

**Democratic Services Unit
Salisbury District Council
PO Box 2117
Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 2DF**

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Minutes

Meeting of : Northern Area Committee
Meeting held in : Antrobus House, Amesbury
Date : Thursday 26 February 2009
Commencing at : 4.30 pm

Present:

Councillor D Brown (Chairman)
Councillor C Mills (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: M Lee, I Mitchell, J Smale, F Westmoreland, I West, G Wright.

Parish & Town Councillors: S Banton (Figheldean), G Burt (Bulford), P Fisher (Idmiston), R Fisher (Amesbury).

Inspector M Sweett (Wiltshire Constabulary)

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

Officers: P Trenell (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

261. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were none.

262. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

There were none.

263. Minutes:

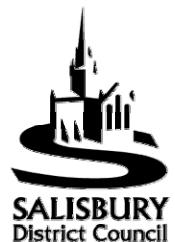
Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

264. Declarations of Interest:

Councillor West declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item set out under minute 267 (South Wiltshire Area Grants, 2008/9, Tranche 3) as he was Chairman of Winterbourne Stoke Events Group, one of the applicants for grant funding. Councillor West neither spoke nor voted on this item.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



265. Chairman's Announcements:

Councillor Brown reminded members of the dinner following the last Northern Area Committee on 26 March 2009 and asked that any outstanding replies be forwarded to him as soon as possible.

266. Community Police Update:

Inspector Sweett gave a short presentation covering local crime figures. Crime reported was down 20% on the same periods last year, whilst detection rate was 34.7%, one of the highest rates in the county. There had been a 9% rise in violent crime attributed to population movements in the area, whilst theft from motor vehicles had decreased by 33%, principally due to the apprehension of offenders. There had been an increase in the reporting of domestic violence, which was interpreted as a positive because it allows the police to take action.

Inspector Sweett gave details of an internal review of Neighbourhood Policing Teams in the county, undertaken to coincide with the introduction of the unitary authority and Area Boards. The review would mean that Inspector Sweett gained four Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and one dedicated Sergeant to manage Neighbourhood Policing Teams. He expected that this would allow more dedication of time in the area and greater engagement.

Councillor Brown asked Inspector Sweett about a problem in Cholderton, where Village Hall users were parking on a roundabout and blocking in residents. Inspector Sweet had referred this problem to his Neighbourhood Policing Team and assured members that it would be addressed.

Councillors thanked Inspector Sweett and his staff for all their efforts, and Amesbury members agreed that the PCSO system had worked in their area.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

267. South Wiltshire Area Grants, 2008/9, Tranche 3:

Councillor Mills presented the recommendations of the South Wiltshire Area Grants (SWAG) Review Panel, noting the high level of competition in this tranche. He felt the recommendations were fair and reflected the merits of each individual application.

Resolved:

- 1) That the recommendations of the SWAG Review Panel as outlined below be approved;
- 2) That Bulford Parish Council be awarded £258.69 from the Northern Area Committee's discretionary budget in response to their request to the committee considered under agenda item 8 on 19th January 2009.

Ref. no.	Application	Panel Recommendations
NAC/08-09/T3/01	Amesbury Juniors Football Club Equipment, kits, balls, goals and nets.	Award £2,750
NAC/08-09/T3/02	Allington Parish Council Supply of 2 new notice boards and repair to 2 existing notice boards	Award £800
NAC/08-09/T3/03	Grovely Pre-School To purchase and erect a summerhouse for use as a playroom and as a classroom	Award £750
NAC/08-09/T3/04	Orcheston Parish Council Refurbishment of bus shelter	Award £507
NAC/08-09/T3/05	Bulford Parish Council Upgrading of village hall kitchen	Award £1,500 The application papers stated that the Parish Council had raised £1,000 towards the project. The panel therefore awarded the amount need to complete the project.
NAC/08-09/T3/06	Newton Toney Parish Council Provision of bus shelter	The panel did not feel inclined to award any money to this project. It was not considered to be a high priority in comparison to other applications and given the degree of competition for funding this tranche.
NAC/08-09/T3/07	Durrington Town Council Review of Parish Plan	Award £1,500
NAC/08-09/T3/08	Figheldean Parish Council (in conjunction with Youth Club) Refurbishment of Youth Club premises	Award £3,800

