

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** Malmesbury Area Board  
**Place:** Online  
**Date:** 30 November 2021  
**Start Time:** 7.00 pm  
**Finish Time:** 9.20 pm

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## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Chuck Berry (Chairman), Cllr Gavin Grant (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Martin Smith and Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall

### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Dom Argar, Technical Support Officer  
Ben Fielding, Democratic Services Officer

### **Town and Parish Councillors**

Roger Budgen, Malmesbury St Paul Without Parish Council  
Peter Hatherell, Malmesbury St Paul Without Parish Council  
Rachel Nuttall, Little Somerford Parish Council  
Ellen Blacker, Dauntsey Parish Council

### **Partners**

Tim Elliott, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service  
Sergeant Kevin Harmsworth, Wiltshire Police  
Ashley Harris, Carer Support Wiltshire  
Candice Irving, GreenSquareAccord  
Nick Gallop, Chair of Wiltshire and Swindon Credit Union  
Peter Gilchriest, Malmesbury and the Villages Community Area Partnership (MVCAP)

**Total in attendance:** 26

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
1	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Malmesbury Area Board.</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Inspector James Brain (Wiltshire Police), who had arranged for Sergeant Kevin Harmsworth to attend the meeting in his absence. Additionally, apologies were received from Tony Moore (Malmesbury Community Area Trust).</p>
3	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2021 were presented for consideration.</p> <p><b><u>Resolved</u></b></p> <p><b>To approve the minutes as a correct record.</b></p>
4	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
5	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The chairman gave the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Changes to Wiltshire's Taxi Tariffs</b> The Chairman drew attention to a briefing note attached to the agenda which provided an update regarding the proposed changes to the Taxi Tariff Schedule for Hackney Carriages in Wiltshire. The note included information that was shared with the Licensing Committee at its meeting on 13 September 2021. Approval had already been provided for the proposals to be implemented, which will take place on 4 January 2022 subject to the proposals being advertised and undergoing standard consultation processes.</li> <li>• <b>Update on Leisure Centres Transferring to Wiltshire Council</b> The Chairman drew attention to the leisure insourcing project, which would see 10 leisure centres currently managed by Places Leisure move over to Wiltshire Council. This transfer would include The Activity Zone, Malmesbury and further information, and a frequently asked questions section can be found on a webpage via the included link in the report.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Wiltshire Youth Council Update</b>  Councillor Gavin Grant referred to the report attached to the agenda which provided an update on the Wiltshire Youth Council. The Wiltshire Youth Council will start next year, with representatives from secondary schools across the county elected to speak out on issues that are important to them. Malmesbury Secondary School has been invited to encourage 11–17-year-olds to put themselves up for election, with elections due to take place between 31 January 2022 and 4 February 2022. Any candidates would have to commit one evening per month to attend Youth Council meetings, which would be focused on issues concerning young people. Further information on the Wiltshire Youth Council, can be found in the agenda pack. </li> <li> <b>Malmesbury Community Area Safety Forum</b>  Councillor Gavin Grant updated that the Malmesbury Community Area Safety Forum is now up and running, with the work of Alexa and Sergeant Kate Smith. The Forum will meet on a regular basis to consider important community issues such as anti-social behaviour and rural crime. People interested in the Forum were encouraged to get in touch with Alexa Davies (Community Engagement Manager), via email: <a href="mailto:alexa.davies@wiltshire.gov.uk">alexa.davies@wiltshire.gov.uk</a> or telephone: 01249 706610. </li> </ul> <p>The Chairman also noted that the Alliance of Parish and Town Councils conducted a successful meeting earlier in the day and that there was a positive understanding of the initiative regarding community speedwatch. It is hoped that the Alliance will allow Parishes and the Town Council to work together as a true community and to share information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Community Governance Review</b>  The Chairman drew attention to the briefing note attached to the agenda which related to a survey being undertaken for a community governance review involving the following parishes: Malmesbury and St Paul Malmesbury Without. Councillor Gavin Grant encouraged Parishes and their residents to take part in the survey as the review will be focused on evidence. The surveys, along with other information, would enable the Electoral Review Committee to consider if any changes should be made to parish governance arrangements in these areas. </li> </ul>
6	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>Updates were received from the following partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Wiltshire Police</b>  The Area Board received a verbal update from Acting Inspector Kevin Harmsworth. An overview was provided of the performance over the last 12 months to September 2021, which included the following points: </li> <li> Sergeant Harmsworth drew attention to the comparative data tables, included in the agenda pack, which illustrated how Malmesbury </li> </ul>

compared with the rest of the Police force.

