

Minutes

Meeting of : Northern Area Committee
Meeting held in : Antrobus House, Amesbury
Date : Thursday 26 April 2007
Commencing at : 4.30 pm

Present:

Councillor M A Hewitt – Chairman
Councillor C G Mills– Vice-Chairman

Councillors M Baker, J A Brady, D W Brown, Mrs J M Greville, J C Noeken, J Rodell, J R G Spencer and F Westmoreland.

Apologies: Councillors A G Peach, I C West, K C Wren and T Woodbridge

Parish Councillors: Mr G Burt (Bulford), Mr Fisher (Amesbury), Mr P Fisher (Idmiston), Mr S Stubbs (Newton Toney), Mrs J Swindlehurst (Amesbury) and Mrs Towle (Durrington)

Officers:

A Davies (Democratic Services), A Madge (Development Services), G Newell (Legal and Property Services)

699. Public Questions/Statement Time:

Mr Sanger, a resident of Amesbury raised his concerns in relation to speeding traffic on Pendragon way, acoustic fencing and recent problems experienced with Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV's).

Councillor Noeken, in his capacity as a Councillor for Wiltshire County Council replied that speeding traffic on Amesbury roads had been identified by the Police Task Group as a priority area and notification of this was now being advertised on the Co-Op notice board in order to raise awareness.

With reference to HGV's, the building work at Solstice Park and the opening of the hotel had increased the number of HGV's. Consequently, traffic jams had been experienced on the A303 heading towards Countess Roundabout and Stonehenge, with the result that traffic was diverting from the A303. The problem had been compounded by satellite navigation. Furthermore, work was due to start on the three roundabouts on the A345. Councillor Noeken explained that the situation was unlikely to improve in the short time, but when the roundabout works had been completed, traffic problems should be alleviated.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



With reference to acoustic fencing, Councillor Noeken explained that this had been installed by Bloors Persimmon and all the acoustic fencing on Butterfield Down had now been completed.

Inspector Sweett added that if individual registration details of speeding traffic could be provided to the Police, the Police in turn would take action, in line with the provisions set out in the Anti Social Behaviour Act. This was a problem that the Police was very keen to tackle.

700. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

Councillor Mrs Greville informed the Committee that she understood that there was to be no retail facilities at Solstice Park. She was therefore surprised to see in the minutes of Amesbury Town Council that an Asda store was proposed for Solstice Park. She asked if there was any information available?

The Chairman replied that discussions were taking place between Asda, Solstice Park and the Planning Department at Salisbury District Council, but emphasised that these were only discussions. No planning application had been received.

On a personal note, Councillor Mrs Greville informed the Committee that she was retiring from the Area Committee after 11 years. She thanked all the Councillors and Officers for their support over the years, adding that she hoped the Area Committees would continue in the future.

Councillor Hewitt informed the Committee that he had received a letter from Edward Eyre, of Great Dunford Parish Council, which read as follows:-

“Members, having been the Parish Council representative on the SWAG Panel for a number of years, I am not standing for re-election to the Durnford Parish Council this May. I am tendering therefore my resignation as a SWAG Panel Member from the end of April, after which I would indeed be no longer eligible for the position.

I have enjoyed serving on the Panel and extend my very best wishes to my successor”.

Councillor Mills stated that Mr Eyre had been well respected member of the SWAG Review Panel, with much to offer. He wished Mr Eyre well for the future. He added that a letter would be sent from the Northern Area Committee to Mr Eyre to thank him for all his work over the past years.

701. Minutes:

Resolved: That the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 29th March 2007 be approved as correct record and signed by the Chairman.

702. Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Baker declared a personal interest in Planning Application S/2007/0518 since he was a member of the Durrington Swimming Pool Managing Body in his capacity as a Wiltshire County Councillor, but he was not required to leave the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Greville declared a personal interest in Planning Application S/2007/0518 since she was a member of the Durrington Swimming Pool Managing Body and prejudicial interest in the application since she used to be a teacher at Stonehenge School and as such, she felt this prejudiced her determination of the application. She withdrew from the meeting during the consideration thereof.

Councillor Mills declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning Application S/2007/0518 since he felt that he had already predetermined the application.

Councillor Noeken declared a personal interest in Planning Application S/2007/0518 since he the Chairman of the Amesbury Sports Centre Management Committee, appointed in his capacity as a Wiltshire County Councillor, but he was not required to leave the meeting.

Councillor Rodell declared a personal interest in Planning Application S/2007/0518 since he was a District Council representative on the Durrington Swimming Pool Managing Body, but he was not required to leave the meeting.

