

WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the: **BRADFORD ON AVON AREA SEMINAR**

Held on: **16 JUNE 2005**

Held in: **ST MARGARET'S HALL
BRADFORD ON AVON**

Present:

West Wiltshire District Council Representatives: Brown (Chairman), Cunliffe-Jones, Hames, Repton

County Council Representatives

Bradford on Avon Town Council Representative

Parish Council Representatives Kennedy – Limpley Stoke
Allison – Winsley
Hayter – South Wraxall

Parish Cluster Representative

Community Area Partnership Representative

Also in attendance: Police Community Support Officer – Laura Humphreys

Officers: Jacky Nicholas - Community Development Officer
Melanie Stimpson – Member Support Officer

19 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Farkas, Lewis and Viles.

20 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2005/2006

The Chairman called for nominations for the position of Chairman of Bradford on Avon Area Seminar.

Councillor Rosemary Brown was proposed by Councillor Repton and seconded by Councillor Cunliffe-Jones.

There being no other nominations and on being put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Rosemary Brown be elected as
Chairman of Bradford on Avon Area Seminar for 2005/06**

21 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman of Bradford on Avon Area Seminar.

Councillor Judith Cunliffe-Jones was proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Hayter.

There being no other nominations and on being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Judith Cunliffe-Jones be appointed as Vice Chairman of Bradford on Avon Area Seminar for 2005/06.

22 APPOINTMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE BRADFORD ON AVON COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman called for nominations for a representative for Bradford on Avon Community Area Partnership.

Councillor Rosemary Brown was proposed by Councillor Culiffe-Jones and seconded by Councillor Hames.

There being no other nominations and on being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Rosemary Brown be appointed as the Bradford on Avon Community Area Partnership Representative for 2005/06

23 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Hayter was pleased to note that each member of the seminar was appropriately represented by name plates and hoped to see this also reflected in the minutes.

24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

25 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Minutes from Bradford on Avon Area Seminar Meeting on 10 February 2005,

Minute 14 – Draft Community Plan - Resolutions 1, 2 and 3

Responses of resolutions 1, 2 and 3 were distributed to members. The letter from Wiltshire County Council, in response to resolution 3 was read out. Cllr Hames stated that the response was very constructive and more detailed than expected. He wished that his thanks be noted and felt that it gave

encouragement to the Area Seminar for further investigation into other service areas.

Bradford on Avon Community Area Partnership

The Chairman asked for someone to substitute her at the Community Area Partnership on Monday 27 June. Cllr Cunliffe-Jones agreed to be the substitute.

Comments On Position Of Current And Future Planning Applications Requested By Bradford On Avon Area Seminar

At the request of the Chairman, Dave Hubbard, Developmental Control Manager, provided the following statements on various planning applications within Bradford on Avon: -

Sparkeys - we are investigating issues around the status of the land as employment land with Planning Policy and Economic Development. When we have resolved these issues we will be resolving the application. At this stage it is not clear what the outcome will be or whether the application will be referred to the Planning Committee or decided under delegated powers.

Kingston Mills - the applicants held a public exhibition recently. Pre application discussions are ongoing. Applications for planning permission and listed building consent are expected to be submitted shortly.

Colour Developments - application under consideration for mixed development of offices and housing. Consultations on the application are ongoing. Discussions have taken place with the applicants and the highway authority regarding issues about access and parking as a result of which amended plans will be submitted. There will be a further round of consultation based on these amended plans.

Saxon Garage - application for 3 houses, 9 flats and 1 commercial unit. Scheme in current form is not acceptable in terms of issues such as urban form, layout, design, parking and amenity space etc. These concerns have been raised with the applicants and their agents. A response is awaited. If the scheme is amended there will be a further round of consultation and notification on the amended plans. If the applicant wishes to proceed on the basis of the existing plans it is likely that planning permission will be refused.

Cllr Repton expressed that there is a general concern that areas that were once used for commercial purposes, such as, garages, are being bought by developers with no intention of commercial units being incorporated into the development. She intended to refer such applications to the planning committee, as people want Bradford on Avon to be a place where people can not only live but also work.

Update on Air Quality Management Action Plan Progress

The Chairman gave an update on the air quality management action plan provided by Kate Bishop, Principal Environmental Health Officer (Protection), as follows: -

West Wiltshire District Council submitted a draft action plan to DEFRA on 31 March 2005. Feedback from DEFRA is still awaited.

In the meantime, officers continue to work with Wiltshire County Council and their consultants Capita Symonds on undertaking public consultation on the action plan.

On 20 June Capita Symonds will be providing a presentation to the BoA Community Planning Seminar at St Margaret's Hall. Officers will be present to discuss aspects of the action plan.

On 2 and 4 July a manned stand will be present in the BoA library to seek further comments from interested parties. The display will be left up until Friday 8 July.

Leaflets and questionnaires will be issued to residents within the air quality management area and those that have expressed an interest in the past to be consulted.

The feedback from this consultation will be used in producing the final action plan for adoption by West Wiltshire District Council's Cabinet in the Autumn.

Councillor Hames was glad to see some progress being made even though it was a year after councillors were informed that the consultation phase would take place, but understood this to be due to issues with the previous contractor. It was felt that it was extremely important that members became involved in the consultation. Councillor Hames requested that the Chairman write to other district members to encourage them to provide input into the draft action plan.