- It was noted that there has been a 6% reduction in overall crimes reported and recorded, which was in line with the rest of the force.
- Stop and Search data was provided, with objects only being found in 26.9% of cases, of these cases 82.7% resulting in no further action.

An overview of the local priorities for Malmesbury was provided, which included the following areas:

- Criminal Damage – The Police have continued to actively patrol crime hot spots in order to prevent incidents of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. A repeat young offender has been identified and work is now being conducted with the Youth Offending Team to best identify how to support this young person in changing their behaviour.
- Road Safety – The Community Policing Team have conducted speed checks in various Malmesbury and surrounding areas to improve road safety and target repeat offenders. This remains a priority over the festive period as well as supporting the Roads Policing Team's annual drink drive campaign. Additionally, the Police and Crime Commissioner has agreed funding for a further 2 civilian enforcement officers.
- Night Time Economy – Work has been completed in partnership with the Licensing Team to visit licensed premises, with an operation planned in anticipation of Christmas events. The outcomes and learning from the Sarah Everard murder in London have been factored in to focus on women's safety.

Additionally, Sergeant Harmsworth drew attention to the following schemes which have been launched:

- Dog DNA – A scheme has been launched in the aim of dog crime prevention, with owners encouraged to provide a dog saliva sample into a national database. This will therefore allow stolen dogs to be recovered sooner, with DNA more reliable than microchips.
- Wiltshire Horsewatch – A new scheme has been launched, with volunteer horse riders being trained to recognise rural, wildlife and heritage crime. The Police are looking to recruit more volunteers; details can be sent to [Generalwatch@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:Generalwatch@wiltshire.police.uk) or the following form can be completed: <https://forms.office.com/r/fXQWAZTqvS>.

Following the verbal update there was time for the following questions and points to be raised:

- Russell Holland, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon, updated that Op Sceptre has now concluded with a total of 453 knives handed in across the county. Additionally, more cameras have been ordered for speedwatch. Furthermore, the Police and Crime Plan Consultation and Precept Questions Survey has now concluded with huge response numbers being collected to inform the future Police and

Crime Plan.

- It was stated by the Area Board that it would be positive for the Police to make use of the local community Facebook groups in order to engage with residents. This would act as a deterrent for such crimes as speeding and would also assure residents that officers are active in their area.
- It was stressed that it could be easy to glaze over the knife amnesty that took place, however this is a real issue and there have on occasions been individuals carrying knives in local villages.

- **Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service**

The Area Board received a verbal update from District Commander, Tim Elliott. The update covered the following:

- The importance of prevention work was referenced, in order to make sure that fires and incidents don't occur. The fire service offers Safe and Well visits to those who could be living alone, are over 65 years old, have a health condition or might not have a smoke detector. Safe and Well visits are free and last one hour, covering such topics as individual needs, good practice, cooking and electrical safety. The following phone number: 0800 0382323 and website: <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/> can be accessed for those interested in booking a visit.
- There has been on-going interaction by the Protection Team with local businesses and private landlords within the town to raise awareness of general fire safety. Complaints can be raised regarding commercial premises by using the following email: [enforcement@dwfire.org.uk](mailto:enforcement@dwfire.org.uk) as well as calling 01722 691717 during office hours or 0306 7990019 out of office hours.
- It was explained that there are two different styles of operational response used by the Fire service; full-time professional firefighters and on-call firefighters who though they have "normal" jobs during the day, they are available when at home overnight and weekends to be on call. On-call firefighters receive the same level of training and equipment and training as those who are professional. For those interested in becoming an On-call firefighter, further information can be found via the following link: [www.dwfire.org.uk/workingfor-us/on-call-firefighters/](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/workingfor-us/on-call-firefighters/).

