

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING

**Minutes of the Chippenham Area Committee (3) Meeting held on Monday 6th
February 2006 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham, commencing
7:00pm.**

Present:

Councillor J.A. Scott.....Chairman

Councillors D.B. Allen, P.G. Allnatt, H.R. Barton, C. Crisp, S.K. Doubell, P.G. Green,
R.J. Henning, R.B. MacGregor, S.D. Meadows, D.M. Moore, T.J.A. Northey, N.M.
Phillips and J.M. Wood

County/Town/Parish Council Representatives:

Biddestone & Slaughterford Parish Council	Councillor A. Butler
Chippenham Town Council	Councillor A. Noblet
Chippenham Without Parish Council	Councillor J. Stacey
Grittleton Parish Council	Councillor L. Palmer

Officers Present:

L. May (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant), S. Pangbourne (Strategic Manager -
Corporate Services), M. Rippon (Community Safety Officer) and V. Welsh (Community
Partnership Officer)

CH27. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from N. Fenwick (Strategic Manager - Customer
Services), Councillors C.R. Coleman, V.H. Greenman and J.H. Rooke, Castle Combe
and Yatton Keynell Parish Councils and from H. Purdon of Chippenham Town Council.

CH28. Public questions/receipt of petitions

There were no public questions nor petitions received.

CH29. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2005 (circulated with the Agenda)
were considered.



Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2005 be confirmed as correct record.

CH30. Chairman's announcements

(i) Chippenham High Street Issues - Obstructions to Pedestrians

The Chairman announced that Emma King from Chippenham Town Council had confirmed that at the last Chippenham Town Centre Partnership Sub-Committee, members had discussed the risk to pedestrians in the High Street and Market Place from the increasing number of A frames and display boards.

Subsequently, on behalf of the Partnership a letter was sent to Mr Chris Rose of the Wiltshire Highways Partnership informing him of the problem and requesting him to action enforcement of the policy which governing the use of A frames and display boards in the High Street.

They were awaiting a response and details of this would be reported at a future meeting of the Committee.

(ii) Wiltshire Community Web

The Chairman announced that details of the free community web facility to be launched at the beginning of April were circulated at the meeting. If a member of a local community organisation or group would like to develop their website before the formal launch, they should contact Vicky Welsh.

(iii) Consultation on Core Strategy Issues and Options Document

The Chairman announced that the Spatial Planning Team would be starting consultation on the Core Strategy Issues and Options Document. She and the Vice Chairman of this Committee had been invited to a forum session following the Local Plans Panel on the 28th February to discuss the development of this document. If they were not able to attend she would ask for a volunteer representative.

The consultation period would run from 8th February to 5th April 2006. If anyone required further information they should contact the Spatial Planning Team.

(iv) Pedestrian Improvements - The Causeway, Chippenham

The Chairman announced that a letter from Wiltshire County Council had been circulated at the meeting, which informed that the results of the consultation process indicated that the majority of those who responded favoured a "minimal impact" along the length of The Causeway.

(v) Cycle Improvements, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham

The Chairman announced that Wiltshire County Council (WCC) had informed us that preliminary consultation had taken place for the proposed improvements in cycle facilities from the Railway Station to the new History Centre. A number of concerns had been raised regarding the removal of Poplar tree. WCC have confirmed that various options to route the cycle path without the removal of the tree were being considered.

(vi) **The possibility of the Chippenham Community Area taking part in the Voice to Choice Pilot**

The Chairman briefly outlined the Voice to Choice project and suggested that the Chippenham Community Area put themselves forward to take part in the pilot scheme and that Councillor J. Thomson be invited to the next meeting to give a presentation regarding the pilot to the Committee. If the timing arrangements were such that the pilot towns would need to be selected before the next meeting of this Committee (3rd April 2006) then a special meeting would be arranged in order that the Committee could hear the details before putting themselves forward.

(vii) **Chamber of Commerce 20/20 Vision**

The Chairman announced that the Chamber of Commerce 20/20 vision group would be invited to the next Committee meeting to update us on the progress of their work.

(viii) **Chewing Gum/Litter in Chippenham High Street**

The Chairman informed the Committee of the hard work carried out by the Council recently to clear up the chewing gum and litter from Chippenham High Street and that ways of keeping it tidy and free from chewing gum could possibly be explored under Item 7 on the Agenda (Police Community Support Officers). She would also have a suggestion of a use for the remaining monies left in the revenue budget of the Community Area Funding Awards Scheme and would raise this at the appropriate point on the Agenda.

(ix) **Biddestone Tennis Club**

The Chairman announced that an update had been received from Biddestone Tennis Club (to whom the Committee had previously given an award of £7,500). The four new tennis courts were officially opened in 2005 and the club had been able to develop the junior section of the club and enter a team in the National Junior Club League. The U12 boys were undefeated in Division 2 and finished as joint winners. They have recently agreed to expand their junior coaching programme and provide opportunities for talented young players in performance squads.

(x) **Wheelchairs for the Breatheasy Group**

The Chairman announced that she had been asked to investigate the possibility of wheelchairs being made available to transport members of the Breatheasy group from the car park to the Olympiad Leisure Centre. Initial enquiries had been made with the Chippenham Motability Scheme and Emery Gate. The Chairman would continue these investigations with the Council, Emery Gate and Cllr D. Moore.

CH31. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

CH32. Area 3 Community Area Funding Distribution 2005/2006

Consideration was given to Report No. 6, (circulated with the Agenda) which asked Members to consider 6 applications seeking 2005/2006 Community Area Award funding.

