

## COUNCIL

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### MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY 2015 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

#### Present:

Cllr Desna Allen, Cllr Pat Aves, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Rosemary Brown, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Chris Caswill, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Terry Chivers, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Christine Crisp, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Tony Deane, Cllr Christopher Devine, Cllr Stewart Dobson, Cllr Bill Douglas, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Dennis Drewett, Cllr Peter Edge, Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr Nick Fogg MBE, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Jose Green, Cllr Mollie Groom, Cllr Russell Hawker, Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr Alan Hill, Cllr Charles Howard, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Keith Humphries, Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr David Jenkins, Cllr Julian Johnson, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Simon Killane, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr John Knight, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Magnus Macdonald, Cllr Alan MacRae, Cllr Howard Marshall, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Helena McKeown, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Jemima Milton, Cllr Bill Moss, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr John Noeken, Cllr Paul Oatway, Cllr Stephen Oldrieve, Cllr Helen Osborn, Cllr Jeff Osborn, Cllr Linda Packard, Cllr Sheila Parker, Cllr Graham Payne, Cllr Nina Phillips, Cllr David Pollitt, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Leo Randall, Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philipe, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Jane Scott OBE, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr James Sheppard, Cllr John Smale, Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cllr John Thomson, Cllr Ian Tomes, Cllr Dick Tonge, Cllr John Walsh, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Cllr Philip Whalley, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Roy White (Chairman), Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Jerry Wickham, Cllr Christopher Williams and Cllr Graham Wright

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#### 31 **Announcements by Outgoing Chairman**

The Chairman, Councillor Roy White advised Council that he would not be seeking re-election. As outgoing Chairman, he took the opportunity to thank the staff who had supported him during his chairmanship, in particular Jean Potter. He also made the following announcements:

##### **A. 'fly a flag for the commonwealth' ceremony**

On Monday, 9 March, Commonwealth Day, the Chairman was joined by Mr. Robert Floyd, Deputy Lieutenant, who represented the Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, for a short ceremony to 'fly a flag for the Commonwealth'. After a

short ceremony, the Commonwealth flag was raised up the flagpole to mark this special day.

The Council was pleased to participate in this national initiative, which enabled people in their local communities to become involved and join with others nationwide in associating themselves with a widespread public expression of commitment to the Commonwealth, appreciation of the values it stands for, and the opportunities offered to its citizens around the world.

Similar ceremonies were held in other Wiltshire towns, including Trowbridge and Swindon.

### **B. Wiltshire and Swindon youth orchestra**

The Chairman had attended the Wiltshire and Swindon Youth Orchestra's Easter concert at the Wiltshire Music Centre, which once again gave a stunning performance.

The Chairman encouraged councillors to attend these concerts to support talented young people and enjoy an evening of true professionalism and musical accomplishment.

### **C. Business and sports gala dinner.**

Wiltshire council and Wessex Chambers of Commerce co-hosted the second business and sports gala dinner in the atrium at County Hall, Trowbridge.

The dinner was held as part of delivering a legacy for Wiltshire, a council-led partnership which aims to encourage people to keep fit and active, boost the local economy and bring communities together, building on the success of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

More than £28,000 was raised at the dinner by businesses and other organisations to help support the next generation of Wiltshire sports. Money raised from the night will boost the foundation fund set up following last year's inaugural dinner, which provides financial help to local elite athletes. Successful applicants receive funding to assist with training, attending competitions, as well as paying for equipment and transport costs to regional, national and international events.

More than 20 businesses sponsored and supported the dinner to assist the budding Olympians, Paralympians and athletes with world-class potential on

their journey to success. The main sponsors were Aerian, CGI and James Hay partnership.

#### **D. Royal visits**

The County had been fortunate to have had two further royal visits to the County.

In February Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall visited Dents, glove manufacturers in Warminster. Her Royal Highness then went on to Devizes to officially open Community First's new offices and launch their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

Last week, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh officially opened the new Hayward Care Centre in Devizes run by the charity The Orders of St John Care Trust, with whom the Council worked in partnership to provide quality care services for older people. The new centre was named in honour of local hero Reginald Hayward who served through the first World War and, in addition to the military cross and bar, was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions in 1918 when serving in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Wiltshire Regiment. To recognise the honour, a special feature of the visit was the participation of members of the Rifles Regiment, of which his Royal Highness was Colonel-In-Chief. He toured the centre, met residents and staff and also trustees, patrons, representatives of companies involved in the construction, councillors and other members of the local community.

#### **E. Election Day**

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the staff who contributed to the smooth running of the elections held on 7 May. The meeting echoed this sentiment.

On the Council's behalf, the Leader thanked Councillor Roy While for his hard work, his contribution to the Council and for being such a wonderful ambassador for the County. She referred to the numerous events he had attended on the Council's behalf, accompanied by his wife at many of them.

The meeting echoed these comments. In particular, Councillor Jon Hubbard added his and his groups' thanks for the way in which Council meetings had been managed in a fair and even-handed manner by Councillor While. Councillor Hubbard also took the opportunity to add his thanks to the staff for their contributions to making the election run smoothly and very efficiently.

Councillor Ricky Rogers added his and his group's thanks to Councillor While, for his dedication and service and for his support for Salisbury FC.

Councillor Clark added his and his group's thanks to Councillor While for his fairness and impartiality.

**32 Election of Chairman 2015/16**

The Chairman, Councillor Roy While called for nominations for the position of Chairman of Council for 2015/16.