- **BaNES, Swindon & Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BSW CCG)**

The Area Board noted written updates attached to the agenda. Additionally, Councillor Chuck Berry stressed the importance of residents continuing to use healthcare services as they normally would.

- **Malmesbury and the Villages Community Area Partnership (MVCAP)**

Peter Gilchrist provided an overview that the Malmesbury and the Villages Community Area Partnership (MVCAP) acts as a bank account for groups whilst they are setting up their own facilities. Additionally, MVCAP has several projects going on, including supporting website design and the setting up of community Facebook groups. The group is ran by three volunteers who have experience of

running businesses.

- **Riverside Centre**

Councillor Chuck Berry raised that the Riverside Centre is a useful facility for Wiltshire Police to use as a communications office, with the consideration that Malmesbury does not have a Police station.

- **Health and Wellbeing Champion**

The Chairman welcomed potential Health and Wellbeing Champion, Julie Dart to the Area Board. Julie Dart introduced herself to the Area Board and provided an overview of her career, which consisted of working in multiple mental health settings for local authorities and organisations. Julie expressed her interest in the role of the Health and Wellbeing Champion having lived in Corston for 35 years and having missed wider community engagement since retiring.

### **Decision**

**Malmesbury Area Board agreed to adopt Julie Dart as its Health and Wellbeing Champion.**

- **Carer Support Wiltshire**

The Area Board received a verbal update from Ashley Harris, Community Connector of unpaid carers from Carer Support Wiltshire. The update covered the following:

- Ashley provided an overview of his role, with Malmesbury being one of the four areas that he covers in Wiltshire. Providing carers an opportunity to talk to someone about how their caring situation is impacting upon them and consequently working together with other organisations to make the lives of carers easier.
- Carer Support Wiltshire provide support in a number of ways, including providing information and advice regarding the carers system. There are also many organisations available to help take some of the responsibility away from carers in order to have a positive impact.
- Emotional support helplines are open from Monday to Friday, which are covered by a duty rota and additionally face to face contact is also an option.
- In Malmesbury two volunteers run a café group at the Malmesbury Abbey on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month, with carers welcome to attend. The next café is set to take place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December.
- Carer Support Wiltshire also offers training, with a lot currently taking place online due to Covid, as well as conducting carers assessments for Wiltshire Council and providing funding which is often used for breaks.
- Attention was also drawn to a befriending service which is provided, with the aim of providing a weekly to fortnightly chat in order to reduce isolation.
- Carer Support Wiltshire supports the carers emergency card initiative, which is carried in the case of an emergency, therefore allowing someone

to be contacted in accordance with an emergency plan.

- A counselling service has also been provided for eight sessions free of charge, however the funding is coming to an end and there is hope that a financial pathway can be found to continue the service.
- Further information can be found on the Carer Support Wiltshire website: <https://carersupportwiltshire.co.uk/> or within the document attached to the minutes pack.

Following the update there was time for the following questions and points to be raised:

- Thanks were placed to Ashley Harris for the work that he is doing as a key part of the community. Additionally, members agreed that if lobbied they would help to secure additional funding.
- The Malmesbury League of Friends was suggested as a potential financial source due to their focus on physical and mental health wellbeing.

