

MINUTES

Meeting: Warminster Area Board
Place: Warminster Library, Three Horseshoes Walk, BA12 9BT
Date: 12 September 2024
Start Time: 7.00 pm
Finish Time: 8.50 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Pip Ridout, Warminster West (Chairman)
Cllr Bill Parks, Warminster North & Rural
Cllr Andrew Davis, Warminster East (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Tony Jackson, Warminster Broadway

Wiltshire Council Officers

Caroline LeQuesne, Area Board Delivery Officer
Dominic Argar, Assistant Multimedia Officer
Ben Fielding, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Total in attendance: 16

<u>Minute No..</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
1.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Inspector Louise Oakley (Wiltshire Police), who arranged for Sergeant Joe Sadowski to attend the meeting in her absence.</p>
2.	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2024 were presented for consideration. After which, it was;</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p>To approve and sign as a true and correct record of the minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2024.</p>
3.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest were made.</p>
4.	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements and Information Items</u></p> <p>The Chairman made the following announcements as per the agenda pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community First Update • Healthwatch Wiltshire Update • BSW Together (Integrated Care System) Update • Update on the Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Family Help Project • Update on FACT Transitional Safeguarding Project • Overview of Wiltshire Youth Council • Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Consultation <p>In addition, the Chairman noted that a letter had been received from the Editor of the Maiden Bradley Parish Newsletter which expressed gratitude towards the Area Board following a grant which they had received.</p>
5.	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Area Board considered the following applications for funding:</p> <p><u>Community Area Grants:</u></p> <p>Bishopstrow Village Hall – £2,000 towards Solar power and battery storage.</p>

	<p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>Bishopstrow Village Hall was awarded £2,000 towards Solar power and battery storage.</p> <p>Moved – Cllr Bill Parks Seconded – Cllr Andrew Davis</p> <p><i>Reason – The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></p> <p>Warminster Bowling Club - £494.41- towards Purchase adaptive equipment for Warminster Bowling Club.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>Warminster Bowling Club was awarded £494.41 towards the purchase of adaptive equipment for Warminster Bowling Club.</p> <p>Moved – Cllr Andrew Davis Seconded – Cllr Pip Ridout</p> <p><i>Reason – The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></p> <p><u>Older and Vulnerable Grants:</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Music Centre - £1,500 towards Celebrating Age Wiltshire.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Music Centre was awarded £1,500 towards Celebrating Age Wiltshire.</p> <p>Moved – Cllr Tony Jackson Seconded – Cllr Andrew Davis</p> <p><i>Reason – The application met the Older and Vulnerable Grants Criteria 2023/24.</i></p>
6.	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>Updates were received from the following partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Police <p>The Area Board noted written updates attached to the agenda. In addition, Sergeant Joe Sadowski provided a verbal update which covered the following points:</p>

- Over the next months Inspector Oakley has a number of commitments, therefore Sergeant Sadowski would be fulfilling her roles until the end of October.
- An outline of the Warminster Neighbourhood Policing area was provided, with it noted that this was the largest area covered in Wiltshire including over 50 Parish Councils.
- Clarity was provided that the Neighbourhood Policing Team do not respond to 999 calls but rather this is the Response Team based in Trowbridge who ensure that at least one response unit is based at Warminster Police Station for faster response times.
- It was outlined that following the Uplift Programme, staffing levels had increased, however as funding levels begin to tighten recruitment pace would slow with new intakes who were due to start next year pushed further back.
- Details of school visits and youth engagements were provided.
- The Neighbourhood Policing Pillars of Engaging Communities, Solving Problems and Targeting Activity were discussed as well as the work which had taken place in each of these areas.
- Local priorities for Warminster were discussed as per the report with the agenda pack, with a focus on shoplifting and youth anti-social behaviour. Other priority areas were also identified as burglaries and drugs.
- A Cadet Unit in Warminster was set to be set up with it hoped that this would be running by November and would be held at the Garrison Community Centre for those 13-16 years on Tuesday evenings.
- Detail was provided about new mobile Police stations which had been acquired and would allow the Police to be more visible and conduct drop-in sessions in the rural villages with such sessions set to take place in early October.
- A Local Parish Forum had been set up by Chief Inspector James Brain which would run four times a year providing residents a chance to hold the Neighbourhood Policing Team to account.