Councillor Richard Britton was proposed by Councillor John Smale and seconded by Councillor Julian Johnson. There being no further nominations and on being put to the vote, it was

**Resolved:**

**That Councillor Richard Britton be elected Chairman of Wiltshire Council for the municipal year 2015/16.**

The Chairman read out and signed the declaration of acceptance of office of Chairman of the Council witnessed by the Monitoring Officer.

**Councillor Richard Britton in the Chair**

**33 Election of Vice-Chairman 2015/16**

The Chairman called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of Council for 2015/16.

Councillor Allison Bucknell was proposed by Councillor Dick Tonge and seconded by Councillor Chuck Berry. There being no further nominations and on being put to the vote it was

**Resolved:**

**That Councillor Allison Bucknell be elected Vice-Chairman of Wiltshire Council for the municipal year 2015/16.**

The Vice-Chairman read out and signed the declaration of acceptance of office of Vice-Chairman of the Council witnessed by the Monitoring Officer

**34 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Howard Greenman, George Jeans, Ian Thorne, Tony Trotman, Mark Packard, Nick Blakemore, Desna Allen and Ian West.

**35 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

## 36 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24 February 2015 were presented.

### **Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the last Council meeting held on 24 February 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

## 37 **Announcements by the Chairman**

### **A. New Wiltshire councillors**

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank ex-councillors Nick Watts and Liz Bryant for their service during their time at Wiltshire Council.

He also offered a warm welcome to Councillor Melody Thompson, who would be representing the Chippenham Hardenhuish Division and to Councillor Anna Cuthbert, who would be representing the Bromham, Rowde and Potterne Division.

### **B. Death of former Councillors**

The Chairman drew the meeting's attention to the news of the sad deaths of three former Wiltshire councillors, as follows:

Mr. Colin Read was a Wiltshire County councillor from 2001-2005 in Mere, serving his community with dedication and commitment. In addition to being a Mere parish councillor, he was also chairman of the Wiltshire Rugby Football Union.

Mr. George Applegate was an active councillor in Trowbridge in the 1960s-80s, including a former chairman of Trowbridge Town Council and West Wiltshire District Council (1981-83). He ran several local businesses (heating engineering), farming and water divining throughout the world. He was also a founder member of the Trowbridge Rotary Club.

And finally, Major Colin Stone who was a former Kennet District Councillor who gave dedicated service to his electorate.

### **C. Big pledge engagement opportunity**

The Chairman stated that the previous day had seen the launch of the 2015 Big Pledge – make a difference campaign. He went on to state that this year there were 12 pledges that people could make as an individual, a group, a business

or a community. Wiltshire's Big Pledge was a county-wide campaign endorsed by Wiltshire Council's Legacy Board.

This was part of the ongoing work to encourage Wiltshire residents to lead healthier and more active lives. The campaign aimed to make a difference to an individual's health and wellbeing; and make a difference in the local community. Wiltshire's Big Pledge would challenge people to get healthy, volunteer, or make a positive change in 2015.

Council officers would be on hand during the lunch break and after today's meeting to help Councillors who wished to make a pledge including participating in a photo opportunity to support the campaign.

#### **D. Members' Training on The Sap Portal**

The Chairman stated that a training session would be available to members in the Kennet room after this meeting on the use of the SAP portal system for submitting members' expenses.

### **38 Public Participation**

The Chairman reported the receipt of statements and questions from Mr Michael Sprules, Mrs Spickernell, Mr Ian James and Mrs Iris Thompson, details of which were circulated in the agenda supplement. This also included written responses from the relevant Cabinet member and verbal responses as appropriate were given at the meeting. The Chairman provided questioners with the opportunity to ask a supplementary question.

Mrs Spickernell spoke in support of her question, expressing disappointment at the written response she had received, and stated that she felt that too much power was concentrated in the Cabinet at the expense of the wider community and other Councillors.

In response, the Leader, Councillor Jane Scott stated that the Council would take all views into account, but that she felt that the Council and the Cabinet was a good example of transparency in decision making and highly regarded as such. She referred to the openness of meetings of Cabinet where public participation was very much welcomed and Area Boards which centred on issues considered as important by the local communities.

Councillor Sturgis, in response to a supplementary question from Mr Sprules, stated that the manifesto pledges to subject all social housing to the right-to-buy had yet to be drawn up for consideration by Parliament. The Council would respond at the time to any formal consultation on such proposals.

In response to a question from Mr James, Councillor Sturgis stated that the modelling work regarding flooding was still to be carried out by the Environment

Agency.

In response to a question from Mrs Thompson, Councillor Sturgis stated that officers were satisfied that the design of the proposed scheme was satisfactory and that a road safety audit would take place upon its completion.

Mr McCall gave a statement on behalf of campaign to Better Trowbridge, in which concern was expressed about the division of responsibilities and gave a plea that all Councillors have an opportunity to debate how power should be distributed in the County.

Former Councillor Nick Watts attended the meeting to congratulate the new Councillor for his old division.

Mr Gowen gave a statement on behalf of Group 5. He expressed concern that the Council had withdrawn its grant to the organisation with insufficient consultation. He went on to extol the virtues of the organisation and stated that cancellation of the grant had tarnished its reputation.

Councillor Jon Hubbard, on a point of order, expressed concern that some answers given verbally should have been available in writing.

Councillor Sturgis, in response, stated answers had not been available in time to disseminate in writing and were therefore given verbally at the meeting as allowed for in the constitution.

A copy of questions received together with the written responses given are attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

## 39 **Petitions**

### **a) Petitions Received**

The Chairman reported the receipt of two petitions for formal presentation at this meeting although neither petition had received the requisite number of signatories to require a Council debate.

