

**Draft Minutes of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham.**

**Present:**

Councillor D.B. Allen (Chairman)

Councillors C.J. Caswill, P.C.B. Coleman, J.P. Doubell, S.K. Doubell, P.J. Hutton, R.B. MacGregor, J.A. Phillips, N.M. Phillips, J.A. Scott, J.R. Scragg and M.L. Singlehurst.

**County/Town/Parish Council Representatives:**

A. Butler	Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council
R. Jones	Chippenham Town Council
A. Noblet	Chippenham Town Council
H. Purdon	Chippenham Town Council
F. Wilson	Chippenham Town Council
T.C. Bate	Chippenham Without Parish Council
J. Clark	Seagry Parish Council
C. Dash	Yatton Keynell Parish Council
S. Gibson	Chippenham Town Council
C. Sutton	Kington St Michael Parish Council
L. Durno	Kington St Michael Parish Council
A. Bishop	Castle Combe Parish Council
F. Winup	Castle Combe Parish Council
L. Palmer	Grittleton Parish Council
R. Henning	Wiltshire County Council

**Others Present:**

Councillor T.R. Sturgis.

**Officers Present:**

J. Whittleton (Policy and Democratic Services Assistant), P. Barnett (Head of ICT Service), V. Welsh (Community Partnership Officer), M. Scott (Strategy, Education & Enforcement Officer), J. Moore (Research & Projects Officer) and J. O'Brien (Housing Services Team Leader).

**CH26. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S.D. Meadows, J. Whincup and P.R. Darby.

**CH27. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions**

There were no public questions or petitions received.

**CH28. Minutes**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007.



- ◆ **Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Chippenham Area (3) Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007 be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **CH29. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman, Councillor D.B. Allen:

### **URGENT BUSINESS – CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

In accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 having regard to the special circumstances pertaining in this matter – namely, the need to seek views ahead of submission of a bid to the CLG, I am of the opinion that, despite its non-inclusion on the Agenda, the matter of Choice Based Lettings should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

This item will be taken after item 7 – Environmental Issues.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust**

I am afraid that we will not be able to take this item today. We received notification this morning that the Swindon & Marlborough NHS Trust representative is not well and unable to attend the meeting.

If any of you have questions on the proposals for Foundation Trust Status, please send them to the Committee Administrator who will forward them on for answers. Contact details on the front page of the Agenda.

### **The River Avon**

During consultation carried out last year to identify area committee topics, the River Avon was raised as an issue. However, as this could cover many aspects, we would like to ascertain what exactly people wish to discuss.

If any of you choose this topic can you let us know exactly what you wish the Committee to consider.

We believe that it was raised with regard to leisure opportunities, but we wish to be sure before we start inviting people to attend.

### **Play Area Biddestone**

I was delighted to be asked to officially open the new Play Area at Biddestone Village Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

This is an excellent facility which has proved very popular with the children.

NWDC Area 3 Committee awarded £5000 towards the project 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

Other funders included Village Hall Recreation Trust, other local organisations including the Church and Awards for All.

### **Area Boards in North Wiltshire**

At last week's Executive meeting Members considered a report that outlined the proposal to create 20 Area Boards in Wiltshire. These Area Boards will form a key part of the new Unitary Authority for Wiltshire - Wiltshire Council. North Wiltshire has been invited to form pilot Area Boards in advance of the formal vesting day of April 2009. In North Wiltshire the Area Boards will cover the same geographical areas as our own Area Committees and will build on the strengths and successes of our area working. At the next meeting of this Committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Officers will bring a report and presentation so that Members, key partners and members of the community can put forward their views and comments on how the process to implement Area Boards

in North Wiltshire should advance. The comments of each of the Area Committees will inform a report that will go back to the Executive in January.  
More information about area boards can be found on the Wiltshire County Council website on the Towards One Council pages.

