

**Draft Minutes of the Malmesbury Area (1) Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 28th November 2007 at Oaksey Village Hall, commencing at 7.00 pm.**

Present:

Chairman: J.P.S.S. Thomson

Councillors: C. Berry, R.L. Cinnamond, V.H. Greenman,
I.J. Henderson, T.R. Sturgis, V.A. Vines

Community Representatives:

A. Woodcock	Malmesbury Town Council
T. Fraser	Crudwell Parish Council
J. Crockett	Lea & Cleverton Parish Council
C. Vernon	Malmesbury Conservation Area Group
O. Gibbs	Brinkworth Parish Council
M. Rea	Sherston Parish Council
K. Tudor	Minety Parish Council
T. Mockler	Hankerton Parish Council
B. Dalton	Hankerton Parish Council
M. Wilkins	Charlton Parish Council
T. Pooley	Little Somerford Parish Council
J. Tremayne	Easton Grey Parish Council
B. O'Donnell	Great Somerford Parish Council
R. Mackie	Malmesbury & St Paul Without Residents Association
P. Campaigne	Norton & Foxley Parish Council
R. Budgen	Malmesbury Residents Association
A. Chapman	Dauntsey Parish Council
J. Lawton	Malmesbury Town Council
B. Ingham	St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council
M. Rayner	Community First
J. Woodcock	Public

Officers Present:

L. Bell (Deputy Chief Executive), J. Whittleton (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant), N. Lewis (Wiltshire County Council), J. Cogswell (Community Partnership Manager), P. Gerrard (Wiltshire County Council), M. Gilmour (Principal Community Partnership Officer) and J. Kashdan Brown (Principal Urban Design Officer)

M23. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor R. Sanderson, Hullavington Parish Council and Councillor Carole Soden.



M24. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

A public question was received from Councillor O. Gibbs of Brinkworth Parish Council, who stated that he had recently visited the emergency centre in Devizes. He was alarmed to discover that many calls were redirected through the Bristol call centre, to operators who do not have local knowledge of North Wiltshire. He stated that he was worried that valuable minutes were being lost in this redirection.

Councillor Thomson responded by stating that he shared Councillor Gibbs' concerns. The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee at Wiltshire County Council had looked at the issue. He stated that a copy of the Report would be sent to Councillor Gibbs, and if it did not address his concerns, Councillor Thomson would take the matter up with the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. He added that the dates of the next meetings would be sent to Councillor Gibbs and that the public were able to attend and ask questions about items on the agenda.

M25. Minutes

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2007, (circulated with the agenda).

Resolved

- 1) That the attendance of Councillor O. Gibbs be added.
- 2) That the name Councillor J. Woodcock be taken off the Town/Parish Council representatives.
- 3) That subject to the two amendments, the Minutes of 26th September 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

M26. Chairman's Announcements (if any)

The Chairman, Councillor J.P.S.S. Thomson:

Agenda Order:

It is my intention to move Agenda Item 11 – Community Planning Update to be taken after Agenda Item 7 – Report from the Community Area Partnership. This is because the two items are linked and it will allow officers to leave earlier.

Update from last Meeting:

I'd like to thank those of you who attended our last meeting in Malmesbury, which focused on environmental issues. I have a few matters to update you on;

The provision of allotments when developments take place, has been raised as an issue with the Spatial Plans Team. It is likely to be considered at the first meeting of the Spatial Planning Advisory Group in the new year.

I am able to tell you that the Town Council has canvassed shops in the Town to gather thoughts on Malmesbury becoming plastic-bag free.

Unfortunately, the possibility of such a scheme has not raised much enthusiasm amongst the Town's traders. The Town Council estimate that around £10k would be needed to purchase sufficient reusable bags (which are also fair-trade & biodegradable) and it is the cost element which they think is discouraging traders. At our last meeting, we did raise the possibility of setting up a working Group to look at the issue. In light of this information, does the Committee still wish for this to go ahead? There was general agreement to continue the resolution of the Committee.

The Committee asked Wiltshire County Council about the possibility of switching off every other street light after 1am in safer areas.