#### i) RUH Hopper Service – 2,043 signatories

Mr Douglas Ross, Chairman of the Trowbridge Link Scheme in presenting the petition on behalf of the users of the Hopper scheme, expressed the concerns of the petitioners and asked that the Council to work with partners to find a mutually acceptable solution that would see a continuation of the service.

#### ii) Petition to keep the Connect 2 in service – 38 signatories

On behalf of Mrs Elbro, the petition organiser, Councillor Sue Evans,

presented a separate petition on the Hopper Bus calling on the Council to do all it could to retain the service.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ross and Cllr Sue Evans for the petitions and their comments which would be taken into account as part of the consultation on the issue. He also referred them to the related Notice of Motion No. 20 which would be considered later in the meeting. On being moved and seconded by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, it was:

**Resolved:**

**That the petitions and comments be noted and be included as part of the consultation on this matter and be taken into account as part of the consideration of motion no. 20 later in the meeting.**

**b) Petitions Update**

A report by the Democratic Governance Manager was presented which provided details of the 6 petitions received for the period since the last Council meeting.

**Resolved:**

**That Council note the report, the petitions received and the actions being taken in relation to them, as set out in the Appendix to the report.**

**40 Community Infrastructure Levy**

Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property and Waste, presented a report, including a supplement circulated on the 12 May 2015. The Chairman drew Council's attention to the recommendations of Cabinet which had considered the matter at its meeting on the 11 May 2015.

Cllr Sturgis explained that this included the adoption of the CIL charging schedule, planning obligations supplementary planning document, Regulation 123 list and associated community infrastructure policies as set out in the various appendices presented as part of the report. He also drew Council's attention to changes made to the document as circulated in the Agenda Supplement. Cllr Sturgis also explained how the document had evolved, its progression through the draft stage and the consultation mechanisms and feedback including Overview and Scrutiny Committee input. The main principle of the CIL would allow the Council to seek monies for infrastructure especially given that the process for using S.106 Agreements for this purpose had been tightened up considerably.

It was noted that there were some areas that might require further definition. Cabinet had agreed to a further review in due course and had agreed to the preparation of a communication plan to help community and parish groups to understand their role within the strategy. There was an opportunity for new Neighbourhood Development Plans to include a schedule of infrastructure requirements. It was also noted that the Examiner had required two modifications as outlined in the report presented.

Having been duly proposed and seconded, it was:

### **Resolved**

- (i) To note the content of the Examiner's report on the examination of the Wiltshire CIL Charging Schedule (Appendix 1 of the report presented); and accept the modifications in the Appendix of the Examiner's Report, which the Examiner considers are necessary to improve clarity.**
- (ii) That the Wiltshire CIL Charging Schedule proposed in Appendix 3, as amended as set out in (i) above together with the other proposed minor modifications identified in the interest of clarity (Appendix 2 of the report presented), be approved as the appropriate basis for charging CIL in Wiltshire.**
- (iii) To adopt the proposed Regulation 123 List at Appendix 5 and the Instalments Policy as set out in Appendix 6 of the report presented alongside the Wiltshire CIL Charging Schedule in (ii).**
- (iv) To adopt the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document as proposed in Appendix 8 of the report presented.**
- (v) To agree that the Associate Director for Economic Development and Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property and Waste and, the Associate Directors of Finance and Legal and Governance, will undertake the final stages associated with the formal adoption and implementation of CIL, including any minor textual changes to documents in the interest of clarity and accuracy.**
- (vi) To agree an implementation date for CIL of Monday 18 May 2015.**
- (vii) That the Associate Director for Economic Development and Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property and Waste develop a communication plan for parish and town councils, as well as representatives from neighbourhood planning steering groups, to help clarify their role in relation to CIL and the delivery of local infrastructure;**
- (viii) That the Associate Director for Economic Development and Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property and Waste**

**monitors the implementation of CIL to determine whether a review of the Charging Schedule is required. In any event, the need for review will be considered by Cabinet within two years of CIL's implementation in Wiltshire.**

**(Note: in reference to the various appendices in the above resolutions, as emphasised by Cllr Sturgis when moving the recommendations, this includes changes made to them as included in the Addendum to the report circulated in Agenda Supplement 2).**

#### **41 Notices of Motion**

##### **41a) No. 18 - Community Grants - From Councillors Jeff Osborn and Helen Osborn**

The Chairman reported receipt of the above mentioned motion from Councillors Jeff Osborn and Helen Osborn. The wording of the motion was as follows:

*"That this Council requires the rules concerning community grants awarded by Area Boards to be amended to allow only one grant per applicant per year".*

To assist Council in its consideration of the motion, a briefing note was circulated.

In speaking to his motion, Councillor Jeff Osborn thanked the officers for preparing the briefing note. He expressed concern that some organisations had become serial applicants, that the purpose of the grants has been lost and that organisations should be limited to one grant per year. In his view, this situation had been exacerbated by the removal of revenue grant funding.

However, he accepted that the issue should be should be discussed at an Area Board level and therefore with the permission of his seconder, withdrew the motion.