After the verbal update, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:

- A point was raised about the benefits of social media posts by the Police being shared by communities and how this wasn't consistently possible on Facebook potentially due to permissions. It was highlighted that, when possible, this provided great community benefit.
- Further detail was requested in relation to the Cadets, to which it was stated that there had been a meeting last week between the Police and Cadet Group which had been positive. It was suggested that this meeting was positive although there was potentially an issue identified with transport to and from, the outlying villages, though it was envisaged this wouldn't be a problem to resolve for the military.

- **Warminster Garrison**

The Area Board noted a written update attached to the agenda. In addition, Cllr Tony Jackson noted that the Health and Wellbeing event which was set to be ran by the Garrison did not take place in August as planned and this would be reconsidered to take place next year.

- **Warminster Health and Wellbeing Forum**

The Area Board received a verbal update from Caroline LeQuesne, Engagement and Partnership Lead which covered the following points:

- The Health and Wellbeing Forum was looking to work with the NHS on a Neighbourhood Collaboratives Project.
- An event is set to take place on 23 October from 10am-3pm at Warminster School as a follow up to the Volunteering Fayre.
- At the last Forum meeting there was a talk from Bath Rugby who stated that they wanted to come to Warminster to work with both disabled and able-bodied people in a team together with Warminster Rugby Club.

- **Warminster and Villages Community Partnership (WVCP)**

The Area Board received a verbal update from Len Turner, which covered the following points:

- The Information Centre which had previously been in the Hub building of the Central Carpark had closed earlier in the year, with their work now taken on by a team of volunteers in the box office of the Athenaeum Theatre.
- The Chairman and Len had met with Sergeant Sadowski to discuss anti-social behaviour in Grovelands with extra patrols set to take place.

- **Town and Parish Council Nominated Representative**

The Area Board noted a written update Warminster Town Council which was attached to the agenda.

Cllr Phil Hollihead provided a verbal update on behalf of Chapmanslade Parish Council. The update covered the following points, including:

- On 28 September from 3pm onwards an event was being held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Chapmanslade Parish Hall.

The Area Board received the following verbal update from Cllr Neil Carpenter on behalf of Corsley Parish Council. The update covered the following points including:

- There had been some problems with vandalism in Corsley over the summer, however the Police had been brilliant in helping to deal with matters.

7.

Warminster Business Network

The Area Board received an update from Warminster Business Network Chairman, Matt Towl. The update covered the following matters:

- An overview of the Warminster Business Network was provided including that this was a revamped Chamber of Commerce and a dedicated body for the business community.
- The Business Network had a vision to support business growth, champion key issues and to give a sustainable economic growth in the Warminster District.
- The mission statement of the Network was outlined, with a dedication to regional business and community prosperity through the following four pillars:
 - Grow – Open the door to new business opportunities and growth
 - Support – Local businesses to achieve their goals
 - Develop – Increase knowledge and skills to create a bigger, brighter and better future.
 - Influence – Campaigns to widen Warminster’s exposure and have a voice in local decisions.
- An overview of what had been achieved under each pillar was provided, including but not limited to:
 - Grow – Started the Warminster independent Market with three businesses attracted to the town.
 - Support – Assisted with grant applications and introduced opportunities for Government funded apprenticeships.
 - Develop – Created network opportunities and helped to develop member skills.
 - Influence – Ran a Clean Up, Smarten Up Campaign as well as 3 businesses winning awards and 6 businesses reaching the finals of county and national awards.
- The benefits of having a Business Network were outlined.
- The next steps for the Business Network were provided for the future.

After the update, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:

