

MINUTES

Meeting: AMESBURY AREA BOARD
Place: Antrobus House, Salisbury Road, Amesbury, SP4 7HH
Date: 2 December 2010
Start Time: 6.00 pm
Finish Time: 8.08 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr John Smale (Chairman), Cllr Mike Hewitt (Vice Chairman), Cllr John Noeken, Cllr Ian West, Cllr Fred Westmoreland and Cllr Graham Wright

Cllr Jane Scott OBE (Leader of the Council)

Wiltshire Council Officers

Mark Smith, Service Director
Karen Linaker, Amesbury Community Area Manager
Steve Wilson, Local Roads Manager - Southern Division
Graham Steady, Environmental Protection Team Leader
Simon Cleaver, Manager of Pest Control and Dog Warden Service
Matthew Woolford, Media Relations Manager
James Hazlewood, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Town and Parish Councils

Durrington Town Council – Mary Towle, Marion Wardell, David Healing
Berwick St James Parish Council – Richard Brasher
Bulford Parish Council – Gordon Burt, Paul Morrison, Bruce Chilvers
Figheldean Parish Council – Simon Banton
Newton Toney Parish Council – Stan Stubbs

Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council – P Stoner

Partners

Police – Inspector M Sweett

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue – Mike Franklin

Stonehenge Chamber of Trade – J Johnston, Andy Williams

Age UK Salisbury District – David Kane, Vince Danaher

Members of Public in Attendance: 22

Total in attendance: 52

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>	<u>Action By</u>
1.	<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Amesbury Area Board, and thanked Antrobus House for hosting the meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman introduced Councillor Jane Scott, the Leader of the Council, as the visiting Cabinet representative, then invited the other Councillors and officers sitting at the front of the meeting to introduce themselves.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Fisher – Idmiston Parish Council • Phil Edwards – Amesbury Community Librarian • Carole Slater – Shrewton Parish Council • Mike Brunton – Allington Parish Council • Kevin McCaffrey – Youth Development Coordinator, Wiltshire Council. 	
3.	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p><u>Decision</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillors Ian West declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 13 (Community Area Grants) specifically in relation to the application from Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council, as he was the Chairman of that Parish Council. Councillor West confirmed that he would leave the room for consideration of the application, after exercising his right to speak at the start of the item.</p> <p>There were no other declarations of interest.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>a. <u>Flood Protection</u> – The Chairman referred to the written</p>	

	<p>information at page 17 of the agenda, and also gave a reminder regarding the Environment Agency Flood Workshop on 26 January in Chippenham. Those interested in attending were asked to contact Karen Linaker, as it may be possible to hold an additional workshop in the south of the county.</p> <p>b. <u>Waste Consultation Results</u> – Documents detailing the results of the recent consultation on Waste and Recycling were available at the front desk. A summary was set out at page 19 of the agenda.</p> <p>c. <u>Bulford Bridge</u> – The Chairman commented that the bridge had been reopened following the recent maintenance work. Any businesses wishing to apply for a reduction in rates as a result of the bridge closure were asked to call the valuations office in Swindon on 01793 581400.</p> <p>d. <u>Amesbury Market</u> – The Chairman announced that the first Amesbury market had been held on 24 November; this would continue to take place every Wednesday.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Leader of the Council</u></p> <p>The Chairman again welcomed the Leader of the Council and invited questions from the floor.</p> <p>A resident raised concern regarding the proposed strategy to harmonise parking charges across Wiltshire, commenting that with the new supermarket having recently opened, small businesses may suffer from reduced trade if customers were required to pay for parking.</p> <p>Councillor Scott responded that she was well aware of the views of Amesbury residents and the Town Council in relation to the Car Parking review. In addition, the Area Board had agreed a motion, setting out its concerns in relation to the potential effect of parking changes on the economy of the town. A final decision on this matter would be taken at the Cabinet meeting on 14 December. It was also noted that this issue had to be considered in the wider context of the Country's economy, with Wiltshire Council losing around £150 million in funding over the next four years.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Your Local Issues</u></p> <p>Karen Linaker, Amesbury Community Area Manager, thanked</p>	