##### **Motion withdrawn**

##### **41b) No. 19 - Burnbake Trust and Group 5 - From Councillors Jeff Osborn and Peter Edge**

The Chairman reported receipt of the above mentioned motion from Councillors Jeff Osborn and Peter Edge, worded as follows:

*"This Council views with concern the manner in which the policy on voluntary*

*sector group funding has been implemented. In particular two well regarded voluntary furniture recycling groups, in different parts of the county, have been poorly treated – the Burnbake Trust and Group 5. They have had all their Wiltshire Council funding withdrawn, with little or no consultation.*

*The consequence is that these organisations are now at risk of closure, with a loss of local community resilience and serious reputational damage to this Council. Council need to reconsider; discuss the matter further with all those involved and seek to salvage something practical from this drastic situation”.*

To assist Council in its consideration of the above motion, a briefing note had been circulated.

In speaking to his motion primarily in respect of Group 5, Councillor Jeff Osborn referred to the comments made by the Chair of Group 5 earlier in the meeting. He stated that he remained concerned that there had not been adequate correspondence with the affected groups. Furthermore, he stated that it was a small group fully run by volunteers, who did not charge for the furniture they provided and that they provided a very valuable service to the community. He considered that the reduction in their grant had tarnished the Group’s reputation. He asked that relevant Lead Members visit the organisation to discuss the situation.

Councillor Laura Mayes, the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, in her response focused on two key issues about consultation and what could be done to address the current situation. The Council had committed to making strategic savings for 2015/16 and that all Voluntary and Community Sector organisations had been advised by letter that the Council was looking to make cuts in this area of at least 10%. She apologised that Group 5 did not appear to have received its letter. The Council also wanted all voluntary organisations to be less reliant on the Council being their sole funders.

In relation to the Burnbake, the Council had provided initial set up and regular funding. Burnbake had secured funds from a number of sources including charitable trusts and raised funds itself, leading them to build up significant reserves.

In relation to Group 5, Councillor Mayes explained that it received funding from Selwood Housing and Trowbridge Town Council, it did not try to raise funds itself. She compared it to other similar organisations which made a small charge for their furniture as a way of generating some income and suggested it should try and undertake some fundraising measures. Furthermore, officers had offered to discuss these issues and would continue to offer assistance in Group 5 securing other sources of funding.

On being moved by the Chairman and seconded by the Chairman, it was **Resolved:**

**That Motion No. 19 be debated.**

On opening the debate initially to Group Leaders, Councillor Jane Scott stated that some funding was available from the Council's emergency fund which could be used to meet a small charge which could be levied by Group 5. A much wider discussion could be had with Group 5 as with other organisations to include providing opportunities for adults with learning difficulties and for trainees and apprentices.

Councillor Jon Hubbard expressed his concern that there had not been adequate consultation with groups prior their funding being reduced or withdrawn, nor that they had been properly supported to find more sustainable funding before implementation of the cuts imposed by the Council to ensure they were sufficiently prepared.

Councillor Ernie Clark felt that it was unfortunate that misunderstandings had arisen especially where groups had had all their funding cut and expressed concern that the users of Group 5 services were often very needy and might not be able afford to pay any charges.

Councillor Ricky Rogers commended Burnbake for their work and stated that a number of its volunteers did so because it was also being supported by this Council. He agreed that withdrawal of Council funding could tarnish a group's reputation.

Councillor Graham Payne provide some background on the history of Group 5 and its work. He stated that volunteers had benefitted from new skills leading to further employment after periods of unemployment. He made reference o the letter date 30 December to the Chairman of Group 5 which had not properly addressed. He expressed concern as to the inadequacy of the communication, and explained how misunderstandings had arisen as to the scale of the reduction in funding. Furthermore, he emphasised the importance of keeping local members informed of changes to funding in their communities.

Councillor Alan Hill expressed concern that some of the comments in the debate implied criticism of officers who had no right of reply in Council meetings. The Chairman, in response, drew the meeting's attention to the wording of the motion and asked that subsequent speakers restrict their comments to terms of the debate.

Councillor Helen Osborn stated that Group 5 received £5,000 from Wiltshire Council which was used for rent, storage and some petrol. Furthermore, that as there were only 4-5 volunteers running the service they may not have the capacity for further fundraising.

Councillor Fleur de Rhé-Phillipe stated, that in her experience of working with charities, that organisations needed to be flexible and take help where it could be found.

Councillor Bill Moss referred to the importance of maintaining reserves to mitigate against unpredictable financial circumstances.

Councillor John Thomson made reference to Wiltshire Council's voucher system which enabled people to get furniture, and that this scheme was linked to the voluntary sector who could benefit from this. Furthermore he encouraged the group to discuss their future with the Council.

Councillor Gordon King, reminded councillors that some support was rigorously means-tested, and implored that this be revisited.

Councillor Richard Clewer challenged the view that the removal of Wiltshire Council funding would do damage to an organisation's reputation.

Councillor Laura Mayes stated, in response to some of the concerns raised, that the Council had offered to meet groups, via telephone and email, and had given them a named officer to help them find further source of funding. Councillor Jeff Osborn emphasised the importance of face to face contact.

Councillor Peter Edge, in relation to the Burnbake group questioned the amount of reserves quoted earlier in the meeting, it had £75,000 of restricted reserves and an amount in cash. He gave some background on the group and how it was set up to work with people needing work experience and the valuable service it provided. He encouraged the lead member to continue to have a dialogue with Burnbake.

Councillor Laura Mayes confirmed that she was happy to discuss options on securing alternative funding with both groups as well as any other groups in a similar situation. Councillor Laura suggested the deletion of the following section from the motion given the Council had been proactive in trying to discuss the situation with both groups: *'and seek to salvage something practical from this drastic situation'*.

Councillor Simon Killane supported the motion and the engagement by the lead cabinet member. He also suggested the scrutiny process as an avenue to explore the processes involved in this situation.

