

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING

Draft Minutes of the Chippenham Area Committee (3) Meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2006 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham, commencing 7:00pm.

Present:

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

Councillors H.R. Barton, C.R. Coleman, S.K. Doubell, P.G. Green, R.J. Henning, R.B. MacGregor, T.J.A. Northey, N.M. Phillips, J.H. Rooke and J.M. Wood

County/Town/Parish Council Representatives:

Biddestone & Slaughterford Parish Council	Councillor A. Butler
Castle Combe Parish Council	Councillor A. Bishop
Castle Combe Parish Council	Councillor D. Ryall
Chippenham Town Council	Councillor A. Noblet
Chippenham Without Parish Council	Councillor J. Stacey
Grittleton Parish Council	Councillor L. Palmer
North Wraxall Parish Council	Councillor J. King

Officers Present:

N. Fenwick (Strategic Manager - Customer Services), M. Gilmour (Principal Community Partnerships Officer), B. Gray (Sponsorship and Campaigns Officer) and L. May (Policy and Democratic Services Assistant)

Others Present:

Councillor J.P.S.S Thomson, N. Lewis (Assistant Director - Corporate and Library Services, WCC) and J. Martin (Policy and Community Officer, WCC).

CH36. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.B. Allen, P.G. Allnatt, C. Crisp, V.H. Greenman and S.D. Meadows.



CH37. Public questions/receipt of petitions

Cllr A. Bishop from Castle Combe Parish Council asked how the Committee would be supporting and liaising with the parishes in its area in respect of the Climate Friendly Communities project that was being run by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

The Chairman responded by saying that she was aware of the project and that plans were already in place to invite a representative from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to the next meeting of the Committee to give a presentation. A letter would also be sent to all parish representatives to encourage them to attend the meeting.

There were no petitions received.

CH38. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2006 (circulated with the Agenda) were considered.

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2006 be confirmed as correct record.

CH39. Chairman's announcements

The Chairman made the following announcements:

1. Urgent Item - Chippenham Borough Lands Charity Appointments

I have given my agreement to consider an urgent item, which is a request from the Chippenham Borough Lands Charity. This will be dealt with at the end of the Agenda as Item 11.

2. Chippenham 20:20 Group

It was agreed at our last meeting that we would invite the Chippenham 20:20 Group to update us on the progress of their work. We have contacted Gwyn De-Arth who is the NWDC contact and he has informed that until the Group decide whether to become a special interest group and agree its terms of reference, it won't be worth inviting them to attend our meeting. The 20:20 Group will not agree all this at its next meeting in March so more likely that they should be invited to the June meeting of our Committee.

3. Chippenham High Street Issues - Obstructions to Pedestrians

Emma King from Chippenham Town Council had reported that she has been liaising with Kristian Price from the Wiltshire Highways Partnership regarding A frames/Display Boards in the High Street. The recent update she has received from him says that *"On the A-board issue, I have asked Chris Rose to investigate with County Hall the policy that is to be adopted so that it is clearly defined once I am able to take action. I will provide further information once it is clear to me"*. Emma will keep us updated on any further information that she receives.

4. Thank you from North Wilts & Devizes Portage Service

A letter of thanks has been received from the North Wilts & Devizes Portage Service, especially the extra £214 that we awarded them at the last meeting. The management, staff and families that use the service were most grateful and thanked Vicky Welsh for her help and encouragement with the application.

5. Vehicular Access to the High Street

A meeting of Officers from Wiltshire County Council, Chippenham Town Council and NWDC is in the process of being organised to regularise the arrangements for the issue of permits for Chippenham High Street whilst it is closed to vehicles. In preparation, an Officer from NWDC had briefly monitored the types of vehicles in the High Street whilst it was closed.

6. Community Area Award Funding Scheme 2006/07

I am pleased to announce that in 2006/07 Community Area Award funding will once again be available from the Area 3 Committee for projects being led by community & voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils to help them achieve priorities identified in the Chippenham Community Plan.

Funding is available for large as well as small projects, where the Area 3 Committee will fund up to 50%.

We are especially looking for groups to come forward seeking £500 or less, where no matched funding is required; as last year some of this budget went unspent.

The application process has been improved to make it clearer, which we hope will encourage even more people to apply for funding

There will be three funding rounds during the year. The first round is as follows:

Area 3 deadline for applications is 28th April and these will be considered at the Area 3 Committee on 5th June 2006.

Details of the Community Award Scheme, including funding criteria, guidance for completion plus the application form is available on the Council's website www.northwilts.gov.uk/communitygrants

If preferred paper copies of the pack can be obtained from Vicky Welsh on 01249 706446.

7. Save Chippenham Hospital Petition

I would like to invite those present to sign the Petition to save Chippenham Hospital which has been instigated by the Gazette and Herald and to encourage others in your wards and parishes to do the same.

CH40. Declarations of Interest

Name	Application /item	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
Cllr R.B. MacGregor	Urgent Item 11 - Chippenham Borough Lands Charity Appointments	Personal	Member of Trust	Remained in Chamber
Cllr J.M. Wood	Urgent Item 11 - Chippenham Borough Lands Charity Appointments	Personal	Member of Trust	Remained in Chamber

CH41. Area 3 Community Area Funding Distribution 2005/2006

Consideration was given to Report No. 6, (circulated with the Agenda) which asked Members to consider a virement from their 2006/07 Community Area Awards revenue budget.

