

**These minutes will be presented to the next meeting on 28th April 05 for approval
as a correct record**

WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the: **WESTBURY AREA SEMINAR**

Held on: **WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2005**

Held in: **THE LAVERTON, WESTBURY**

Present:

Councillors: J Clegg (Chairman), M Clegg, Hawker, Manasseh,
Swabey

Also in attendance: Councillor While and Wiltshire – WWDC
Councillor Newbury – WDCC and WCC for area
Councillor Horace Prickett } -
Bill Braid } - Westbury
Mike Hawkins } - Town
Derek Hulin } - Council
Pamela Cox-Maidment } -
Michelle Slade - Westbury Town Council & WAAG
Chris Millard – Dilton Marsh Parish Council
Mike Jones } – Bratton Parish
Keith Miller } – Council
Peter Sexstone } – Heywood
Frank Brine } – Parish
Francis Morland } – Council
Michael Jones – Edington Parish Council

Rev Paul Richardson – Chair of WAAG

Officers: Paul Mountford - Performance and Scrutiny Support
Manager
Sue Bellamy - Community Development Officer
Melanie Stimpson – Member Support Officer

8 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Conley

9 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15 June 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased to see so many people in attendance. The Chairman emphasised that it was an informal community meeting that could refer items to cabinet. He asked all those in attendance to introduce themselves.

11 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Westbury Youth and Community Centre

Councillor Manesseh reported on the positive progress at the request of Councillor Hawker. He reported youths were now using the building more, a new office had been built and that there had been a reduction in the abuse of the building.

Lafarge

Councillor Marion Clegg announced that a Lafarge Liaison Group meeting had been arranged for 22 February.

Westbury CCTV Partnership

Councillor Hawker requested that this be an item on the next agenda as with the advancements of technology it would now be possible to purchase a new camera of equal quality/specification for less money. Pamela Cox-Maidment suggested that a recruitment drive was required as currently there was only one volunteer operator from Westbury and more were urgently required.

Westbury Fire Station

Councillor Newbury reported that he recently attended a Fire Authority meeting where Westbury Fire Station had been praised for being an extremely well run station and had more recruits than could be accommodated.

12 DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN

Rev Paul Richardson delivered a presentation, on behalf of Westbury Area Action Group (WAAG), and thanked everyone for coming and West Wiltshire District Council for the support given especially that of Sue Bellamy, as her assistance had been invaluable. He explained that the partnership working had been a long, hard process but from this the plan had been achieved, which was very nearly complete. Paul Richardson outlined the process that WAAG had gone through to achieve the plan, looked at some initiatives that were already in place and ideas for future projects. The aim of the Plan was to address the concerns of everyone. It was explained that whilst the plan presented was the final draft anticipated, barring a few tweaks, there would still opportunity for comment for about a month. Councillor Prickett praised the plan and said it was nice to see something coming to fruition.

A discussion was held around how the various agencies and organisations in the area would be finding out about the detail of the plan and identifying how they could support it. It was explained that it was possible for the District Council's Westbury Area Seminar to recommend the report up to Cabinet and that links to other appropriate organisations in the area would be made by the WAAG co-ordinating group through appropriate processes, including current membership on the WAAG partnership. It was explained that the plan did not require WWDC

approval to become live, as it was the responsibility of WAAG to finalise the plan. However, as a partnership document there were elements which need support from various organisations to enable the plan to be implemented effectively.

Councillor Newbury requested a copy of the presentation to enable it to be looked at in more detail. It was confirmed that a copy of the full draft plan would accompany the minutes, however it was subsequently established that the presentation was incorporated within the Plan. A copy of the presentation is available on request from Member Support.

It was agreed that Westbury & District Community Development Trust, the accountable body and fund holder for WAAG, should be invited to the next Area Seminar in May to help the Area Seminar understand the role that they might take in helping WAAG to implement the plan.

RESOLVED:

- (1) An extra meeting be arranged in May to consider the details of the Community Plan**

13 CORPORATE PLAN

Paul Mountford gave a presentation on the Corporate Plan. It is a high level strategic plan to guide the work of the Council over the next five years. The Corporate Plan was produced using existing consultation, reviewing emerging community area plans; assessing member aspirations and taking account the Government requirements. The plan is focused on six spotlight areas with accompanying tasks and targets.

Councillor M Clegg asked if it was correct that if the Council did not meet its recycling target the Government could fine the Council. She also asked about how the Regional Spatial Strategy would affect the housing needs. Paul Mountford confirmed that it was possible that the Council could be fined if it did not meet national targets, but this was highly unlikely to occur. The position was complex because of the joint responsibility for waste and recycling with Wiltshire County Council. The Regional Spatial Strategy was currently being considered by the Regional Assembly. It is likely to have an impact on housing needs however it is still in the consultation stage. Councillor M. Clegg then asked for confirmation that the Leisure and Recreational Needs Assessment was due and how air quality would be managed now that the Government had raised the standards. Paul Mountford believed that the leisure and recreational needs assessment was due shortly (programmed for April 2005) and that Rachel Kent would be the officer to approach in relation to air quality.

Councillor Prickett enquired about the 900 housing slots, which were being proposed for deallocation. Councillor While informed the Seminar of the back ground to the PFI bid, which would provide 500 affordable homes

Councillor Cox-Mainment asked if any of the homes would be shared equity as there was a great need to enable people to get onto the housing ladder. Councillor While stated that shared equity was not planned within the PFI however this problem did need investigating.

Councillor Newbury informed the Seminar that it was the Structure Plan Panel which had proposed the deallocation of housing.

14 **BUDGET**

Councillor While, on behalf of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Philips, gave background information to the budget and urged people to contact him if they wished to discuss the budget in further detail. Councillor While felt that this was the toughest budget the Council had ever had to set. It was likely that the Council Tax would increase by 4.5%. Due to increasing pressures on the budget such as having to provide statutory services, the shortfall in the pension fund and the Council having to spend its reserves some non-statutory services had to be evaluated and prioritised. This had resulted in some charges being increased, such as car parking fees and funding to other services being depleted, such as tourist information centres.

15 **ANY ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE REFERRAL TO CABINET**

RESOLVED:

- (1) The Seminar agrees to recommend the report on the Community Plan, in principle, subject to discussing the details at a later date**
- (2) That a request for a recycling centre in Westbury be referred to Cabinet**

16 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

A meeting be arranged in 3 months time to consider the Community Plan and that the next ordinary meeting be held in 6 months time.

It has subsequently been agreed that the date of the extra meeting is to be held on 28 April at 7pm and the next ordinary Westbury Area Seminar meeting is to be held on 7 July 2005 at 7pm, both in the Laverton Hall

(7.05pm – 9.12pm)