

# Minutes

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

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**Present:**

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

Councillors: J Broom, M Lee, C Mills, I Mitchell, J Noeken, J Smale, F Westmoreland, I West, K Wren, G Wright.

Parish & Town Councillors: S Banton (Figheldean), R Fisher (Amesbury), D Healing (Durrington), S Stubbs (Newton Toney).

Apologies: Parish Councillors G Burt (Bulford) and P Fisher (Idmiston), Inspector M Sweett (Wiltshire Constabulary)

Officers: Jane Ferguson (Principal Solicitor), Judith Howles (Area Team Leader - Planning), Adam Madge (Principal Planning Officer), Andrew Minton (Conservation Officer), Annie Scadden (Community Development Officer), P Trenell (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

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**270. Public Questions/Statement Time:**

Mr John Hayward, the founding Chairman of the Northern Area Committee, addressed the meeting. He stated that Area Committees were introduced to bring decision making to the local level, especially with regard to planning. He hoped that this practice would be retained by the incoming Wiltshire Council and the Area Boards. Judith Howles responded, noting that planning would not be conducted through Area Boards. An interim planning committee had been set up which would meet three times between April and June to consider planning applications for the Salisbury district.

Mr Hayward also raised the issue of traffic driving at dangerous speeds through the centre of Amesbury. He asked if it was possible for Salisbury Street and High Street to be subject to a 20 mph speed limit as part of the current works. Councillor Noeken undertook to take this proposal to the next steering meeting on the road works.

**271. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:**

Parish Councillor Stubbs reported on the final meeting of the Amesbury Pilot Area Board, which was held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Youth issues had been high on the agenda, with over 30 youngsters from the local area attending. A group of BMX bikers submitted plans for improvements to the local BMX track, and a healthy discussion was held between youngsters and Inspector Martyn Sweett of Wiltshire Constabulary. Also covered were an update on the Bulford Bridge and a presentation on the unitary council by Deputy Leader of Wiltshire County Council John Thomson. Councillor Stubbs thanked all those involved for their efforts in making the pilot Area Board a success.



Awarded in:  
Housing Services  
Waste and Recycling Services



Town Councillor Fisher gave his thanks to all involved with the Northern Area Committee for their work through the years on behalf of Amesbury Town Council.

**272. Minutes:**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**273. Declarations of Interest:**

There were none.

**274. Chairman's Announcements:**

Councillor Hewitt updated members on the letters arising for the previous meeting of the committee.

Work on Bulford Bridge had been delayed for 12 months to allow for greater consultation and a more suitable solution to be developed.

Royal Mail had confirmed plans to transfer operations of Amesbury collection office on London Road to Bulford. This had angered Post Office Staff and the relevant unions. Amesbury Town Council remained opposed to the decision and was to continue to lobby Royal Mail.

Councillor Hewitt had received a response from the Highways Agency stating that the dualling of the A303 would have to be met from the Regional Funding Allocation, that the region had not prioritised this work, and therefore the Highways Agency would be unable to carry it out. Councillor West was able to confirm that £120 million had been allocated for improvements to the A303 in the period to 2019. Town Councillor Fisher commented that this money had been allocated for the entire stretch of the A303 and was only likely to fund minor improvements, not dualling.

Councillor Hewitt also announced that a GP-led health centre was to open on Avon Approach in Salisbury at the end of April.

**275. Community Police Update:**

Inspector Sweett was unable to attend the meeting.

**276. Parish Plan Endorsement – Newton Tony and Winterbourne:**

The Community Development Officer recommended both Parish Plans to the committee for approval. Members commended both parishes on producing engaging plans within a short time span, and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. It was hoped that the documents would be kept updated and taken into consideration by the unitary authority for planning purposes.

**Resolved:** That the Parish Plans for Newton Tony and Winterbourne be approved for endorsement.

**277. Release of Section 106 Agreement - S/1990/608 Cleveland Lodge, Church Lane, Figheledean:**

The committee considered a presentation from the Principal Planning Officer in conjunction with his previously circulated report.

**Resolved:** That officers be tasked to release the legal agreement as the terms of the S106 Agreement no longer serve any useful purpose.

**278. Transfer of Public Open Spaces on Gleeson Estate at Amesbury:**

The committee considered a presentation from the Area Team Leader (Planning) in conjunction with her previously circulated report.

**Resolved:** That authority is given for the public open spaces on the Gleeson Estate to be transferred by Gleesons direct to Amesbury Town Council together with the outstanding commuted maintenance sums and for Salisbury District Council to enter into any necessary supplemental S106 Agreement or other document to enable the transaction to be completed.

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

The committee considered a presentation from the Conservation Officer in conjunction with his previously circulated report. Councillors stated that if demolition was to take place they would wish to see efforts to save the remaining 25% of the building for use on another site.

**Resolved:** To pursue option 3 as outlined in the report.

**280. Community Update:**

Councillor Noeken reported on the Wiltshire Assembly meeting which had focused on the impact of the recession on South Wiltshire. The assembly was planning a range of measures to respond to the recession and councillors were urged to monitor future press releases.

Councillor Mills noted that the new authority had committed to support Community First's Village Halls Panel. He stressed the importance of village halls and hoped that the new members of the Amesbury Area Board would embrace this relationship.

Councillor Mills reported that he had received assurances that there would be funding made available for local community groups under the new authority, continuing the tradition of South Wiltshire Area Grants. However, the precise mechanism for determining these grants was yet to be determined.

Town Councillor Fisher reported for the World Heritage Site Committee. A site had been selected for the new Stonehenge visitor centre and an application was with the treasury for funding. The location of the site was yet to be revealed.

**281. Exempt Information:**

In view of the confidential or sensitive nature of the matters to be considered, the committee voted to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 13 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'

*The meeting closed at: 17:49  
Members of the public: 8*