	<p>people for continuing to use the online system for submitting issues. Most issues received had been highways/speeding related, and many metrocounts had been undertaken to gather data on the sites in questions, with several resulting in Community Speed Watch Schemes being set up.</p> <p>Responding to a question regarding the variety of ways in which members of the public could raise issues with the Council, Karen encouraged people to contact her in the first instance, as she would be able to advise on the best approach for each individual query.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Updates from Town and Parish Councils and Partner Organisations</u></p> <p>The Chairman referred to the updates set out in the agenda and invited further updates from Town and Parish Councils and other partner organisations, including outside bodies. It was noted that the preferred option was for written updates, to minimise time spent during the meeting.</p> <p>Inspector Martyn Sweett referred to the update from the Police at page 23 of the agenda, commenting that since the publication of the figures shown, there had been a slight increase in the number of burglaries from dwellings, many of which had been from premises which had been left unlocked. Some suspects had been identified for this recent increase with some arrests taking place; nevertheless, people were requested to avoid leaving presents on show during the Christmas period.</p> <p>Inspector Sweett reported that the Crime Prevention and Bike Safety Day advertised for 11 December would now be moved to another date to be published shortly.</p> <p>There would be an increase in road checks to support the Christmas campaign against Drink and Drug Driving.</p> <p>Parish Councils should have received information from the Police Authority regarding the budget consultation, with around £50 million of cuts due over the next few years. It was hoped that this could be kept to back office costs, to protect front line services.</p> <p>Mike Franklin of Wiltshire Fire and Rescue referred to the written update at page 27, commenting that the number for fires had reduced to a ten-month low. In addition, the service continued to undertake a large number of fire safety checks at residents' homes, with checks particularly recommended for the elderly or</p>	

	<p>infirm. Forms were available or could be downloaded from the website.</p> <p>Responding to a question regarding the replacement of fire alarms provided by the Fire and Rescue service, Mike explained that some faults had developed whereby the alarms bleeped continuously, however they still worked as fire detectors. The faulty alarms could be replaced by calling 0800 389 7849 and leaving the relevant details on the answerphone. It was requested that this number be conveyed to as many people as possible in the community area.</p> <p>Referring to the update from NHS Wiltshire, Councillor Jane Scott commented that significant changes were proposed to the way in which health services were delivered. It was proposed that Councils would be responsible for public health for the first time since 1974, working with GPs and hospitals to deliver a more joined-up service provision.</p> <p>The Chairman referred to the letter set out at page 37 which expressed support from Amesbury Town Council for the proposed skatepark. Also included at pages 33-35 was the feedback to the questionnaire carried out by Amesbury Youth Council. In general, the responses to the questionnaire had been supportive, and had underpinned the need for such a facility in the town. It was reported that, due to technical reasons, the skatepark could not be located at Archers Gate, and it was now proposed that the skatepark could be located at the forthcoming Kings Gate development. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Amesbury Town Councillor Chris Burden for his work on the skateboard project.</p> <p>In relation to this issue, the Chairman reported that a concern had been raised by a resident of Amesbury in relation to the minutes of the Area Board meeting on 25 March 2010 where the Board had agreed to support a bid for R2 funding for the Harvard Play Park in Amesbury. The Chairman confirmed that the minutes stood as a correct record, as the Amesbury Town Council representative had indeed commented at the March meeting that no objections had been received to the specific proposal that the play park be installed. It was further acknowledged that there continued to be concerns from some residents regarding the play park, and the Area Board was aware that these concerns were being considered at regular multi-agency meetings involving local police officers, community safety officers, town councillors and residents.</p> <p>Reference was made to a statement received from the Bourne Valley Alliance of Parish Councils in relation to waste collection,</p>	
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	<p>specifically raising concern over the lack of direct consultation with Parish Councils. The Chairman reported that he had received a response from Councillor Toby Sturgis (Cabinet Representative for Waste, Property and Environment) confirming that the cabinet had agreed to harmonise the waste collection service across the county. Councillor Sturgis had further confirmed that as soon as an implementation timetable had been agreed for the revised service, he would attend a meeting of the Area Board to answer concerns and questions from town and parish councils, and to seek advice on local implementation issues.</p> <p>Councillor Graham Wright gave an update on behalf of Durrington Town Council. He thanked the Area Board, in particular Karen Linaker, the Amesbury Community Area Manager, for the number of local projects which were on-going or completed. However, he also raised concern regarding a number of issues in Durrington which were yet to be resolved. Councillor Jane Scott, the Leader of the Council, asked for the list of issues to be copied to her, and she would endeavour to expedite the resolution of the matters in question.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Dog Control Orders</u></p> <p>Graham Steady, Principal Environmental Health Officer, gave a presentation on draft proposals to harmonise the arrangements for Dog Control Orders across Wiltshire.</p> <p>Dog Control Orders allowed local authorities to agree certain local rules in relation to prohibiting access by dogs to certain public areas, or requiring owners to clean up after a dog had fouled. The orders had previously been agreed and managed by District Councils and so Wiltshire Council was currently operating four different systems. It was proposed that this be harmonised into one consistent set of rules, which would balance the needs and aspirations of dog owners and non dog owners.</p> <p>It was proposed to make a generic order across most public areas in the County requiring dog owners to clean up after their dog had fouled. Another generic order was proposed, excluding dogs from enclosed children's play areas, plus land covered by existing orders. One further existing order would be confirmed, requiring dogs to be kept on a lead at a specific location.</p> <p>These draft proposals were subject to consultation up to 7 February and those present at the meeting were invited to submit any comments in writing.</p>	