- A point was made that local elected Members tend to receive a lot of negativities regarding the opening of businesses in the area such as barbershops and McDonalds with it stressed that such ventures did not need planning permission.
- It was outlined that the Business Network was aiming to create a database of businesses wanting to come to Warminster as well as discussing issues about how Grade II listed buildings might be able to be used.
- It was stated that the Business Network would like to assist in the reinvigoration of the cycling tracks to link the villages with the town as well as Centre Parcs.
- Congratulations were placed towards the Business Network for their work and that there had clearly been some results, with litter bins tidied, the improvement of heritage signs, name plates and bunting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that the Business Network investigate the Explore Wiltshire App with it cited that there were already some town trails on the app linking businesses. • It was agreed that a written update for each Area Board meeting would be welcomed, with it suggested that the Business Network looked to include the villages.
8.	<p><u>Local Community Groups Footpaths Update</u></p> <p>The Area Board received updates from community groups from local villages in relation to work being completed on footpaths and bridleways. The following updates were received:</p> <p>Adam Oakley, Chapmanslade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the Rights of Way network in Chapmanslade was provided, which included circa 34 footpaths, 3 bridleways, 1 by-way, 30 stiles and more than 20 kissing gates and 1 bridle gate. • The maintenance and care of the network was outlined, with it noted that there was an informal group within Chapmanslade where villages adopt a path they regularly use, reporting problems through word of mouth, Facebook or the MyWilts App. • There is a group of Secret Stile Fixers to resolve issues quickly as well as working with local landowners to get issues resolved. • A detailed map of the current kissing gates was provided, with it noted that installation would lead to greater footfall and increased accessibility for older people. • It was outlined that volunteer labour, community spirit, and parish council funding had been used to make improvements. • The challenges experienced in Chapmanslade were outlined, including that Byway (CHAP31) and Bridleway (CHAP37) had experienced water erosion to the point where many users were now unable to pass. It was hoped these could be restored and open for all users. • Another challenge was that the in summer USCU4, CORY20 and WARM4 could be used to travel to Warminster however in winter these became too wet. It was hoped that a hard surface could be installed for use all year round. <p>Cllr Neil Carpenter, Corsley:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the Corsley area was provided, including that it was made up of 7 hamlets with a combined total of 28 miles of roads. Furthermore, there were 49 Rights of Way in the area with some running along Longleat Estate and others connecting to Warminster. • It was outlined that though there was a total of 14 equestrian locations within the village, however a lot of riders tended to put their horses in boxes to travel elsewhere because of safety concerns. • The concept of improving the Health and Wellbeing of residents was discussed, with it noted that footpaths and horse related matters were covered at each Parish Council meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was stated that there was a large road transecting the village which was dangerous and was used by circa 8000 trucks a day. • The way of working in Corsley was outlined, with it noted that there was an approach to address issues from the bottom up, as well as having template letters which could be sent to landowners to escalate issues. • It was outlined that there were areas in which Corsley needed help, including a number of public Rights of Way that need Wiltshire Council to sort out before a deadline, work to ensure that CORY20 was usable to connect Corsley to Warminster and also to find a way to enable users to get across the A362 in the centre of the village carefully. • It was stated that Corsley Parish Council was set to create an asset register to show the capital value of the work being completed. <p>After the updates, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was stated that the Business Network would be happy to investigate corporate sponsorship to help open out the routes if evidence could be provided. • Caroline LeQuesne, Engagement and Partnership Lead outlined that Wiltshire Council has a lot of big contracts which include social value, which the Area Board was attempting to leverage using volunteer hours and equipment. It was suggested that the community groups contact the Engagement and Partnership team with a list to identify potential pieces of work that could be conducted with the assistance of such leverage.
9.	<p><u>Area Board Priorities Update</u></p> <p>The Area Board received the following updates on local Area Board priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving outcomes and positive activities for Young people – Cllr Andrew Davis <p>It was noted that last week a successful event took place at Warminster Skate Park and that a successful youth meeting had taken place with those involved working very well together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing – Cllr Pip Ridout <p>Reference was drawn to the earlier verbal partner update in the agenda and that Cllr Ridout had provided the Health and Wellbeing Forum with a variety of documents from the Health Select Committee. It was also noted that there was a drive from Wiltshire Council to promote the Dementia Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment, Biodiversity, and sustainability – Cllr Tony Jackson <p>Reference was drawn to the conservation update provided by Warminster Garrison, which outlined some of the work taking place on Salisbury Plain. In addition, it was noted that the possibility of a toad patrol protection organisation</p>

	<p>remained under investigation.</p> <p>• Transport and Access – Cllr Bill Parks</p> <p>It was agreed that this topic area had been thoroughly covered in the Local Community Footpaths Update item.</p>
10.	<p><u>Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>Cllr Bill Parks introduced the minutes and recommendations from the LHFIG meeting held on 4 September 2024.</p> <p>After which, it was;</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Local Highways and Footway Improvement Group meeting held on 4 September 2024 were agreed as a correct record as well as approving the spending recommendations within.</p>
11.	<p><u>Urgent items</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked all attendees and speakers for their contributions.</p>
12.	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>The date of the next meeting was 10 December 2024.</p>