- **GreenSquareAccord**

The Area Board received a verbal update from Candice Irving, from GreenSquareAccord. The update covered the following:

- GreenSquare and Accord merged in April 2021 and provide housing from Swindon to Newcastle. With there being 10 schemes in Wiltshire including 254 properties.
- Following the Covid pandemic, it has been noticeable how hard the impact and isolation has been on residents and how important services are. As Wiltshire Council is currently investigating a decision to withdraw housing relating support, GreenSquareAccord are building a database of services to ensure that residents remain supported.
- It would be good to network with other local services to build up the database and to ensure that residents are not on their own.
- Further information can be found on the GreenSquareAccord website: <https://www.greensquaregroup.com/>

Following the update there was time for the following questions and points to be raised:

- It was suggested that GreenSquareAccord are invited to the local Health and Wellbeing Committee as this is occasionally attended by services.
- The decision involving Wiltshire Council is subject to a further point of review, with a special scrutiny group set up to further examine the decision. This will therefore be subject to a further report in the new year, with a key element to ensure that proper support is available to those residents who need it.
- Feedback was provided that there have been some communication issues between local Members and GreenSquareAccord, with councillors

	<p>asked to submit information in a proforma style way and then await a response within an allotted period of time. Previously, a series of Microsoft Teams meetings had taken place with GreenSquareAccord, in which a series of problems had been resolved; it was voiced that it would be positive to resurrect this direct way of communication.</p>
7	<p><u>Wiltshire Credit Union</u></p> <p>The Area Board received a presentation from Nick Gallop, Chair of Wiltshire and Swindon Credit Union. The presentation covered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wiltshire and Swindon Credit Union is a not-for-profit bank that exists to improve the financial resilience of many people who are not well served by traditional banks. It is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA). With only 50-60% of adults qualifying for loans from conventional banks, credit unions serve the other 40-50% of people with fair and reasonable alternatives.</li> <li>• Statistics were provided highlighting the need for Credit Unions, showing that many people with average or poor credit ratings turn to high-interest lenders for financial assistance, leading to further debt.</li> <li>• The negative impact of loan sharks was highlighted, with potential support available online through the following website: <a href="http://www.stoploansharks.co.uk">www.stoploansharks.co.uk</a>.</li> <li>• The purpose of the Wiltshire and Swindon Credit Union is to improve the financial well-being of people who live or work within the county, by offering straight-forward savings, fair value loans, financial advice and support.</li> <li>• Some of the helpful products offered by the Wiltshire and Swindon Credit Union were presented, including the “Start Saving Bonus Account”, “Family Loan” and “Money Course with Budget Bonus”</li> <li>• The WASCU uses the regulated Credit Union business model, with funds coming from members’ savings and interest on loans. The flow of savings allows the building of the capacity to lend and to help members.</li> <li>• The WASCU is currently in a transformative period, showing growth of 600 members a year, its average joining age decreasing to 34 as well as lending passing the £1million milestone.</li> <li>• Ways of working together with the WASCU were suggested as spreading knowledge of the WASCU by word of mouth, telling people about stopping the use of loan sharks as well as discussing the reduction of financial stress with employers.</li> <li>• It was suggested that to help the WASCU beat growth barriers, that people take up their offer to deposit reserves into their corporate account in order to serve a social purpose.</li> <li>• Further information can be found on the Wiltshire and Swindon Credit Union website: <a href="https://www.wascu.co.uk/">https://www.wascu.co.uk/</a></li> </ul>

	<p>Following the presentation there was time for the following questions and points to be raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was suggested that it would be useful for the Wiltshire and Swindon Credit Union to get in touch with GreenSquareAccord, in order to add another service to their database.</li> <li>• It was clarified that like an ordinary bank, any money deposited into the corporate account is available to be accessed again.</li> <li>• It was acknowledged that the Wiltshire and Swindon Credit Union might be worth suggesting to the Wiltshire Pension Fund as well as to Cabinet Member Councillor Pauline Church. It would be positive to understand the terms and conditions involved as well as receiving any application forms for consideration.</li> </ul>
8	<p><u>Community Area Transport Group</u></p> <p>Councillor Elizabeth Threlfall introduced the minutes and recommendations from the CATG meeting held on 16 November 2021. Councillor Threlfall noted that currently the Area Board is not in a position to agree on multiple proposals listed in the CATG notes as there is no definite indication of their costs.</p> <p><b><u>Resolved</u></b></p> <p><b>The minutes of the Community Area Transport Group meeting held on 16 November 2021 were agreed as a correct record and the Area Board accepted the recommendation regarding Easton Grey Crossroads, Easton Grey Plain.</b></p>
9	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Area Board considered the following as detailed in the reports attached to the agenda.</p> <p><b><u>Community Area Grants</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Little Somerford Parish Hall - £1,495 towards Renewal of wall on disability ramp.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Resolved</u></b></p> <p><b>Little Somerford Parish Hall was awarded £1,495 towards Renewal of wall on disability ramp.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2) Malmesbury Town Council - £5,000 towards CCTV in Malmesbury.</li> </ol> <p>Councillor Gavin Grant did not vote on this application due to his role as a member of Malmesbury Town Council.</p>