	<p>The Chairman thanked Graham for the presentation and invited questions and comments from the floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graham clarified that the final proposals would have to be subject to a statutory 28-day period of consultation, with legal requirements regarding publicity in local papers etc. However, this earlier consultation was to allow a longer, more flexible discussion on the draft proposals. • In response to a question, Graham explained that the control orders could not apply to roads with speeds of above 50mph, as this could present a safety issue with owners being potentially required to clear dog mess from gutters of fast roads. • Reference was made to the impact of dogs on farmland, and the need for dogs to be kept under close control. • Graham confirmed that the existing controls as originally established by the former Salisbury District Council, would continue to operate until any new orders came into effect. • These proposed orders did not relate to the collection of stray dogs, although this was managed from the same team within Wiltshire Council. • Councillor Jane Scott, Leader of the Council, commented that these proposals would support Town and Parish Councils in their work to address dog fouling. As the consultation period covered December, when some Parish Councils did not meet, it was confirmed that late comments would be accepted. 	
10.	<p><u>Works to Countess Roundabout</u></p> <p>The Chairman invited Steve Wilson (Wiltshire Council - Local Roads Manager – Southern Division) to give an update on forthcoming works planned by the Highways Agency to the Countess Roundabout (A303 / A345 junction).</p> <p>Steve reported that the works had been proposed by the Highways Agency to improve the safety and capacity of the junction. However, Wiltshire Council highways officers and the Police had been involved in the early planning stages, in particular regarding the need to minimise disruption to the local community and local road network.</p>	