703. Chairman's Announcements:

Stonehenge Update:

The Chairman informed Members that English Heritage's plans for a new Stonehenge visitor centre have been given conditional approval.

In a letter (a copy of which can be downloaded from the Council's website:

<http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/stonehenge-decision-mar07.pdf> Secretary of State Ruth Kelly said the scheme could only go ahead once the government had approved the published A303 roads scheme.

Members stated that they would like to know what road improvements were planned as soon as possible.

Area Committees

The Chairman informed the Committee that the next Northern Area Committee would be held on 28th June. In the meantime, the Head of Development Services had delegated authority to determine any planning applications received, unless an application was called in by a local ward member.

Mobile Security Cameras

The Chairman asked Members of the Northern Area Committee if they would like to consider the use of part of the Committee's Discretionary Budget to help fund the hire of video security cameras in order to monitor fly tipping, vandalism and other forms of anti social behaviour in villages within the Northern Area of Salisbury District.

Members of the Committee welcomed this suggestion.

Resolved: that a report be brought back to the Northern Area Committee (ideally for consideration at its meeting in June), with further details relating to the following:-

- (a) details relating to the associated hire costs for security cameras (including cost comparisons)
- (b) useful camera locations (Amanda Warren, Amesbury Police and Kelly Bagley, Anti Social Behaviour Reduction Officer, SDC to advise)

(NOTE: This proposal is for the short term installation of security cameras only, i.e. for a maximum duration of four weeks at any one site).

Farewell to retiring Councillors

The Chairman informed Members that Councillors Mrs Greville, Peach and Woodbridge would not be standing again at the District Council elections on 3rd May. He thanked them for all their hard work on the Northern Area Committee and wished them well for the future.

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Spencer on his reappointment as ward Councillor for Bulford.

704. Update from Inspector Sweet on policing in the Northern Area

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Sweet of Wiltshire Constabulary to the meeting and invited him to provide Members with an update on Community Safety in the Northern Area.

Inspector Sweet informed Members as follows:-

- In 2006-2007 – 1352 crimes had been committed in the Amesbury area. This represented an increase of 6% on the previous year's figures, with another 85 crimes having taken place.
- Detection rates equaled 33.65%. This represented the second best performance figure in the County and was significantly higher when compared to the rest of the Force.
- Violent crimes had increased by 25%, with a total of 395 recorded for the year. These included examples of domestic crime and reflected the fact that more crimes were being reported. These figures were expected to level out in time. Anti social behaviour in Amesbury town was linked to the consumption of alcohol.
- Only 44 dwelling burglaries had been reported in the year, so deterrent controlling was working well on would-be burglars.
- There had been a 9% increase in non dwelling burglaries e.g. sheds and commercial premises. Part of this was due to the fact that residents still left their sheds unlocked.

- Criminal damage = 22% which reflected an excellent detective rate and one of the best in the Force. These figures also gave a good indication of well being in the community and the effectiveness of community policing teams.
- With reference to drug offences, 52% of offences had been recorded and detected. This was represented an improvement on the previous year.
- With reference to neighbourhood policing, this was now coming to the end of its second stage consultation period. This would result in a new set of priorities for the police to work towards. Inspector Sweett informed the Committee that he did not expect to see the priorities change much from the previous ones that had been identified. The Inspector asked anyone who was interested in getting involved to get in touch with him and asked the incidents of anti social behaviour be reported wherever possible.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Sweett for providing the Committee with this informative update.

705. Minutes of the last meeting of the Durrington Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre Managing Body:

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting of the Managing Body held on 5th February 2007 (previously circulated).

Resolved – That the Council be requested to undertake a full conditional survey of the facility and car park and prioritise routine maintenance accordingly.

706. S/2007/0518 – New leisure centre development to include amended leisure impact assessment, additional pedestrian access and relocation of cycle parking: Plot BW 2/3 mid summer place, Amesbury – for Hamiltons Architects

The Committee noted that a large amount of late correspondence had been submitted since the agenda had been published and the Planning Officer had not had sufficient time to analyse and interpret the statistics provided by Keith Flint of Bodyworks, Amesbury, one of the objectors to the proposal (these had been supplied on the afternoon of 25th April).

Resolved –

- (1) That consideration of this application be deferred in order to enable an independent analysis of the quantitative need for this proposal.
- (2) That once the independent analysis has been completed, this planning application be brought back to the Northern Area Committee for determination.

*The meeting concluded at 5.15pm
Members of the public present: 14*