Issues discussed included:

- That the Committee's revenue budget had not been fully utilised in the past and even more encouragement should be given for groups to apply for small revenue grants;
- Who would be responsible for allocating the District-wide awards budget;
- That the Committee could be in a better position as District-wide groups would not approach them for funding and they would have more of their budget available for groups in the Chippenham area;
- That all five Area Committees would need to approve the virement to enable it to happen and that the Malmesbury Area 1 Committee had already agreed to it; and
- What were the District-wide Award application criteria and who would determine awards. Concern was expressed that some groups might lose out if they were only eligible to apply to the District-wide scheme and were subsequently unsuccessful.

Resolved that the decision to agree to a one off virement of £1,000 from the Area 3, 2006/07 Community Area Awards revenue budget to the District-wide Awards revenue budget be deferred, pending clarification of the process and criteria to be followed for applications made to the District-wide awards scheme.

CH42. The North Wiltshire Festival

The Committee were shown a promotional DVD of the previous North Wiltshire Festival held in 2004. Barbara Gray (Sponsorship & Campaigns Officer) also circulated information packs on the 2006 North Wiltshire Festival to all those present.

The purpose of the presentation was to raise awareness of the event and to explain how Town and Parish Councils, etc could become involved.

Issues discussed included:

- The numbers expected to attend the event;
- That the Committee needed to convey it's enthusiasm for the event to the wards and parishes it represented;
- That schools from all over North Wiltshire should be encouraged to enter the festival's competition; and
- Transport links, particularly for young people in the other North Wiltshire towns.

For further information on the North Wiltshire Festival please contact B. Gray on 01249 706445 or visit www.northwilts.gov.uk/index-festival.

CH43. Voice to Choice Project

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Niki Lewis and Julie Martin on the Wiltshire County Council Voice to Choice Project. (Copies of the slides used in the presentation are available upon request). A briefing note was also circulated at the meeting and this is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Issues discussed included:

- The public's level of understanding of what each of the tiers of Local Government actually do and are responsible for;
- The need to get accurate information across to local people and to be able to empower them;
- The practicalities and funding arrangements of the proposed project;
- Possible future changes to the Local Government Act; and
- That the proposals for the project are still in a draft form and are part of a living document on which feedback is still be requested and processed.

Resolved that

- (1) Responses to the queries raised at the meeting be prepared by Officers at Wiltshire County Council and attached to the Minutes (**Appendix 2**); and
- (2) The Executive be notified that the Chippenham Area wish to be considered as a pilot community area for the Wiltshire County Council Voice to Choice Project should this proceed.

CH44. Parish Council Items

Councillor Adrian Bishop from Castle Combe Parish Council requested that the Committee gave consideration to the following item:

Item 9 (a) Castle Combe Enhancement Scheme

That support be given for the recommencement of enhancement works in Castle Combe, in particular the under grounding of overhead wires in the Upper Castle Combe area.

Resolved that

- (1) Castle Combe Parish Council to notify the Principal Urban Designer of North Wiltshire District Council of details of the exact enhancement works requested, in order that the Officer may obtain an updated quotation for the works;

- (2) Possible sources of match funding be investigated by the Castle Combe Parish Council;
- (3) That the request be passed to the Principal Urban Designer of North Wiltshire District Council and that the proposal be considered within the 2006/07 Streetworks Enhancement Scheme.

CH45. Outside Bodies

Consideration was given to Report No. 10, (circulated with the Agenda) which reviewed the membership of Outside Bodies as necessary and to enable those Members appointed to outside bodies to update the Committee on any topical issues.

Resolved that the contents of the report be noted.

CH46. Chippenham Borough Lands Charity Appointments

The Chairman made the following announcement:

“In accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 having regard to the special circumstances pertaining in this matter – namely, An Interview Panel needs to be set up and will need to meet to consider a recommendation that will need to be reported to the next meeting of the Chippenham Area 3 Committee to be held on 5th June 2006.

I am of the opinion that, despite its non-inclusion on the Agenda, the matter of Chippenham Borough Lands Charity Appointments should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency. This item will be taken after Item 10 on the Agenda.”

Consideration was given to Report No. 11 (circulated on 30th March 2006) which proposed a procedure for appointing members to the Chippenham Borough Lands Charity (CBLC). Following a change to the CBLC's constitution the number of NWDC appointments had been reduced to three and a vacancy would shortly arise for which competition for the post was expected. The CBLC were keen to expand their membership to include appointments from the voluntary and business sectors and felt that an interview process would be necessary with representatives from the CBLC and the Area Committee sitting on an interview panel to enable them to make a recommendation to the next meeting of the Area 3 Committee.

Issues discussed included:

- The current problems experienced by the CBLC with many of its members having to declare interests at meetings as they are district/town or parish councillors;
- That although the Committee were happy to appoint district Councillors to the CBLC (although they are not representatives of NWDC), they were concerned with being asked to appoint non district Councillors as members of the CBLC; and
- The suggestion that the CBLC select representatives from the business and voluntary sectors as potential candidates for the non serving Councillor positions themselves and make the decision as to who is appointed (although the Committee were happy to nominate the names of members who would assist with the interview process).

Resolved that

- (1) Two of the following members of the Chippenham Area 3 Committee be appointed (subject to member availability) to an interview panel to sit alongside two people appointed by the Chippenham Borough Lands Charity to interview candidates - Councillors R.J. Henning, D.M. Moore, N.M. Phillips and J.H. Rooke; and
- (2) That the Chippenham Borough Lands Committee will make the decision of the appointments of the non serving Councillor positions and not the Chippenham Area 3 Committee as at present.

The meeting finished at 9.25pm.
There was 1 member of the public present.