The County have responded by saying that they are looking at ways to reduce energy consumption and their carbon footprint. This is likely to be achieved by various means, including part night lighting, trimming of burn times, dimming, using lower wattage lamps, electronic control gear to name but a few.

Some of these have been used in the County over the last few years, in particular the use of electronic control gear and lower wattage lighting coupled with using the minimum lighting levels required under British Standards when new schemes are designed.

We also routinely use lanterns which control light more effectively and reduces upward light spill. Wiltshire buys 100% green energy for street lighting.

You will appreciate that this has to be balanced against the public's concerns about safety and consequently any proposed policy changes would need full consultation with the Police, community safety partnerships and other stakeholders.

The sale of Fairtrade products and Energy Efficiency at Malmesbury School were raised with the Schools' PFI provider, their response is as follows:

'The use of energy efficient lighting at Malmesbury School and the replacement policy; GSL actively encourage the reduction in energy use by the monitoring of lighting and switching off of lights in areas not in use. The light fittings installed at the school are of the lifecycle replacement programme the fittings and lamps however as part of the lifecycle replacement programme the fittings and lamps will be replaced with the most energy efficient and cost effective solution.

The provision of more Fair Trade or similar good being sold at Malmesbury in the following items from sustainable farms or fair trade producers; Bananas, tea, coffee, sugar, fish locally sourced meat. They are also looking to source more fruit and vegetables and dairy products from local producers.

Water saving technology used in the school toilet, showers, etc; Motion sensors are used to control the flushing of urinals and the showers are all fitted with timer devices which cut off automatically after a short time depending on water pressure.

Purchase of 'Green' energy supplies. At each market test/benchmark period GSL seek quotations for the supply available to the market test for the North Wiltshire PFI contract is due in March 2008 and every effort will be made to seek quotations for Green & Brown utility supplies at this time'.

M27. Declarations of Interest

None.

M28. Area Boards

Consideration was given to Report No. 6, circulated with the Agenda, which provided background information and context to inform a debate at the Area Committee meeting around how Area Boards could be trialed and implemented in North Wiltshire.

The new Wiltshire Council is expected to roll out 20 Area Boards across Wiltshire, which will be a key element of the democratic decision making process. North Wiltshire District Council have been offered the opportunity to set up pilot Boards.

There is no finalized blue print as to how these Boards will work, so an opportunity exists for Councillors and the community to shape their creation and to ensure that they are suitable for communities in North Wiltshire.

Area Boards could provide a single forum for community consultation, meaningful involvement of local stakeholders and a joined-up method for seeking local solutions.

Officers stated that they are seeking views, from those in attendance, as to how a pilot Board could work in this area.

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The Committee split into three groups to discuss now an Area Board pilot could be developed and implemented in the Malmesbury Area.

Each Group was asked to report back on their five most important issues, which were as follows:

- Town and Parish Councils on Area Boards and to have voting rights
- Budget is important – grants
- Service influence - what can be influenced by the Area Boards?
- Many geographic based organisations – simplification of all of these
- Pilot study – how a predetermined idea is implemented. What the idea may be.
- Budget available to Area Board
- Elected unitary members only should have a vote
- Sounding Board for local views
- Opportunity for Parish Councils to bid for funds
- Area Boards should be gather the main issues from Malmesbury Community Area
- Some single issue meetings every 2 months (or restricted/associated topics)
- Timed meetings (needs good facilitating)
- Highways and other officers should attend every meeting, thereby educating the officers to cross cutting issues
- Key officers/stakeholders/Members to attend
- Action focussed - Malmesbury as the pilot for Area Boards
Community driven

Resolved that the Area Committee supports the creation of an Area Board pilot in the Malmesbury Community Area.

M29. Report from the Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Partnership (MVCAP)

Consideration was given to Report No. 7, circulated with the Agenda, which indicated the interest of MVCAP in becoming a pilot community area to help test and develop Area Boards in Wiltshire.

It was presented by Mr T. Mockler on behalf of the Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Partnership (MVCAP). MVCAP recommends and continues to support the idea of running a pilot in the Malmesbury Community Area.