Councillor Mayes emphasised that the Council had on several occasions offered to meet with Group 5. In accepting the motion, she considered there had to be commitment from Group 5 to meet with the Council.

On being put to the vote, it was

### **Resolved**

- 1. This Council views with concern the manner in which the policy on voluntary sector group funding has been implemented. In particular two well regarded voluntary furniture recycling groups, in different parts of the county, have been poorly treated – the Burnbake Trust**

**and Group 5. They have had all their Wiltshire Council funding withdrawn, with little or no consultation.**

- 2. The consequence is that these organisations are now at risk of closure, with a loss of local community resilience and serious reputational damage to this Council. Council need to reconsider; discuss the matter further with all those involved.**

The meeting then adjourned for lunch at 13.00

The meeting reconvened at 13.45

**41c) No. 20 - RUH Hopper Service - Councillors Jeff Osborn and Helen Osborn**

The Chairman reported receipt of the above mentioned motion from Councillors Jeff Osborn and Helen Osborn worded as follows:

*“Council remains concerned with the overall manner in which the decision to cease funding the RUH Hopper has been handled. A decision was made without consulting other agencies, such as Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the RUH and the local Link schemes.*

*Council notes growing public unease regarding this matter as evidenced by the increasing numbers supporting the relevant petition.*

*Council urges the Administration to do everything possible to ensure this invaluable service continues and that members and the public are regularly updated on progress towards this objective.”*

The Chairman drew Council’s attention to the briefing note circulated to assist Council in its consideration of the motion and to the earlier presentation of two related petitions.

In speaking to his motion, Councillor Jeff Osborn referred to a letter which accompanied a petition from a user of the service which highlighted the difficulties typically faced by members of the public trying to attend RUH appointments. He expressed his hope that a solution could be reached and expressed concern that negotiations with the relevant parties could be so protracted. Ultimately he looked to the Health & Wellbeing Board to bring the matter to a resolution.

In response Councillor Phillip Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, explained that he would be happy to support the motion with some amendments to the wording as follows:

~~*“Council remains concerned with the overall manner in which the decision to cease funding the RUH Hopper has been handled. A decision was made without consulting other agencies, such as Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning*~~

~~Group, the RUH and the local Link schemes.~~

*Council notes growing public unease regarding this matter as evidenced by the increasing numbers supporting the relevant petition.*

*Council urges the Administration to do everything possible to ensure this invaluable service continues and that members and the public are regularly updated on progress towards this objective.”*

Councillor Jeff Osborn accepted the amendments to his motion and agreed by his seconder. He also sought an assurance that efforts would be doubled to reach a positive resolution on this matter.

Councillor Whitehead went on to thank the petitioners, and emphasised that their views should also be referred to the CCG and the RUH. He provided some background regarding the service and the meeting he had had with health partners. He emphasised his view that Wiltshire Council had no statutory duty to fund this service and that it should be funded by the Health Service.

Councillor Jane Scott stated that it was never the Council's intention to stop this service without a suitable replacement being in place and asked that the resolution be amended to include reference to referring the petition to the Health & Wellbeing Board to ensure that health partners, who attended that meeting, would be made aware of the issues raised.

Councillor Jon Hubbard acknowledged the efforts being made to address this issue of public concern and he welcomed the suggestion that the petition be presented to the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Councillor Ricky Rogers expressed his support for the growing consensus on this issue.

Councillor John Thomson, who had been the Lead Member when this issue was last debated at Council, stated that Health partners had been consulted but a resolution had not been possible at that time. He stated that he hoped that there would be more constructive dialogue now that a firmer decision by the Council had been proposed.

On being put to the vote, it was

### **Resolved**

- 1. That Council notes public unease regarding this matter as evidenced by the numbers supporting the relevant petition.**
- 2. That Council urges the Administration to do everything possible to ensure this invaluable service continues and that members and the public are regularly updated on progress towards this**

**objective.**

**3. That the petition be referred to the Health & Wellbeing Board.**

**41d) No. 21 - Reduction in the number of Councillors - Councillors Jeff Osborn and Terry Chivers**

The Chairman reported receipt of the above mentioned motion from Councillors Jeff Osborn and Terry Chivers worded as follows:

*“That Council recognises the need to economise in these hard times and should therefore instigate a process of reducing the number of members to 70.”*

*Whilst it appreciates that this cannot immediately happen, as division boundaries will need to be revised, it is important that the process starts now, to indicate to the public that we are serious in our commitment to save money.*

The Chairman drew attention to a briefing note circulated to assist Council in its consideration of the motion.

In speaking to his motion, Councillor Jeff Osborn stated that the motion had been drafted in response to the public sentiment that the number of Councillors should be cut in response to decrease in the budget. This would have the effect of reducing the amount spent on members' allowances. However, having read the explanatory briefing note and understanding that the time required to address this was relatively long which would also involve boundary reviews, he stated that he would withdraw the motion.

**Motion No. 21 withdrawn**

**42 Review of Allocation of Seats on Committees to Political Groups and Appointment of Committees**

**42a) Appointment of Committees and Review of Allocation of Seats on Committees to Political Groups**

**42b) Appointment of Councillors to Committees**

**42c) Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairman of Committees**

**43 Appointments to the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority and Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority**

The Chairman referred Council to the various items on the agenda on appointments – numbered 11 (a), (b) and (c), and 12, reports on which were presented. He explained that unless anyone had any comments to make on the individual items, he intended to take them together. The Chairman noted that Group Leaders had been consulted on the principles of what was being proposed.