NAC/08-09/T3/09	Newton Toney Parish Council (Memorial Hall Committee) Improve the access to the village hall and refurbish the brick arch and brickwork above the entrance door	Award £3,500
NAC/08-09/T3/10	Holderton Village Hall Committee Refurbishment of village hall kitchen and other minor works	Award £4,750
NAC/08-09/T3/11	Winterbourne Stoke Events Group Purchase of folding chairs and an industrial 3.3kw heater for use with village marquee and other village events	Award £769
NAC/08-09/T3/12	Langford Parish Hall Replacement of floor in parish hall	Award £4,500
NAC/08-09/T3/13	Larkhill Youth Club Provision of a multi use games area	Application withdrawn
NAC/08-09/T3/14	Wylde Valley Art Trail Towards design and printing of guide map brochure	The panel did not feel inclined to award any money to this project. It was not considered to be a high priority in comparison to other applications and given the degree of competition for funding this tranche.

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

Councillor Brown informed the committee that the council was still awaiting comments from English Heritage on this issue. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Other Groups Representative of Northern Area Committee were to meet with officers from the Conservation Unit on 3rd March 2009 to discuss developments and options open to the council. A report would be brought to the Northern Area Committee at their meeting on 26th March 2009.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

269. Community Update:

Councillor Wright informed the committee of proposals to close Bulford Bridge on the A3208 between Bulford and Durrington for 8 months. Members acknowledged the need for the work, but felt that this was an unacceptable length of time for closure. They felt that there had not been sufficient exploration of alternatives and wished to see one lane of the bridge kept open during the work. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Wiltshire County Council Highways unit requesting further information and attendance at the next meeting of the Northern Area Committee if the issue has not been resolved (attached at appendix 1).

Parish Councillor P Fisher announced that this would be his last meeting of the Northern Area Committee as he could not attend the March meeting. He had served on the committee since its inception and reflected on the improvement in parish engagement brought about by the Area Committee system. He hoped this would be continued under the new authority's Area Boards.

Town Councillor R Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Amesbury Pilot Area Board was to be held on 19th March. John Thomson, Deputy Leader of Wiltshire Council, was to attend to address the Board. The focus for the night would be youth issues in the Amesbury area. All were welcome to attend.

Councillor Westmoreland notified members that Royal Mail were planning to close the collection office on London Road, Amesbury, meaning that Amesbury residents would have to travel to Bulford Camp to collect letters and packages. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Royal Mail objecting to the plans (attached at appendix 2).

Councillor West stated that North Dorset District Council (NDDC) had written to the Highways Agency requesting improvements to the A303. They had asked other authorities to support their request. The committee agreed that a letter supporting NDDC should be sent to the Highways Agency and copied to the South West Regional Development Agency (attached at appendix 3).

Councillor M Hewitt
c/o Democratic Services
Salisbury PO Box 2117
District Council
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 2DF

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web: www.salisbury.gov.uk

To: David Weston
Highway Improvements
Wiltshire County Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge, Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Date: 2nd March 2009

Re: Proposed Closure of Bulford Bridge, A3028

Dear Mr Weston,

Salisbury District Council's Northern Area Committee discussed the proposed closure of Bulford Bridge at their meeting on 26th February 2009. Members acknowledge the need for maintenance and reconstruction work on the bridge, but feel that completely closing the bridge for eight months is unacceptable.

As the main route between Durrington and Bulford the A3208 is an important road for local residents as well as a vital access route for customers of businesses in both towns. Diverting road users through Amesbury will starve businesses in Durrington and Bulford of custom at a time when the recession is already exerting extreme pressure on local traders.

