction in the number of road deaths and injury accidents in Wiltshire.
- Recent incident in Salisbury involving children under ten years of age throwing paint at some swans – no proceedings were taken by the police because the children were under the age of ten and therefore exempt from criminal prosecution.
- Recent successful drugs operations and publicity.
- Information from the FBI about the possible presence of paedophiles within British police forces.

- 39) **Statement Of Accounts – 2001/02** A report by the Treasurer, together with a copy of the Statement of Accounts 2001/02, was circulated.

Resolved:      *To approve the Statement of Accounts for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2002.*

- 40) **Joint Services Communications Project: Progress Report** The Deputy Chief Constable reported the following information:

- The control centre building at Police Headquarters, Devizes had been completed and 'handed over' by the builders.
- Completion of the building was slightly late but within budget.
- Installation of computer equipment within the building was progressing.
- Training for staff would commence in January 2003.

- 41) **Swindon Facilities Project: Progress Report** The Director of Finance reported the following information:

- The Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) had been issued to three shortlisted consortia – the proposals would be returned by the end of October 2002.
- Evaluation of the bids would be completed in time to select a preferred bidder in January 2003.
- Final negotiations for the acquisition of land were currently taking place.

- 42) **HMIC Inspection Of The Wiltshire Constabulary 2002/03** The Chief Constable reported details of the above inspection as follows:

- Pre-inspection - 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2002
- Inspection by HMI - 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2002

- Preliminary findings reported - 5<sup>th</sup> December (after Police Authority meeting)  
To Police Authority by HMI

43) **Swindon BCU (Basic Command Unit): HMIC Inspection 2002** A copy of the HMIC Inspection Report of Swindon BCU, dated June 2002, was circulated.

Resolved:

- To congratulate the Divisional Commander and his team at Swindon for a very positive and encouraging report.*
- To agree that progress reports on the action plan be presented to the Audit and Monitoring Committee.*

44) **Urgent Item** The Chairman agreed that the item below be considered as a matter of urgency in order that the scheme for the payment of travelling and subsistence allowances to members can continue after 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2002.

45) **Scheme For The Payment Of Travelling And Subsistence Allowances** The Clerk explained that, as a result of the Police Reform Act 2002, police authorities were now able to determine members expenses for themselves. Previously, they were determined by the Home Secretary.

Guidance had been received from the Association of Police Authorities (APA) that, where an authority was not minded to change from the current scheme for the time being, it should, nevertheless, resolve to continue with the existing scheme and publish accordingly.

Resolved: *To agree to continue with the existing scheme of travelling and subsistence allowances for members as set out below:*

Travel Allowance:

| <u>Vehicle</u>          | <u>Rate per mile</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Up to 1100cc</i>     | <i>30.98p</i>        |
| <i>1101cc to 1400cc</i> | <i>39.90p</i>        |
| <i>1401cc and above</i> | <i>50.65p</i>        |

*(The above rates apply to the first 5,000 miles in any financial year. Thereafter a standard rate of 26.13p per mile will be paid).*

Night Subsistence Allowance:

*£79.82  
£91.04 (Applies to  
overnight stay in  
London).*

Day Subsistence Allowance:

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <i>Of more than 4 but not more than 8 hours</i>  | <i>£6.77</i>  |
| <i>Of more than 8 but not more than 12 hours</i> | <i>£9.44</i>  |
| <i>Of more than 12 hours</i>                     | <i>£17.82</i> |

Bicycle Allowance:

*6.9p per mile*

Meals On Trains:

- *When main meals (ie a full breakfast, lunch or dinner) are taken on trains during a period for which there is entitlement to day subsistence, the reasonable cost of meals (including VAT), may be reimbursed in full, within the limits specified below. Where the cost of meals taken on trains is reimbursed, the rate of day subsistence allowance for that period of duty shall not exceed the maximum payable if the period of absence from the usual place of residence were reduced by four hours in respect of each meal taken.*
- *The limitations of reimbursement are:*
  - i. *absence of more than 4 hours but not more than 8 hours, the cost of 1 main meal;*
  - ii. *absence of more than 8 hours but not more than 12 hours, the cost of 2 main meals;*
  - iii. *absence of more than 12 hours, the cost of 3 main meals.*

(Duration of Meeting: 10.30am to 12.25pm)