In relation to item 11 (a) – Appointment of Committees, the Chairman reminded Councillors on the Pewsey and Tidworth Area Committee that they had been convened to meet on the rising of this meeting in order to elect its chairman and vice-chairman and establish the Pewsey Area Board and Tidworth Area Board. It was noted that all Area Boards would be asked to elect their respective chairmen and vice-chairmen at their first meeting in accordance with the arrangements set out in the constitution.

The Leader moved a composite motion as circulated in respect of the appointments noting a correction in the member proposed as vice-chairman of Standards Committee being Councillor Jerry Wickham and this was duly seconded.

On being put to the vote, the Leader's motion was CARRIED and it was;

**Resolved:**

- (a) **To note this report and the legal requirements.**
- (b) **To re-appoint the following committees with the terms of reference as set out in the Constitution:-**
  - **Strategic Planning**
  - **Area Planning – East, North, South and West**
  - **Licensing**
  - **Standards**
  - **Overview and Scrutiny Management**
  - **Children's Select**
  - **Health Select**
  - **Environment Select**
  - **Audit**
  - **Appeals**
  - **Staffing Policy**
  - **Officer Appointments**
  - **Pension Fund**
  - **Local Pension Board (terms of reference agreed by last Council).**
  - **Police and Crime Panel**
  - **Health and Wellbeing Board**
- (c) **To appoint those Area Boards, constituted as area committees as set out in paragraphs 12 to 14 and Appendix 1**

of the report presented and within the Constitution, to comprise the Unitary Councillors for that area (updated to include newly elected members).

- (d) To approve the aggregate number of committee places available to members of the Council being 174 and the number on each committee as follows:-

**(Appendix 3 – schedule of committee places)**

Committee	Total Number of Places for Elected Members	Conservative Group Allocation ( 60 seats)	Liberal Democrat Group Allocation (21 seats)	Labour Group Allocation ( 4 seats)	Independent Group Allocation ( 12 seats)	UKIP ( 1 seat)
Strategic Planning	11	7	3	-	1	-
Area Planning Committees						
North	11	8	1	-	2	-
South	11	6	2	2	1	-
East	8	7	-	-	1	-
West	11	7	2	-	2	-
Licensing	12	8	2	-	2	-
Overview and Scrutiny Management	15	8	4	1	2	-
Children's Select	13	8	3	1	1	-
Environment Select	13	7	4	1	1	-
Health Select	13	7	3	1	2	-
Standards	11	7	3	-	1	-
Police and Crime Panel	7	4	2	-	1	-
Audit	11	6		-	1	1
Appeals	8	5	1	1	1	-
Staffing Policy	9	5	2	-	1	1
Officer	5	3	1	-	1	-

Appointments						
Pension Fund	5	4	1	-	-	-
TOTALS:	174	107	37	7	21	2

- (e) To approve the nominations of Group Leaders, as set out in Appendix 2 for the appointment of councillors and substitutes to serve on committees in accordance with the agreed scheme of committee places until the next occasion membership is reviewed under the provisions of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989.
- (f) To reappoint the following co-opted non-voting members to the Standards Committee:
- Mr John Scragg  
Miss Pam Turner  
Mr Paul Neale  
Mr Philip Gill MBE, JP
- (g) To appoint the following non-elected members to the Children's Select Committee:-

<u>Non-Elected Voting Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mrs L Swainston	Church of England
Dr M Thompson	Clifton Diocese Roman Catholic Church
Vacancy	Parent Governor (Secondary- maintained)
Vacancy	Parent Governor (Secondary – academy)
Mrs A Kemp	Parent Governor (Special Educational Needs)
Mr K Brough	Parent Governor (Primary)
<u>Non-Elected Non-Voting Members</u> (Up to Five) Chloe Lintern (Member) Freya Pigott (Deputy)	School, Children and Young People representatives
Ms Cathy Shahrokni Ms Kim Hunte (Deputy)	Further Education Representative
Miss S Busby	Secondary Schools Headteacher Representative
Miss T Cornelius	Primary School Headteachers Representative
Mr J Hawkins	School Teacher Representative

**(h) To appoint the following Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen:-**

Committee	Chairman	Vice Chairman
Strategic Planning Committee	A Davis	A Trotman
Area Planning Committee – Eastern Connolly		C Howard M
Area Planning Committee – Northern Hutton		T Trotman P
Area Planning Committee – Southern Devine		F Westmoreland C
Area Planning Committee – Western Licensing Committee	P Ridout	C Newbury J Knight D Allen
<b>Standards Committee</b>	<b>J Johnson</b>	<b>J Wickham</b>
Audit Committee	A Deane	R Britton
Staffing Policy Committee	A Bucknell	J Smale
Officer Appointments Committee	J Scott	J Thomson
Pension Fund Committee	T Deane	C Howard
<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>	<b>J Scott</b>	<b>delegated to the Board</b>

- (j) To note that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, the Select Committees, Area Boards and the Police and Crime Panel will be asked to elect their respective Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen at their first meeting following the annual meeting of council.
- (k) To appoint the following councillors to serve on the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority for 2015/16

<b>Conservative (6)</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat (2)</b>	<b>Independent (1)</b>
C Devine G Payne M Groom C Newbury B Wayman J Knight	P Edge B Jones	E Clark

- (l) **To appoint the following Councillors to serve on the Wiltshire and Dorset Fire Authority for 2015/16:**

<b>Conservative (6)</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat (2)</b>	<b>Independent (1)</b>	<b>Labour (1)</b>
C Devine G Payne M Groom C Newbury B Wayman J Knight	P Edge B Jones	E Clark	Rogers

Council had agreed at its last meeting to establish the Local Pension Board as required by the relevant Regulations. Councillor Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Finance, Performance, Risk, Systems Thinking, Procurement and Welfare Reform presented a report which asked Council to approve appointments to the Board, namely 3 scheme member representatives, a Group 3 employer representative and the Independent Chairman to the Local Pension Board (LPB) following the completion of a recruitment process.