	<p>The original plan had been for a 21-week programme of works, with strategic, long distance traffic being diverted from the A303 onto the local road network. However, following discussion this had been revised to use a contraflow arrangement, to keep the A303 traffic off the local roads. This would also result in a shorter period of works, with around 12 weeks estimated on the outline timescale on page 44 of the agenda. Advance signage would also be used at either end of the A303 to divert strategic traffic onto alternative routes such as the M4/M5 corridor, and to the north and south of Amesbury to encourage A345 traffic to seek other routes such as the A338/A360.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Steve for the presentation and invited questions and comments from the floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, it was considered that the works would enhance both the strategic and the local road network. • It was confirmed that Wiltshire Council were seeking to co-ordinate highways works in the area to avoid other roadworks continuing in the area at the same time as these works. It was noted that the roadworks in Amesbury Town Centre were due to be completed by the end of the following week. • Members emphasised the need for the Highways Agency to undertake a clear and comprehensive communications plan, with local people being made aware of the diversion routes, and plenty of advance signage to minimise impact on local roads. • In response to questions regarding the penalty for overrunning the agreed timescale, Steve referred to the representative of Balfour Beatty Mott Macdonald (BBMM), the Highways Agency's contractors for the scheme. It was noted that any overrun in terms of time or budget would result in a reduction in the profits of the company from that project. • In relation to street lighting, it was reported that this would be upgraded to comply with guidelines. • In response to a question regarding temporary weight restrictions on the diversion routes to reduce the impact of large lorries using the local road network, Steve undertook to clarify whether this had been included in the Traffic Regulation Order. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local resident who lived adjacent to the roundabout expressed concern regarding the proposed lane widening. He sought clarification that the additional lane width would be taken from the central reservation. The representatives of BBMM undertook to speak to the resident outside of the meeting, and to explain the detail of this element of the works. • There was discussion regarding the proposed installation of traffic lights, with some people suggesting that this should only operate during peak times, to allow local traffic to cross freely at other times. It was also suggested that traffic would often back up from King Barrow ridge, and so traffic lights would be ineffectual if traffic was stationary on the roundabout. Further to a suggestion of box junctions, Inspector Martyn Sweett commented that enforcement of these would be restricted by available resources. • In relation to the operation of the traffic signals, a representative of BBMM explained that this would be controlled by the traffic on approach to the junction, measured by loops placed on the approach roads. <p>It was agreed that the Area Board should received regular progress updates on this project, and that a representative of the Highways Agency or BBMM should be invited to attend the next meeting of the Area Board to present the plans in more detail. In addition, further information was required on the following specific points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of whether the temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the diversion routes includes any temporary weight restriction. <i>(Following the meeting it was confirmed that temporary weight restrictions were not considered viable and/or suitable and had not been included in the TRO).</i> • Clarification on how the traffic lights/box junctions would prevent traffic from backing up and blocking the roundabout. <i>(Following the meeting BBMM confirmed that the scheme included queue detection equipment on the A303 westbound carriageway, approximately 300m west of Countess Roundabout. This was designed to detect when queues reached this point from the “dual carriageway merge to one lane”, and adjust the signals operations accordingly to mitigate the risk of A303 traffic blocking the roundabout).</i> • The final timescale, including the estimated minimum/maximise duration of the works. <i>(Following the meeting, BBMM confirmed in a letter to stakeholders, that</i> 	<p>Karen Linaker / James Hazlewood</p>
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	<p><i>work was due to start on Monday 17 January, and would take place seven days per week during daylight hours, with 24-hour working wherever practical. The scheme was expected to continue for approximately 17 weeks. The 17-week period included site establishment, the main body of works over a 12-week period, an allowance for the Easter holiday traffic management embargo, and commissioning of the traffic signals).</i></p>	
11.	<p><u>2011 Census</u></p> <p>The Chairman reported that Paul Hackman, Census Manager for Wiltshire, had been due to attend to give a presentation about the Census which would be taking place in 2011. Unfortunately, Paul had had to submit his apologies for the meeting. However, information was set out in the agenda and in leaflets at the back of the meeting room.</p>	
12.	<p><u>Community Asset Transfers</u></p> <p>Karen Linaker, Amesbury Community Area Manager, referred to the information at page 49 of the agenda, which set out Wiltshire Council's scheme for transferring ownership of certain public assets to Town/Parish Councils, community organisations, charities and other suitable bodies.</p> <p>The background and criteria for this scheme were set out in the summary and applications under the scheme were invited.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Community Area Grants</u></p> <p>At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor John Noeken, Lead member for Grants, introduced this item, thanking the other members of the grants panel who had assisted in reviewing the bids: Sam Sheppard and Tony Pryor-Jones.</p> <p>Having declared a prejudicial interest in the application from Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council, Councillor Ian West left the room for the consideration of that application, after exercising his right to speak and introduce the item. In doing so Councillor West commended the application to the Board and referred to the difficulty for smaller Parish Councils in finding match-funding for Community Area Grants. Karen Linaker commented that this had also been raised by other Parish Councils and would be fed back when the grants scheme was reviewed.</p>	

	<p><u>Decision</u> Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council was awarded £1,868.07 towards purchasing and installing a new infant single seater cradle swing at Meadow View Play Park. <u>Reason</u> – <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2010/11 and would support the Parish Council in meeting the strong local demand for play equipment for 0-5 year olds.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Wiltshire Police – Neighbourhood Policing Team was awarded £500 towards running a Cycle Safety and Crime Prevention Initiative in Amesbury. <u>Reason</u> – <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2010/11 and would help promote improved cycle safety and security in Amesbury.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Age UK Salisbury District was awarded £5,000 towards extending its befriending service to benefit socially isolated older people in the Amesbury area. <u>Reason</u> – <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2010/11 and would help prevent social exclusion amongst older residents.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Stonehenge Chamber of Trade was awarded £369 towards putting on a Winter Solstice/Yuletide Event at Solstice Park, Amesbury, as part of the Ancestor Project. <u>Reason</u> - <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2010/11 and would support this event involving and benefiting a variety of organisations in the local community.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Bulford Parish Council was awarded £480 towards purchasing and installing a replacement picnic bench and seat. <u>Reason</u> - <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2010/11 and would help replace this community facility.</i></p>	<p>Karen Linaker</p> <p>Karen Linaker</p> <p>Karen Linaker</p> <p>Karen Linaker</p> <p>Karen Linaker</p>
14.	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates, Evaluation and Close</u></p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, particularly in view of the wintry weather. Reference was also made to the Forward Plan which set out the future agenda items for meetings of the Area Board</p>	

	<p>Those present were invited to give their views on the meeting by means of the electronic voting handsets.</p> <p>The next meeting of Amesbury Area Board would be held on Thursday 27 January 2010 at Antrobus House, Salisbury Road, Amesbury, at 6pm.</p>	
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