

# Minutes

**Meeting of** : Western Area Committee  
**Meeting held in** : Bishopstone Village Hall  
**Date** : Thursday 18 September 2008  
**Commencing at** : 4.30 pm

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**Present:**

**District Councillors:**

Councillor J A Green – Chairman  
Councillor E R Draper – Vice-Chairman

R A Beattie, P D Edge, J Holt, G E Jeans, D O Parker and C A Spencer

**Apologies:** Councillor J A Cole-Morgan, M Fowler

**Officers:**

A Bidwell (Development Services) and T Bray (Democratic Services)

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

**191. Minutes:**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 21 August 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**192. Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor Jeans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 9 (SWAG Application - WAC/08-09/T2/02 Mere Bowls Club) due to his involvement with the Club. He left the room for the duration of the item and did not speak or vote on the item thereon.



*Awarded in:*  
Housing Services  
Waste and Recycling Services



**193. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Committee sent its best wishes to John Crawford and thanked him for his contribution to the Western Area Committee over the years.

The Chairman commemorated the local community work carried out by Pam Craig-McFeely, who has sadly passed away.

The Chairman confirmed that the Core Strategy would be considered at the next meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup> 2008. She also confirmed that a response from the Highways Agency had been received regarding the signage on the A303. The response is attached to these minutes at appendix 1.

**194. South Wiltshire Area Grant applications – 2008/9 Tranche 2:**

The Committee considered the previously circulated schedule of SWAG recommendations.

**Resolved** – That the recommendations of the South Wiltshire Area Grants Review Panel as set out below be approved:

Ref.	Application	Panel Recommendations
WAC/08-09/T2/01	<p><b>Tollard Royal Parish Council</b> Restoration of Village Pond</p> <p>Applicant in attendance to support their application:</p> <p>Mr Dabbs – Parish Clerk Mr Peel – Parish Councillor Mr Marston – Parish Chairman</p>	<p>That Tollard Royal Parish Council be awarded £3,250 towards their project with the following condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The drainage and restoration work remain the responsibility of the applicant and it is for the applicant to satisfy itself that adequate measures, including any necessary consultations and consents are undertaken and obtained to safeguard any impact upon the environment or wildlife as a result of the proposed works.</li></ul> <p>The Panel were in favour of supporting the project as they felt that that restoration work to the pond of a traditional clay lining would benefit the whole community as it is a crucial feature in the village which should be preserved for years to come.</p> <p>The Panel were impressed with the reasonable quote provided by the contractor to carry out the work, and that the same contractor had recently been used by the Rushmore Estate to renovate six of their ponds in the same fashion.</p>
WAC/08-09/T2/02	<p><b>Mere Bowls Club</b> Purchase of an aerator/spiker for bowling green.</p> <p>Applicant in attendance to support their application:</p> <p>Mrs Read – Secretary Mr Oram – Green Keeper</p>	<p>That Mere Bowls Club be awarded £2,000 towards their project</p> <p>The Panel were pleased to see such enthusiasm from the applicants, and felt that if the Bowls club were to succeed in purchasing the much needed piece of equipment, it would enable them to maintain the green to a higher standard than was already possible, which would result in an impressively kept area of ground in the village. The improved facility would benefit many in the community from varying ages for years to come.</p> <p><b>NB:</b> Cllr Jeans declared an interest as a trustee of the land used by the bowls club. He did not take part in the discussion or decision which took place relating to the recommendation.</p>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total recommendations: £5,250</b>

**195. Planning Application S/2008/1249 – Convert First Floor Storage Area Into Single Bedroom Flat With Bedroom, Sitting Room and Bathroom at Old Post Office, Semley, Salisbury SP7 9AU for Mr J Duthie:**

The committee considered a presentation from the Planning Officer in conjunction with the previously circulated report of the Head of Development Services and information contained in the schedule of additional correspondence.

**Resolved:** that the above application be approved for the following reasons and conditions:

Subject to a condition making consent temporary and for the applicant (Mr Joseph Duthie) for three years, the proposed change of use would not harm the vitality and viability of the village of Semley or any other material planning consideration. It would therefore comply with the relevant saved policies of the Adopted Salisbury District Local Plan.

- (1) The residential use hereby approved shall be ancillary to the main business use of the premises and shall be for a period of 3 years from the date of this permission and shall enure for the benefit of the applicants (Mr Joseph Duthie) only.