M30. Consultation on Transitional Corporate Plan 2008/09

Consideration was given to Report No. 8, circulated with the Agenda, which set out a draft Corporate Plan for 2008/09. The plan will be transitional in light of the Government's intention to create a new unitary council for Wiltshire and will clarify the Council's priorities for improvement and key actions for 2008/09. It will inform budget decisions until the vesting day of the new Wiltshire Council, which is likely to be 1st April 2009.

Issues discussed included:

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- The main focus for next year is likely to be around community level projects and issues; and
- There is a need to provide 780 new affordable homes in the District. In order to achieve this, sustainable exceptions sites are being identified, contributions both physical and financial are being sought from developers and supplementary planning policies are being developed to achieve this target.

Resolved that any comments or suggestions on the Transitional Corporate Plan 2008/09 can be sent to the Committee Administrator (contact details on the Agenda) who will pass them on to be considered by the Executive.

M31. Malmesbury Conservation Area Management Plan

Consideration was given to Report No.9, circulated with the Agenda, which informed the Committee of progress on the production of proposals for the preservation and enhancement of Malmesbury Conservation Area, in accordance with Section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Issues discussed included:

- The reasons for having a separate Appraisal and Management Plan;
- That the document is likely to go out to public consultation after Christmas; and
- Community input into the document.

Recommended to the Spatial Planning Advisory Group: That the Malmesbury Conservation Area Management Plan “Consultation Draft— November 2007” be approved for the purposes of public consultation in accordance with Section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

M32. Area 1 Street-scene Enhancements

Consideration was given to Report No. 10, circulated with the Agenda, which informed the Committee of options for expenditure of the 2007-08 Capital Budget for the continuation of Street-works in Area 1.

Issues discussed included:

- Recycled plastic materials within street-works materials; and
- Street-works funding has been allocated to a scheme in Sherston in a previous year.

Resolved that up to £10,000 of the Area 1 2007-08 Capital Budget for Street-works be allocated as a contribution towards new and improved items of street furniture planned for central Malmesbury, subject to matched funding being available from others.

M33. Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Planning Update

An update was received from Mr T. Mockler on behalf of the Malmesbury & Villages Community Area Partnership (MVCAP). A copy of the update is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

Issues discussed included:

- The effects of flooding in the area;
- Policies addressing flood plain development; and
- How the Area Committee can help to address some of the flooding issues.

Resolved

- 1) That the issue of flooding in the area be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.
- 2) That representatives from the County Council, District Council, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency be invited to the next meeting to contribute to solutions to some of the issues raised.
- 3) That a report be produced outlining the pertinent issues relating to flooding in the area.

M34. Parish Council Update

Brinkworth Parish Council – Councillor O. Gibbs raised the issue of potholes in the Brinkworth Parish, particularly at Wood Lane where a cyclist had recently had an accident. Complaints made to the Clarence Helpline are still outstanding 3 months later. He was advised by the Chairman to take the matter up with Councillor T.R. Sturgis and Councillor Soden who would be able to chase up the reference numbers of the complaints.

Dauntsey Parish Council – The Parish Council received the Parish Plan at a meeting last night. The main issues raised include speeding traffic and motorway noise. Copies are available to neighbouring parishes if they wish to use it in the production of their own plans.

Great Somerford – Councillor Sturgis stated that a recent examination of the drains in the Parish had revealed flooding problems were due to a planning condition not being implemented. Such an occurrence was less likely to happen under a more joined up unitary authority.

Hullavington Parish Council – Councillor Greenman stated that the Parish was forced to address the upkeep of some chest tombstones in the graveyard which were in need of repair. The Parish Council undertook to maintain the tombs in 1966. Councillor Greenman asked whether any other Councils had experience of such an undertaking and stated that the Council was trying to track down the heirs of the deceased and to possibly seek funding for the repairs. It was suggested that the Council's Historic Buildings Officer may be able to advise on the issue.

M35. Outside Bodies

Resolved that Councillors I.J. Henderson and J.P.S.S. Thomson be appointed as representatives on the Joint Community Area Funding Advisory Body.

The meeting started at 7pm and finished at 8.50pm.

There were 23 members of the public present.