**Resolved**

**Malmesbury Town Council was awarded £5,000 towards CCTV in Malmesbury.**

- 3) Sherston Community Village Hall - £10,000 towards Sherston Village Hall new foyer including double glazed doors and windows.

**Resolved**

**Sherston Community Village Hall was awarded £2,500 towards Sherston Village Hall new foyer including double glazed doors and windows.**

- 4) HEALS of Malmesbury - £2,000 towards Malmesbury and District community fridge.

Councillor Gavin Grant did not vote on this application due to his role as Chair of Trustees for HEALS of Malmesbury.

**Resolved**

**HEALS of Malmesbury was awarded £2,000 towards Malmesbury and District community fridge**

- 5) Sustainable Sherston - £613.61 towards Sustainable Sherston community thermal heat loss surveys.

Councillor Martin Smith did not vote on this application due to being part of Sustainable Sherston.

**Resolved**

**Sustainable Sherston was awarded £613.61 towards Sustainable Sherston community thermal heat loss surveys.**

**Health and Wellbeing Grants:**

- 1) Wiltshire Music Centre - £1,500 towards Celebrating Age Wiltshire.

**Resolved**

**Wiltshire Music Centre was awarded £1,500 towards Celebrating Age Wiltshire.**

**Youth Grants:**

- 1) The Stay Safe Initiative CIC - £725 towards the Digital Empowerment

	<p>Programme Malmesbury.</p> <p><b><u>Resolved</u></b></p> <p><b>The Stay Safe Initiative CIC was awarded £725 towards the Digital Empowerment Programme Malmesbury.</b></p> <p>2) Malmesbury Abbey - £900 towards Malmesbury Abbey Skate 2022.</p> <p><b><u>Resolved</u></b></p> <p><b>Malmesbury Abbey was awarded £900 towards Malmesbury Abbey Skate 2022.</b></p>
10	<p><b><u>Urgent items</u></b></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>
11	<p><b><u>Evaluation and Close</u></b></p> <p><b>The date of the next meeting is 22 February 2022 at 7.00pm.</b></p>

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## Carer Support Wiltshire

We offer unpaid carers:

- A telephone support line providing information, advice, and support
- A website offering information, advice, and support
- A Carers Assessment for those caring for an adult
- Monthly Carer Cafes (informal get togethers offering a break and peer support)
- Monthly Carer Support Groups (Structured with other Professionals attending to give specialised information and advice)
- Creative Carer Groups
- A 'Talk & Support' telephone befriending service
- Potential access to Counselling Services (dependant on funding at the time)
- Access to Training relevant to the caring role
- A Carers Emergency Card (Emergency Planning around the needs of those a carer supports if something happened to the carer)
- A Voice for carers through greater Carer Awareness and working with other statutory, private, and voluntary sector organisations

Specific to Malmesbury and the surrounding area we offer:

- A Monthly Carers Café held at Malmesbury Abbey on the morning of the 4th Thursday of each month
- A local Community Connector – Ashley Harris (Support Worker for local unpaid carers, working with local professionals/people to improve unpaid carer awareness and services)

To find out further information and/or to refer a carer to us or to encourage a carer to contact us directly, you/they can get in touch in any of the following ways:

Telephone: 0800 181 4118 (Freephone when called from a landline or mobile)

Email: [admin@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk](mailto:admin@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk).

Website: [www.carersupportwiltshire.co.uk](http://www.carersupportwiltshire.co.uk)

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