Councillor Tonge stated that, currently, there were no persons nominated for Group 1 and Group 2 employer representatives and that these appointments would come back to Council for approval. He also highlighted minor changes made to the Board's terms of reference under delegated powers to include at paragraph 80 which should refer to expenses and not allowances and replacing reference to independent remuneration panel with administering authority.

### **Resolved**

**To approve the following appointments to the Local Pension Board:**

**1. As Scheme member representatives:**

- **David Bowater – Active Member, Wiltshire Council**
- **Mike Pankiewicz – Active Member, Wiltshire Council & Unison**
- **Representative**
- **Barry Reed – Retired Member, Unison Representative**

**2. As Employer representatives (Group 3):**

- **Lynda Croft**

**3. As Independent Chairman:**

- **Howard Pearce**

**45 Annual Reports**

**45a) Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 2014/15**

Councillor Simon Killane, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee presented the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2014/15. Cllr Killane highlighted the work carried out during the year and particularly the work undertaken to positively challenge the work of Cabinet; how the Select Committee's workplan was prioritised to ensure consistency with the Council's Business Plan; the work to develop scrutiny arrangements for the SWLEP, the work to enhance budget scrutiny, allowing Members of the opposition to present for scrutiny their alternative proposals. Furthermore, Councillor Killane singled out the Financial Planning Task

Group for praise in their hard work.

Cllr Killane then gave the opportunity to the chairmen of the Select Committees to comment on relevant key activities during the year for their respective committees.

Children's Select Committee - Councillor Jon Hubbard commended the great team, and in particular the support from officers Henry Powell and Emma Dove. Highlights of the year included: the SEND task group led by a co-opted member; the setting up of a standing task group on Childhood Sexual Exploitation, with a focus on preventative work; and that a Schools Improvement task group was being established. Furthermore, he thanked the Vice-chair and Members of the committee and in particular thanked the co-opted members of the Committee for their hard work.

Health Select Committee – Councillor Christine Crisp stated that the Select Committee had had a busy year with the dramatic changes in the landscape of Health services, including some high profile working groups in Homecare and Mental Health. Furthermore, she expressed the desire that the Select Committee would continue to work productively with partners and the new Health & Wellbeing Board. She expressed her thanks to Vice Chair and the other members of the Committee for their hard work.

Environment Select Committee – Councillor Peter Edge expressed his thanks to the members of the Committee and the officers supporting the Committee. Highlights of the year included the Community Infrastructure Levy task group, the Waste task group, work on Investing in Highways, Flood plan and Car Parking Review. In the coming year the Committee would be looking at Community Transport, Neighbourhood Planning and Gypsy and Traveller issues.

Councillor Simon Killane, in summary, thanked the Chairs for their hard work and commended the report to the meeting.

**Resolved:**

**To receive and note the Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny for 2014/15.**

#### **45b) Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel 2014/15**

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Laura Mayes introduced this item. She explained that the role of the Corporate Parenting Panel was to secure Councillor involvement and commitment throughout the Council to deliver better outcomes for children and young people who were looked after. All Councillors were reminded of their responsibilities as a "corporate parent" for children and young people who were looked after in Wiltshire.

Councillor Alan Macrae, Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding presented and guided Council through the Annual Report on the Corporate Parenting Panel.

A presentation was made by Bethany Lewis, Jo Harris and Claire Ashton discussing their work as Children in Care Council members and their experiences.

Councillor Macrae expressed his warm thanks for the excellent presentation, thanked members for their generous donations of Christmas presents and encouraged their attendance at future Panel meetings. Furthermore, he thanked Lisa Pullin, Democratic Services Officer, for her hard work in supporting the Panel meetings and Karen Reid, Head of Service for Virtual Schools and the young people who had contributed so successfully to the meetings of the Panel.

The Chair added his thanks for the excellent presentation.

Councillor Jon Hubbard, as a member of the Panel, gave thanks to the officers who supported their work, encouraged Members to visit Aspire House and to attend future Panel meetings.

**Resolved:**

- (a) To receive and note the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel and ratify the improvements required to strengthen Corporate Parenting in Wiltshire.**
- (b) To Record the Council's thanks for the young people who presented, namely Bethany Lewis, Jo Harris and Claire Ashton.**

**45c) Annual Report on Executive Decisions Taken Under Special Urgency Provision**

Council received an annual report as required by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) Regulations 2012 concerning decisions taken by Cabinet under the Special Urgency procedure. The report related to the period since the last such report to Council in May 2014.

The Leader confirmed that two decisions had been taken by Cabinet using the Special Urgency procedure during this period. A report on the Porton Science Park and a Report on the Better Care Plan, details contained in the report. She confirmed that the relevant Regulations had been complied with and that this was a procedure only used in exceptional and urgent circumstances.