Councillors do not feel that enough has been done to explore alternatives to complete closure of the bridge. We would urge you to consider a scheme which would allow one lane on the bridge to remain open for the duration of the work.

Councillors would also like to be made aware of traffic flow figures over the bridge.

I would like to invite you to the next meeting of the Northern Area Committee to explain the details of the project to councillors. This meeting will be held on 26th March 2009 at 4:30pm, Antrobus House, Amesbury.

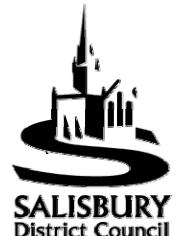
Yours sincerely,



Cllr Michael Hewitt
Chairman, Northern Area Committee
Salisbury District Council



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



Councillor M Hewitt
c/o Democratic Services
Salisbury PO Box 2117
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To: Jane Walters
Amesbury Delivery Office
20 London Road
Amesbury
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 7EW

Date: 2nd March 2009

Re: Proposed Closure of Amesbury Delivery Office

Dear Mrs Walters,

I am writing on behalf of Salisbury District Council's Northern Area Committee regarding the proposed closure of the collection point at Amesbury Delivery Office. Members of the committee have become aware of this proposal, but have not been given any firm details. No details are available on Royal Mail's website, and through a phone call to Royal Mail's customer services unit on 2nd March 2009 I was informed that there was "no record of any proposed closure of the office".

Could you please confirm whether there are plans to close the collection point at Amesbury Delivery Office? If so, could you please forward me further details at the address above so that I and fellow councillors can keep local residents informed of the availability of services in their local area.

When the issue was raised at a Northern Area Committee meeting on 26th February 2009 councillors expressed deep reservations at the prospect of the Amesbury office being closed. Amesbury is a major population centre, and will continue to grow significantly over the coming years. As such, diverting customers away from Amesbury to a smaller population centre in Bulford seems illogical. It will cause inconvenience to many local residents, mean that more journeys are made using private transport, and place extra stress on the local road infrastructure.

I would welcome further details and thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Michael Hewitt
Chairman, Northern Area Committee
Salisbury District Council



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



Councillor Michael Hewitt
c/o Democratic Services
Salisbury District Council
47 Endless St, Salisbury
Wiltshire SP2 2DF

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Mr Malcolm Wilkinson
Regional Performance Manager
Network Operations South West
Highways Agency
2/06K
Temple Quay House
2 The Square, Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6HA

Date: 03/03/09

Dear Mr Wilkinson,

A303 – Mere to Wylie

North Dorset District Council passed a resolution on 30 January 2009 calling on the Highways Agency to dual the A303 trunk road between Mere and Wylie and urging neighbouring authorities to make representations to this effect.

Salisbury District Council's Northern Area Committee would like to give their unanimous support to this resolution.

The A303 is a strategic arterial route into the South West which carries high volumes of traffic and desperately needs to be dualled. There are an unacceptable number of accidents on this stretch of road, many of which result in fatal injuries and devastate lives.

In addition, delays due to accidents and congestion prove extremely costly to public and private service providers. The cost of dualling the carriageway must be considered against the repeated economic cost of the disruption caused by the current state of the road. The significance of the route demands investment in improvements which will produce a lasting benefit for the entire region.

With the previously planned maintenance scheme between Willoughby Hedge and Mere under review the committee requests that the Highways Agency dual the A303 between Mere and Wylie as part of the revised maintenance scheme.

I trust that you will strongly consider the resolution of North Dorset District Council and all supporting comments.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Michael Hewitt, Chairman, Northern Area Committee

Copy to: Liz Goodall (Chief Executive, North Dorset District Council)
Jane Henderson (Chief Executive, South West of England Regional Development Agency)
Ben Bradshaw MP (Minister for the South West Region)
Peter Brown (Director, South West Regional Assembly)



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services