**Reason:** Permission has only been granted on a temporary basis and for the applicants only, in the interests of ensuring that the vitality and viability of the village is maintained by maximising the potential for the commercial use of the property (in particular storage for the business and / or future business uses) which is important to the local community. A temporary permission will establish whether the applicants proposed business model (or an alternative model that requires first floor residential use) is successful. Should this not prove to be the case, then continued use of the first floor for residential use, beyond three years, is unlikely to be acceptable to the Local Planning Authority.

This decision has been taken in accordance with the following policies of the Adopted Salisbury District Local Plan:

PS3	Change of use of premises within small settlements
G1	General Development Criteria
G2	General Development Criteria
CN8	Development within Conservation Areas

**196. Consultation by Wiltshire County Council: 20 MPH Zone at Walnut Road and Oak Lane, Mere:**

The Committee considered the previously circulated consultation information and supported the proposals. Therefore no representation would be made.

**197. Community Update:**

Councillor Spencer thanked Forward Planning for agreeing to send officers to the Core Strategy parish events. Regarding the Local Development Framework, Councillor Edge added that huge emphasis must be given to support and retain village and town facilities and amenities.

Councillor Parker raised concerns over the allocation process of social housing in Dinton. He stated that the housing was not allocated on local need although local need had been identified. The Committee requested that these concerns be forwarded to the District's Housing Strategic Department.

Councillor Parker, in his capacity as Chairman of the Tisbury and District Managing Body, notified the Committee that developments, as agreed at the last meeting of the body, were limited and he expressed his frustration that the time of senior officers was being taken up on unitary issues. He informed the Committee that he intended to hold a meeting of the Tisbury and District Managing Body before the previously scheduled meeting in December to try to move the centre's plans forward and this was supported by the Committee.

Councillor Parker also expressed concern over the increase in officer time being devoted to unitary work which seemed to be taking priority over business as usual and ultimately the interests of the residents of Salisbury District. The Committee requested that these concerns be forwarded to the Chief Executive.

Councillor Jeans expressed his concern that organisers of the Literary Festival in Mere had received notices warning them about the display of advertising.

*The meeting closed at 6:00 pm  
Members of the public: 4*

Our ref:  
Your ref:

Graham Bowskill  
Regional Director  
2/06K  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square, Temple Quay  
Bristol BS1 6HA

Cllr Josephine Green  
Chair - Western Area Committee  
Democratic Services  
Salisbury District Council  
PO Box 2117  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire SP2 2DS

Direct Line: 0117 372 8001  
Fax: 0117 372 8728

11 September 2008

Dear Cllr Green

**ROAD SIDE SIGNS POLICY**

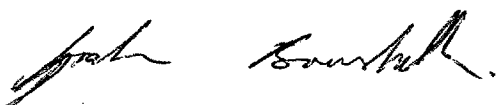
Thank you for your letter concerning Mrs Ashman's letter to West Wiltshire District Council in response to a formal consultation on a road side sign for The Black Dog public house at Chilmark. The Highways Agency's reply to this particular sign should not be seen as introducing new policy.

Mrs Ashman was seeking to put her response to the consultation in context of wider government policy, in particular that concerning service areas and tourist signing. Mrs Ashman was aware that the Department for Transport had just launched its summer "don't drink and drive" campaign at the time she was responding to this application and felt it appropriate to refer to this. Mrs Ashman accepts that her letter could be misconstrued and she at no time intended to imply that the signing of public houses will lead to an increase in drink driving. As you correctly point out the decision to drink and drive is a personal one and not directly the responsibility of the publican or the business. Additionally, they provide a wide range of beverage not just alcohol.

Every consultation on proposed road side signs is considered by the Agency on its merits. While road signs are designed to inform road users and improve the operation and safety of our roads this is not always the case. The content of signs and their location must be managed if they are to achieve the benefit intended. I do regard it as important that the Highways Agency advise the local authority if it believes a sign could present a road safety concern, for example by causing a distraction to vehicle drivers.

I trust this reassures you that there is no change in policy but merely a concern over the impacts of the signing.

Yours sincerely



Graham Bowskill  
Network Operations Directorate  
Email: [graham.bowskill@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:graham.bowskill@highways.gsi.gov.uk)

