

# WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Minutes of the: **WESTBURY AREA SEMINAR**

Held on: **THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2006**

Held in: **THE LAVERTON, WESTBURY**

Present:

District Council Representatives: Cllrs J Clegg (Chairman), M Clegg, Hawker, Manasseh, Swabey \*

County Council Representatives: Cllrs De Rhe-Philipe (part) and district member listed above with an asterisk

Town Council Representative: Cllr Prickett

Parish Council Representatives: Cllrs Morland - Dilton Marsh  
Sexstone - Heywood

Community Area Partnership Representative:

Parish Cluster Representative:

Also in attendance: Cllrs Hawkins, Finbow (part) and Los – Westbury Town Council

Officers: Gwilym Gibbons - Community Initiatives Manager  
Sue Bellamy - Community Development Officer  
Stef Keen and Melanie Stimpson – Member Support Officers

### **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Conley, Newbury and Reverend Paul Richardson.

### **2 MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26 July 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

## **4 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

### **(a) Town Centre Improvements**

The display of proposals scheduled to be exhibited at Westbury library at the end of January/beginning of February had been postponed by a month. This was due to Wiltshire County Council requesting further detailed information from Mouchel Parkman. Members would be kept informed of developments regarding rescheduling the exhibition via the Members Information Sheet.

### **(b) Dates of Meetings**

Notification of the Area Seminar meeting dates and agenda were distributed to chairmen and clerks of Town and Parish Councils. The District Council relied on Clerks to Town and Parish Councils to inform their respective councillors. The Chairman advised members to approach the clerks if this information was not being distributed.

Note: The full list of District Council meetings, which included Area Seminars, was also circulated to local libraries and published in West Wilts Matters.

### **(c) Recycling Centre**

Cllr Hawkins had made representations to the County Council for a Household Recycling Centre in Westbury.

### **(d) Westbury Leigh Conservation Area**

A survey had been completed with the assistance of Glyn Bridges, who had also carried out the Trowbridge Conservation Project. The next stage would be to collate this information and present it to the Portfolio Holder, for Planning & Development, Jeff Osborn and Caroline Power, the Conservation Officer.

### **(e) Lafarge Liaison Committee**

The Chairman reported that he had approached the Leader to discuss representation on Lafarge Liaison Committee. The Leader had explained that the Committee was an advisory group. Any future meetings would be held at the District Council Offices and any councillor could attend. The Leader also felt that Westbury was adequately represented on the Committee.

The Chairman felt that the representation Westbury did have on Lafarge Liaison Committee was in different guises and that it was important to have a Westbury Ward District Councillor representative on the Committee.

The Chairman had requested that the Leader allow Cllr Hames to attend Westbury Area Seminar, but it was suggested that Cllr Cox, as Portfolio Holder would be more appropriate. Cllr Brown then took over the role of Environment Health Portfolio Holder. However as Cllr Brown had not long since acquired this part of the Portfolio, she requested Cllr Cox to attend. Unfortunately, Cllr Cox was unable to attend and Cllr Brown passed this to an Officer. In the circumstances John Carter, Environmental Health Manager, was asked to facilitate at the meetings. The Chairman considered that councillor representation was more appropriate.

Some members felt that the meetings should be at Lafarge as it was not only District Councillors who attended the meetings.

It was also commented that the Lafarge terms of reference clearly stated the groups membership and venue for meetings. It was also felt by some that the Area Seminar had a County Councillor and Town Councillor who attended the Lafarge meetings who could keep the Area Seminar and other members informed.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Chairman approach the Leader to suggest that either Cllrs Marion Clegg or Swabey represent Westbury as a District Council representative on the Lafarge Liaison Committee and to request that all meetings should be held at Lafarge.**

**5 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

**Lafarge Liaison Committee**

Cllr Swabey informed members that the December meeting was well attended. Cllr White chaired the meeting and had done a very good job. The MBT Plant was discussed and some had voiced concerns regarding traffic and the way waste would be transported to the plant and burned. The Area seminar was informed that there would be a proper process and many questions had been addressed. Cllr Swabey encouraged all to attend.

**Westbury Youth and Community Services Committee**

Cllr Hawker reported that the rumour, referring to the closure of the youth centre building, was discussed at the September meeting. It was concluded that there was no evidence to support the rumour and the Committee would wait for information from the County Council.

**Westbury CCTV Partnership**

Cllr Manasseh reported that the Partnership was still looking for volunteers.

**Historic Buildings Joint Committee and Westbury Landfill Liaison Group**

No meetings had been held.

It was also discussed that a children's centre would be established in Westbury, but no further details were yet known.

**6 UPDATES**

Please also see 'Announcements from the Chairman'

**WAAG Community Area Future Action Plan**

Gwilym Gibbons presented an update, on the above. He advised that community groups should be mindful when setting aspirations in case they were unachievable and therefore could result in penalties.

7. i. **Westbury Area Action Group (WAAG)**

A WAAG update report, prepared by Reverend Paul Richardson, was presented by Sue Bellamy, Community Development Officer.

7. ii. **THEMES**

Sue Bellamy, Community Development Officer asked that District Council Members allocate themselves, as a representative, to one of the four project areas.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cllr Swabey be the Seminar's representative on Westbury Area Health for All Project.**

Other District Councillors who wished to be nominated should contact Sue Bellamy, Reverend Paul Richardson, the Chairman Cllr J Clegg or Melanie Stimpson.

8 **RESPECT AGENDA – IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY AREAS, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PARISHES, FOR EXAMPLE, NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAMS**

Gwilym Gibbons, Community Initiatives Manager, presented a report to update the Seminar on the emergence of Neighbourhood Policing Teams, the Council's response to their arrival and planned involvement in their development.

Gwilym Gibbons explained that the emergence of Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT's) was an example of the increasing focus and commitment central Government was placing on the 'neighbourhood' as the area where public services connect with local people and should be influenced by local priorities.

In Wiltshire each team would develop into a mix of Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), Special Constables and other volunteers, including Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. They would work in local neighbourhoods, which had been identified across the county.

It was envisaged that each team would consist of at least 1 PC, 3 Specials and 2 PCSO's. Teams would need to be in place by April 2008 and there would be an extra 36 PCSO's for West Wiltshire

Wiltshire Police Authority had committed to the project and the cost of the NPT's was estimated at £4 million. 75% would be centrally funded with the remainder needing to be found locally. The estimated cost of the extra PCSO's for West Wiltshire was £222,000

The District Council along with Town and Parish Councils had a range of new powers in relation to Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005. The District Council was currently in the process of exploring how, when and where it could best utilise these new powers. There was an opportunity to explore the role NPT's and in particular PCSO's could play in enforcement action (fixed penalty notices) in support of the Council's objectives.

The role of ward members was considered crucial to the effective delivery of NPT's. The active role of members in NPT's may stimulate members involvement in the Council's own 'Local Area Working' agenda, and in turn support the development and recognition of their role as community leaders.

The Government would also be placing a duty on District councillors to act on information or complaints they may receive. District Councillors would have to respond within a prescribed timescale.

Some members felt cynical of how the extra PCSO's would be funded and the effectiveness of the NPTS's

## **9 ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE REFERRAL TO CABINET**

There were no items which required referral to Cabinet.

## **10 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Brook Lane MBT Plant

## **11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Westbury Area Seminar meeting has provisionally been arranged for 5 July 2006. This date is to be ratified by Council on 22 February 2006, along with the dates for all meetings at the Council. Members of the Committee would be advised accordingly.

(7.05pm – 9.00pm)