Resolved to agree funding distribution of the Area 3 Community Area Awards budget based on the agreed criteria for 2005/2006:

(1) Chippenham Credit Union – Award £500 from the revenue budget, towards the establishment of a Credit Union in the Chippenham community area, conditional upon volunteers being recruited and collection points agreed;

(2) Christian Malford Parish Council – Award £1,157 from the capital budget, towards the erection of a bus shelter, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place;

(3) Allington Preservation Group – Award £100 from the revenue budget, towards the cost of installing roadsigns in Allington Lane “Please drive slowly through the Village” and Single Track Road with Passing Places”;

(4) Family Mediation – Award £500 from the revenue budget, towards a counselling service for children experiencing family breakdown;

(5) North Wilts & Devizes Portage Service – Award £286 from the revenue budget, towards the cost of stationery and an additional £214 from the revenue budget (to purchase any equipment, etc felt necessary to improve the group’s facilities); and

Reason: The Committee was of the opinion that the group provided an extremely worthwhile and useful service to young people in the area.

(6) Seagry & Startley Village Hall Committee – Award £750 from the capital budget towards the cost of replacement tables, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

Admin Note - Members requested that the names of the groups applying for the awards be inserted on to the application forms in future.

Balance of Revenue Funding

The Chairman then highlighted to the Committee that the remaining revenue balance of £4,195 would not be carried forward into the next financial year. She suggested ways in which this balance could be allocated so that the monies were not “lost” at the end of the financial year. She then invited the Committee to discuss the issue.

Issues discussed included:

- The possibility of running a competition for local schools to come up with a slogan/strapline to educate and encourage people not to drop their chewing gum and litter, particularly in the High Street and Riverside areas;
- That young people could be encouraged to assist with the educating of people not to drop litter and that possible promotion could be made via the internet and text message alerts;
- The possibility of the Chippenham Community Area Partnership making an application for a sum of money from the existing revenue balance; and

- That any contravention of the policy for existing funding criteria would need to be referred to the Executive.

Resolved that authority be delegated to the Chairman and Vice Chairman to investigate the possibility with Officers that

- (i) 50% of the remaining revenue budget may be given to the Chippenham Community Area Partnership to be used for a chewing gum/litter competition and campaign
- (ii) The other 50% of the revenue budget may be given to the Chippenham Community Area Partnership to be used for community activities

CH33. Police Community Support Officers

Chief Supt A. Evely (Project Lead for the 'Neighbourhood Policing' project), G. Bloomfield (Police Community Support Officer) and M. Rippon (Community Safety Officer, NWDC) were present at the meeting and provided background information and an update on the position in relation to Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's). Members of the Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions of the officers.

Issues discussed included:

- It was hoped that 24,000 PCSO's would be in post by 2008, with Wiltshire's allocation being approximately 206, and between 21 and 29 Officers in this district;
- The fact that the Home Office position regarding funding of PCSO's had not changed - they would fund 75% of the costs and expect 25% to be funded locally;
- If a community would like additional PCSO's they will need to provide the funding - the approximate cost of each Officer would be £24,000 per annum;
- The role of PCSO's and the legal powers available to them, particularly in relation to parking and obstruction offences;
- The suggestion of the Police or District Councils having to increase their Council Tax precepts to fund the PCSO's and the possibilities of commercial funding;
- The recent meeting of the Chippenham Community Safety Partnership; and
- That an update would be given to the Committee in July 2006.

CH34. Vehicular Access to the High Street, Chippenham

Consideration was given to Report No. 8 (circulated with the Agenda) which informed Members of the actions that have been undertaken following the Committee's concerns with the number of vehicles using the High Street, Chippenham whilst it is closed to vehicles.

The Chairman was able to give the following update to the Committee at the meeting:

North Wiltshire District Council pay Chippenham Town Council to control the opening/closing of the barriers on the High Street, although the agreement to enforce the permits is between Wiltshire County Council (as Highway Authority) and

Chippenham Town Council. Wiltshire County Council could not find any record on current files which gave details of the agreement under which the Chippenham Town Council were to issue permits.

There were a number of exemptions including allowing catering vehicles access to the Town Hall for food hygiene regulations, building works, road works and statutory repairs and maintenance and the British Heart Foundation charity shop (which has no rear delivery access).

Issues discussed included:

- The numbers of permits being issued by Chippenham Town Council staff; and
- The need for a formal agreement to be drawn up in relation to the issuing of permits for vehicles to access the High Street when closed.

Resolved that a meeting of Officers from Wiltshire County Council, Chippenham Town Council and M. Rippon (Community Safety Officer) and a legal representative of North Wiltshire District Council be convened to regularise the arrangements for the issue of permits for Chippenham High Street for vehicular access whilst it is closed to traffic

CH35. Outside Bodies

Consideration was given to Report No. 9, (circulated with the Agenda) which enabled those Members appointed to outside bodies to update the Committee on any topical issues.

Issues discussed included:

- The Councillor S.K. Doubell had not received an invitation of the most recent meeting of the Olympiad Leisure Centre Advisory Group (although she had received a copy of the minutes of the meeting); and
- That Councillor S.M. Meadows had not received details of any meetings of the Castle Combe Golf Course Conservation Committee since she had been appointed in December 2005.

Admin note - The Castle Combe Golf Course Conservation Committee are aware that Councillor Meadows is the District Council representative and is in the process of deciding when the next meeting of the Committee will be necessary.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm.
There was 1 member of the public present.