### CH30. Declarations of Interest

Name	Item	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
P.C.B. Coleman	9 – Chippenham Area 3 Community Funding Distribution	Prejudicial	Family member is a member of the Chippenham Community Festival Association organising group	Left the Chamber for the duration of the application
D.B. Allen	9 – Chippenham Area 3 Community Funding Distribution	Personal	Trustee for Transport for the Disabled and Tom Metcalf Centre	Remained in the Chamber

### CH31. Choice Based Lettings

J. Moore (Research & Projects Officer) and J. O'Brien (Housing Services Team Leader) were in attendance to give a short presentation on the Council's move towards a choice based lettings system and to answer questions from those in attendance.

Issues raised included:

- The need to move to a choice based lettings system is a government requirement and must be in place by 2010;
- The system seeks to offer more choice for social housing applicants;
- Choice based lettings will see the current points based system replaced by a banding system which will offer people more opportunity to exercise some choice as to where they live;
- Work is taking place to produce a common Wiltshire wide policy to provide consistency throughout the County;
- A bid will be submitted to the Department for Communities & Local Government to help fund the new system;
- Problems experienced in the rural areas when the small number of social housing units are let to those from outside the parish;
- There are approximately 1,500 people on the general housing needs register, 3-400 on the older person register and a smaller number on the transfer list. It takes about 6 years to clear the list;
- Families can wait for years to find a four bed property;
- Work to ensure potential applicants are aware of housing opportunities will involve writing to applicants, visits, contact through carers etc; and

- A list of properties will be produced each week, the list will appear on the internet and in local press.

**Resolved** that officers be requested to produce a detailed briefing note for Councillors and Town/Parish Councils, when the system is being put in place, in order for Councillors to help constituents.

### **CH32. Environmental Issues – To discuss Waste Minimisation and Recycling**

Councillor T.R. Sturgis, Lead Member for Waste and Sustainability introduced the item:

I have been invited to attend the Committee this evening to introduce and take part in this item on Environmental Issues.

This item has been put on the Agenda as a result of consultation carried out in 2006 to determine issues of interest to the area.

It follows on from a similar request in the Malmesbury area, who instead of holding a normal area committee, decided to hold an event entitled Malmesbury & the Environment.

The event was well attended and demonstrated the importance of the issue to local people.

We know from the aforementioned consultation, that the issue is also important to those in the Chippenham area.

Indeed, I have just noticed a funding application from CAVE; Chippenham & Villages Environmentalists, on this evenings Agenda.

As you will see in your Agenda, we would like to invite Councillors and members of the public to ask questions of the panel, which comprises of:

Myself, Councillor Toby Sturgis - Portfolio Holder for Waste and Sustainability.

Mrs Melanie Scott – Strategy, Education and Enforcement Officer at North Wiltshire District Council.

Mr Cliff Carter – Hills Waste.

Mr Martin Litherland – Wiltshire County Council.

Issues discussed included:

- That people are having to wait up to 20 minutes to use the recycling facilities at Stanton St Quinton and whether there are plans to improve the facilities. Consideration has been given to expanding or relocating the site, neither will be simple. Work has taken place with Hills to amend operating procedures to deal with high demand and three interactive traffic signs should be in place soon to warn of queues;
- That energy saving light bulbs have a small component, which is classed as hazardous waste. Hills have facilities to dispose of this;
- That small businesses do not have access to the household recycling centre. This is due to the Government LATS target being centered around household waste. The Council will continue to lobby the Government to alter this. Kennet District Council did trial a trade waste recycling collection, however, they did not collect enough to make it worthwhile;
- Whether an alternate weekly collection including the collection of cardboard and plastic is the only way to achieve Government recycling targets above 40%;

## Chippenham Area (3) Committee Minutes – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007

- Problems involved in collecting plastic and cardboard, such as contaminated cardboard (plastic coatings), the relative bulk to weight ratio of plastic and the market for plastics;
- The need to address the areas of poor take up of kerb-side recycling facilities;
- Government targets to reduce packaging in supermarkets;
- Difficulties in prosecuting fly tipping as collecting evidence is costly and difficult; and
- That the landfill site at Compton Bassett will be in operation until at least 2016.

