

WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING HELD ON 30 JULY 2012 AT COMMITTEE ROOM III - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Junab Ali, Cllr Richard Britton (Chairman), Kirsty Butcher, Cllr Chris Caswill, Cllr Brian Ford (Vice Chairman), Cllr Keith Humphries, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Stephen Petty (Substitute), Quinton and Cllr Pip Ridout – Wiltshire Council

Also Present:

John Quinton – Head of Democratic Services, Wiltshire Council
Kirsty Butcher – Democratic Services Officer

7 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Roderick Bluh – Swindon Borough Council
Cllr Brian Dalton – Wiltshire Council (Cllr Stephen Petty attending as substitute)
Cllr Peter Doyle – Wiltshire Council
Cllr Mike Hewitt – Wiltshire Council
Cllr Charles Howard – Wiltshire Council
Cllr Paul Sample – Wiltshire Council

8 Minutes

John Quinton, Head of Democratic Services at Wiltshire Council, provided an update on the request to increase panel membership, confirming receipt of a letter from the Home Office which noted the request of one additional co-opted councillor and explained that the Home Secretary would consider the request in early autumn. It was agreed that the prospective member, Cllr Wright from Swindon Borough Council be invited to all induction and training events.

The concern over access to restricted information had been raised with Kieran Kilgallen, Chief Executive of the Wiltshire Police Authority, and it was confirmed access would be given to all information whether restricted or not.

It was noted that the current Police Authority budget had not been circulated and this would be followed up by John Quinton.

Decision:

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

9 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

10 Chairman's Announcements

There were no Chairmans announcements.

11 Co-Opted Independent Members

The Chairman introduced the report circulated at the meeting which confirmed that a total of 16 applications had been received. He corrected point 5 of the report, and explained that 6 people had been selected for interview after completion of a short-listing exercise however one had been unable to attend as they were on holiday.

He confirmed that Councillors Dalton and Caswell (Substitute) had not been able to attend on the day the interviews were being held, and that they taken place in the presence of Kirsty Butcher, Democratic Services Officer.

It was noted that after scoring independently of each other Councillors Britton and Ford had the same outcome and Mr Grubb and Ms Newbery were recommended for appointment.

Councillor Britton brought to the Panel's attention that he knew Ms Newbery as she was chair of a parish council in his area.

Councillor Ford brought to the Panel's attention that Mr Grubb had been known to him in the past as a previous parish council chairman.

Decision:

The Panel agreed to the appointment of Mr Malcolm Grubb and Ms Amanda Newbery as the co-opted independent members of the Panel.

12 Induction and Training Plan

The Chairman introduced the item and confirmed that given the breadth of the programme the trainers would be given a briefing note asking them to provide an overview rather than in-depth focus of each topic.

The subsequent discussion highlighted the need for detailed agenda to be provided for each session which included timings.

It was noted that not all members would be able to attend every session and that a pack would be compiled of all the briefing notes for members. The right was reserved to go back for further training on topics if required.

A suggestion on using the existing Chairman of the Police Authority in a future session to explore engagement with the Police and Crime Commissioner was agreed.

It was confirmed that all induction sessions would take place at Police Headquarters in Devizes.

Decision:

The Panel agreed the induction and training plan.

13 Support and Resourcing

John Quinton, Head of Democratic Services at Wiltshire Council, introduced the report and confirmed that existing support would continue to be provided by the Democratic Services team at Wiltshire Council up till November 2012. No additional appointments to specific posts will be made at present until such time as the focus of the Panel's work is clearer.

The subsequent discussion confirmed the importance of the induction in providing the Panel with a clear idea on what it will expect from the Police and Crime Commissioner in terms of information sharing.

The need to look at remuneration for councillors was highlighted given the in-depth nature of the work of the Panel and the need to have committed members. It was noted that, whilst Wiltshire Council had confirmed allowances for the Chair and the co-opted independent members only, Swindon Borough Council had not yet made a decision on the remuneration of its members. It was agreed these decisions should be in alignment and that the Remuneration Panel should be asked to reconsider their decision. Panel member's views would be sought on the work of the Panel, with the responses aiding the creation of a job description that would be taken to the next meeting of each Remuneration Panel.

A query over the discretion over the £920 allowance would be looked at.

Decision:

The Panel noted the report.

14 Forward Work Plan

The Chairman introduced the plan seen at page 9 of the agenda. It was agreed that appointments and confirmatory hearings should be added to the Plan.

15 Future meeting dates

The Panel noted the future meeting dates as:

Wednesday 5 December 2012 – 10.00 am

Friday 4 January 2013 – 10.00 am

Wednesday 6 February 2013 – 10.00 am

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 - 11.05 am)

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