

Minutes

Meeting of : Northern Area Committee
Meeting held in : Antrobus House, Amesbury
Date : Thursday 29 January 2009
Commencing at : 4.30 pm

Present:

Councillor M A Hewitt (Chairman)
Councillor D W Brown (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: C Mills, I Mitchell, J Noeken, J Smale, F Westmoreland, I West, G Wright.

County Councillor: M Baker.

Parish & Town Councillors: S Banton (Figheldean), G Burt (Bulford), R Fisher (Amesbury), D Healing (Durrington).

Apologies: Councillors J Broom, S Dennis, M Lee, J Spencer, K Wren, and Parish Councillor S Stubbs.

Officers: B Chequer (Waste Management Officer), E Milton (Principal Conservation Officer), A Minting (Conservation Officer) and P Trenell (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

250. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were none.

251. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

Councillor Mills stated that Dennis Edwards had stepped down from the Tenants Panel. The committee expressed their appreciation for his dedication and valuable service.

252. Minutes:

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

253. Declarations of Interest:

There were none.



254. Chairman's Announcements:

Councillor Hewitt announced that he had received the appeal decision for planning application S/2008/0717 (Construction of 22 flats at former Texaco garage site, Amesbury) which was refused by the Northern Area Committee in July 2008. The application had been allowed on appeal.

255. Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans for Durrington, Wyllye and Steeple Langford:

The committee received a presentation from the Conservation Officer and considered the previously circulated Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans. A summary of the committee's comments are below:

- Councillor Wright commented that there were three potential development sites referred to in the Durrington appraisal that had since been developed, and that the document needed to be updated to reflect this;
- Parish Councillor Healing welcomed the documents and the boundary changes in Durrington, but inquired as to how the conservation area would be protected. He was informed that Conservation Officers would be consulted on any development within a conservation area and have the chance to make recommendations on the suitability of development;
- Councillor Mills asked that a definition of the term "character area" be included in the documents;
- Councillor West referred to the Steeple Langford document and stated that Duck Street was referred to as Duck Lane. He asked that this be corrected;
- The committee felt it was important that Conservation Area Appraisals were living documents that were regularly updated. It was felt that the list of ongoing and outstanding conservation area appraisals should be brought to the attention of the Area Boards so that they can raise the importance of continuing with this programme of works to the unitary authority.

Resolved:

- 1) That the Conservation Area Appraisals & Management Plans be amended to reflect the committee's comments and recommended to Cabinet for approval;
- 2) That all Area Committees be notified of ongoing and outstanding Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans in their areas so they could take steps to ensure that this work was continued by Wiltshire Council.

256. Request for Discretionary Grant from Bulford Parish Council:

The committee considered the previously circulated report and a presentation from the Waste Management Officer. The committee felt that it would be unfair to award money from the discretionary budget before the South Wiltshire Area Grants (SWAG) Review Panel had been able to review applications in tranche 3.

Resolved: That the request for £750 from the Northern Area Discretionary Budget be considered by the Northern area Committee SWAG review Panel at their meeting of 6 February 2009.

257. Barn to the North of the Manor House, Winterbourne Gunner:

The committee considered the previously circulated report and a presentation from the Conservation Officer. The committee expressed their frustration that the matter was taking a long time to resolve. Given the ongoing nature of the issue the Conservation Officer felt it imprudent to respond to councillors' questions in open session, and the Chairman proposed moving in to exempt session.

In view of the confidential or sensitive nature of the matters to be considered, the committee excluded the press and public from the meeting during consideration of part of agenda item 9 on the grounds that it may have involved the disclosure of 'exempt information' as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by Local Government (Access to Information) Variation Order 2006 where the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in favour of disclosure the information explained below:

Paragraph 5 namely: 'Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings' and;

Paragraph 7 namely: 'Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime'.

Resolved:

- 1) That the report be noted;
- 2) That English Heritage be asked to provide their comments as soon as possible and a further report be brought to the February meeting of Northern Area Committee to update members on the situation and the options open to the Council.

258. Durrington Swimming & Fitness Centre Managing Body:

The committee considered the previously circulated minutes of the Durrington Swimming & Fitness Centre Managing Body.

Resolved:

- 1) That the minutes of 22 April 2008 and 19 January 2009 be approved as a correct record;
- 2) That Mr S. Rennie be granted full voting rights on the Managing Body.

259. Special Delegation Procedure – Release of R2 Financial Contributions in Shrewton for New Recreational Facilities:

The committee considered the previously circulated Special Delegation form.

Resolved: That the Special Delegation be noted.

260. Community Update:

Town Councillor Fisher updated the committee on the activities of the Amesbury Pilot Area Board. Their first meeting on 28th January had been successful and featured items on the A338, the future of planning under Wiltshire Council, the boundary consultation and a discussion on young people and youth issues in the area. The board's next scheduled meeting was the 19th February and Brad Fleet, Wiltshire Council's Director of Development, would be in attendance.

Councillor West asked for members' views on Neighbourhood Policing to inform a report he was contributing to for the Wiltshire Police Authority. A summary of members' comments follows:

- Councillor Noeken expressed concern at the high turnover of police officers in the area over recent months and stressed the need to retain or replace staff;
- Councillor Mills had experienced problems accessing the police using 999. The operator could not find the location when given a postcode, and the police took 45 minutes to arrive;
- County Councillor Baker stated that a greater police presence was needed in Larkhill;
- Parish Councillor Banton called for a police presence in Figheledean;
- Parish Councillor Burt stressed that whilst people were very happy with the recent reduction in crime, police presence must be retained in order to keep crime rates down;
- Councillor Mitchell referred the large amount of new development in Amesbury, in particular at Archer's Gate, and contended that police resource must be increased as new areas develop and the population grows.

Councillor Wright announced that there was to be a meeting of the Stonehenge Community Area Partnership at Antrobus House at 6:45 pm on 11th February, and that Inspector Martyn Sweett would be in attendance.

Councillor Westmoreland announced that the public inquiry into planning applications S/2007/1865 and S/2007/2226 had been adjourned until April 2009.

*The meeting closed at 5:36 pm
Members of the public: 1*