The Chairman thanked the panel members for attending and for answering questions honestly and factually.

### **CH33. Town/Parish Council Update**

The Town and Parish Council Representatives updated the Committee on the following local issues;

**Chippenham Without Parish Council:** The Council has asked architects to look at the conversion of the 'cart shed; to community use. A consultation exercise will take place before planning permission is sought.

**Kington St Michael Parish Council:** The Parish Council are giving thought to providing a youth shelter for 10-16 year olds.

**Grittleton Parish Council:** The Parish Council are concerned that a cottage on the Badminton Estate is not being refurbished for use as social housing. Fly tipping between Semmington and Leigh Delamere has been getting worse. The need to find sites for travelers.

**Chippenham Town Council:** Planting at the bus station has thus far not been vandalized. The value of trees in Borough Parade car park. Publicity is needed to let people know the car park is still open. The Wilkinson approach road is being seen to. Legal opinion is being sought on the matter of the town benches.

**Castle Combe Parish Council:** That there are serious safety concerns about the A420 junction in the Parish. That Westway Close and upper Castle Combe do not have black box facilities yet.

**Biddestone & Slaughterford Parish Council:** The traffic management talk put on in the Neeld Hall. Problems with hunting with dogs in the Parish.

### **Resolved**

- 1) That the issue raised by Grittleton Parish Council be raised with the Housing Team to see if anything can be done to address the situation.
- 2) To determine when improvements at the Emery Gate car park will be finished.
- 3) That a letter be sent to WCC Highway Authority to express the Committee's

concerns about the crossroad in the Castle Combe Parish.

**CH34. Chippenham Area (3) Community Area Funding Distribution 2007/08**

Consideration was given to Report No (9) circulated with the Agenda asking Members to consider 8 applications seeking Community Area Award Funding.

Issues discussed included:

- The application from Chippenham & Villages Environmentalists presents a good visual prompt for people to take action;
- Security issues concerning the equipment to be purchased by the Chippenham & Villages Environmentalists;
- The importance of the verges in Allington; and
- Whether there are any other options to protect the verges.

**Resolved**

- 1) Yatton Keynell Recreation Association – Award £12,300 from the capital budget towards the Ages of Mankind Project, conditional upon the balance if funding being in place.
- 2) Performum – Award £8,000 from the capital budget towards the purchase of sound and lighting equipment, communications system and modular staging, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
- 3) Open Blue Bus trust – Award £500 from the revenue budget towards the cost of providing a disabled ramp for the Open Blue Bus.
- 4) St Peters Church – Award £2,995 from the capital budget towards the cost of resurfacing, drainage and lighting for the car park, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
- 5) CAVE (Chippenham & Villages Environmentalists) – Award £4,000 from the capital budget towards the cost of purchasing a Thermal Imaging Camera, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
- 6) Chippenham Community Festival Association – Award £780 from the capital budget towards the cost of publicity

materials, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

- 7) Allington Preservation Group – Award of £2,700 from the capital budget towards the cost of a Design Study for the restoration of the verges in Allington, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
- 8) Acorns Pre-School – Award of £488 from the revenue budget towards the purchase of IT equipment and secure storage, and increased opening hours, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

### **CH35. Community Planning Update**

The Chairman of the Community Area Partnership gave an oral update to the Committee on Community Planning issues.

Issues raised included:

- The Chippenham Area Community Partnership Annual General Meeting is being held on the 9<sup>th</sup> October between 6pm and 8pm, in the Neeld Hall. The meeting follows on from an Age Concern event;
- Recent discussions about the future unitary council and the work of Chippenham & Villages Environmentalists; and
- The forthcoming farmers market in Chippenham.

### **CH36. Outside Bodies**

There were no updates.

The meeting started at 7pm and finished at 9.05pm.

There were 24 members of the public present.