Statement of Community Involvement

Due to staff illness the presentation by Karol Jakubczyk, Senior Planning Policy Officer would not be made.

26 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Bradford on Avon Historic Buildings Joint Committees

Cllr Repton reported that the District Council would be providing some funding to allow the committee to continue giving money to people who wished to improve the appearance of their buildings within the town centre.

Police Authority Consultancy Committee

Cllr Hames informed the Seminar that he was one of the three new members appointed to this committee and would be reporting back to the next Area Seminar meeting.

RESOLVED:

- i. Councillor Rosemary Brown be appointed as the representative of Bradford on Avon Community Area Partnership for 2005/06**
- ii. The following appointments to outside bodies be noted:**

**Bradford on Avon Historic
Buildings Joint Committee**

**Repton
Viles
Farkas (Deputy)**

**Youth and Community Centre
Support Group – Bradford on Avon**

Brown

**Bradford on Avon Community Area
Partnership**

Brown

27 COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Jacky Nicholas, Community Development Officer (Northern) presented a report on the Bradford on Avon Community Area Action Plan. It was intended that all Community Area Plans would be sent to Cabinet to request that the District Council gives support to the plans. The report listed the areas that the District Council could support.

Concern was voiced that local hospitals were not mentioned within the report under health and social care, but this was because this was within the PCT area of concern.

All Community Area Partnerships would benefit from £4,000 each which would be useful in producing the action plans. This funding has been accessed through the Community Initiatives Budget. Jacky Nicholas also advised the Seminar on other sources of funding which may be available to the Community Partnership.

Some members had not been notified of the Community Area Partnership meeting until last week, which was too short notice. In future members would like to receive a formal notice and within an adequate amount of time.

28 BRADFORD ON AVON POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER

Laura Humpreys, the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for Bradford on Avon, gave a verbal presentation. The role of PCSO followed a Government initiative which saw the first PCSO employed in 2002. Bradford on Avon has only had a PCSO since this year which is part funded by Bradford on Avon Town Council.

The role includes decreasing crime and criminal activity by being highly visible via mobile foot patrol, decreasing anti social behaviour including working with various housing societies, dealing with minor incidences and other offences which have been tasked out by other officers, intelligence gathering, dealing with quality of life issues, such as, dog fouling, littering and cycling on footpaths and working closely with local liaison groups.

The area that the Bradford PCSO had to cover is large and included Holt, Limpley Stoke, Monkton Farleigh and South Wraxall. Bradford on Avon PCSO did not have any transportation so the only way to travel to the other villages is to use a police car from the local police station. It is hoped that someone will be able to sponsor a car for her to travel around in.

The PCSO informed the Seminar that traffic was a major concern in Bradford on Avon, such as, congestion and parking on double yellow lines. Most of the PCSO's time could be used on parking issues, however she is unable to issue parking tickets. She also pointed out that the younger community had an unjust bad name as not all offences were due to the younger community. However, those problems that did result from the younger community were related to hanging around and causing a nuisance.

29 GREENLAND VIEW PLAYAREA

The Chairman informed the Seminar that contractors were due to start work anyday. Thanks was expressed to Anna Hislam, Chair of the playarea, as the group had managed to raise £36,000, including £9,000 from the Town Council, £8,000 from West Wiltshire District Council, £7, 000 from Landfill Tax and £12,000 from Living Spaces.

This has been an example of good partnership working and everyone will receive an invitation to the opening of the play area. As owners of the playarea, the District Council will be responsible for the long term maintenance and will cover the insurance for the play area

30 ANY ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE REFERRAL TO CABINET

RESOLVED:

i. Bradford on Avon Community Area Seminar ask Cabinet to give serious consideration to the issues raised in the Bradford on Avon Community Area Action Plan

(Please also see Minute 31, below)

31 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

High Hedges

Part 8 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 gives local authorities powers to deal with complaints about high hedges and came into effect in England on 1 June 2005. Councillor Repton was very concerned about the amount each individual has to pay to complain about a high hedge, she quoted that each individual must pay approximately £300 each with no group concessions. This was highlighted in a recent case, the complainants being a group of houses in Meadow Field, Bradford on Avon against the owner of Belcombe Court. Cllr Repton asked if the council could consider different forms of funding.

RESOLVED:

i. That Cabinet review the charges in respect of high hedges complaints, particularly in respect of group complaints and to ensure that costs be kept to a minimum whilst covering costs.

- ii. **That the views of the Planning and Development Portfolio Holder, Developmental Control Manager and Leader of Council be sought on this matter**

Area Seminars

Some members questioned the need for Area Seminars. They felt that Area Seminars duplicated the work of other meetings, such as, Parish Councils and Community Area Partnerships. There was concern that meetings were not well attended by members or by members of the public.

There was a lack of ability for members to make decisions at Area Seminars, which was felt could be the reason why the public were not supporting the Area Seminars. Another reason for the public not attending could be that they had or would be attending a Community Area Partnership Meeting.

It was also felt by some that the Area Seminar meetings are a hybrid and should be renamed as the word Seminar is uninspiring.

The Chairman was asked to invite district members for their views on surgeries before the next Area Seminar meeting

32 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 1 March, however due to a clash in meeting dates with Scrutiny the meeting has been rearranged for Thursday 9 February 2006 at St Margret's Hall, Bradford on Avon at 7pm .

(7.00pm – 8.29pm)

These minutes were prepared by Melanie Stimpson, Member Support Officer
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