**Resolved:**

**That Council notes the report presented and that two decisions had been taken under the special urgency provisions since the last report to Council.**

**46 Minutes of Cabinet and Committees**

The Chairman moved that Council receive and note the following minutes as listed in the separate Minutes Book and this was duly seconded by the Vice-Chairman:

**Cabinet** - 15 March, 21 April 2015  
**Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee** - 3 March 2015  
**Children's Select Committee** - 27 January, 14 April 2015  
**Environment Select Committee** - 17 February, 14 April 2015  
**Health Select Committee** - 10 March 2015  
**Strategic Planning Committee** - 11 February, 11 March, 22 April 2015  
**Northern Area Planning Committee** - 18 February, 11 March, 1 April 2015  
**Eastern Area Planning Committee** - 19 February, 2 April 2015  
**Southern Area Planning Committee** - 26 February, 19 March, 9 April 2015  
**Western Area Planning Committee** - 25 February, 8 April, 29 April 2015  
**Audit Committee** - 10 March 2015  
**Staffing Policy Committee** - 4 March 2015  
**Joint Strategic Economic Committee (SWLEP)** - 1 April 2015  
**Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board** - 26 March 2015  
**Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee** - 12 March 2015  
**Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel** - 5 March 2015  
**Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority** - 12 February 2015

The Chairman then invited questions from members on points of information or clarification on the above minutes and gave the Chairmen of those meetings the opportunity to make any important announcements on the work of their respective Committees.

**Resolved:**

**That the above mentioned minutes be received and noted.**

**47 Dates of Council meetings 2015/16**

On report by the Chairman, it was

**Resolved:**

**To approve the Council meetings for the remainder of 2015/16 as follows:**

**2015**  
**14 July**

**20 October**

**2016**

**2 February (if required)**

**23 February (budget meeting)**

**10 May (Annual Council)**

**48 Councillors' Questions**

The Chairman reported receipt of questions from Councillors Terry Chivers, Jeff Osborn, Helen Osborn, Chris Caswill and Ernie Clark details of which were circulated in Agenda Supplement No. 1 together with responses where available from the relevant Cabinet member. Details of questions and written responses provided are attached as Appendix ? Verbal responses were also provided as indicated.

Questioners were permitted to each ask one relevant supplementary question per question submitted and where they did so, the relevant Cabinet member responded.

Question 4 – Councillor Chivers – Supplementary question – would provision be made for payments to be made by direct debit or standing orders?  
Councillor Tonge explained that whilst this would not be available for the first payment, the Council was looking at direct debits for subsequent payments. No decision had yet been made, assessing all factors to ensure the process would be cost effective.

Councillor Helen Osborn – Questions 5-8 – Supplementary question – asked why the extra costs were not accounted for such as asbestos and other difficulties encountered and why were the contractors not there rather giving up half way through.

Councillor Thomson explained that the contractors had not given up half way through. The Council wanted to make changes to the contract and the quote from the contractor in place was too high in our opinion and alternative arrangements were made with another contractor.

Question 10 Councillor Chris Caswill – Supplementary question – whether Councillor Sturgis had read all the consultation responses received to the Draft Chippenham Site Allocation Plan

Councillor Toby Sturgis explained that he had not yet read all responses which were currently being itemised. In his opinion a large proportion of the responses suggesting the Plan was unsound was an orchestrated response.

Question 13 – Councillor Caswill - Supplementary question – asked when will Councillor Sturgis be able to provide written responses to these questions?  
Councillor Sturgis explained that these were verbal responses.

Question 14 – Councillor Caswill – Supplementary question – original timetable provided for revised plans to come before this Council meeting so there is therefore a need for a revised timetable and when will this be made public? Councillor Sturgis explained that the revised timetable could not be made public until such time as we have considered the responses.

Question 17 – would you agree that this particular part of the Care Act was an example of a government delegating responsibility to local authorities without adequate evidence of the impact of such delegation?

Councillor Humphries explained that prior to the pre-election campaign, there was a lot of lobbying with the government who was in the process of reviewing financial support to councils and we await the outcome of this.

Question 18 – wouldn't you accept that reports from the CQC stating that on occasions medicines not provided, residents on occasions not given adequate care plans?

Councillor Humphries explained that every care plan produced by Mears has been reviewed, now have a fantastic system in place for dealing with medicines and it was working with pharmacies on a new regime which will be cascaded out to others who needs further support.

Question 21 – Councillor Caswill – Supplementary question - asked whether given the response if Councillor Whitehead was not in favour of councils providing litter bins?

Councillor Whitehead explained that the Council year after year provides more bins and year after year there is more litter. He provided pictorial evidence which highlighted that negating a little problem was down to education rather than providing additional litter bins.

Question 22 – Councillor Caswill – Supplementary question – asked if Councillor Whitehead would undertake to circulate details to town and parish councils?

Councillor Whitehead confirmed that as soon as the documentation was ready it would be so circulated.

Question 25 – Councillor Caswill – Supplementary question – asked when did Councillor Scott anticipate that the names of the preferred bidders will be available in the public domain?

Councillor Scott explained that this was not a process owned by the Council but a CCG process in which case, Councillor Caswill might like to contact the CCG.

Question 28 – Councillor Ernie Clark – Supplementary question – asked was it the intention of the Council that town and parish councils would be invited to fund minor repairs to play areas rather than simply remove broken equipment and if so, when would this approach commence?

Councillor Jonathon Seed explained that it was adopted this financial year. If any of the play areas need to be repaired with no funds available to do so, then the relevant town or parish council would be contacted with a cost estimate and asked for its decision.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – membership of Area Boards

Appendix 2 – membership of Committees

Appendix 3 - Councillors' questions

(Duration of meeting: 11.00-16.30)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Yamina Rhouati, of Democratic & Members' Services, direct line 01225 718024, e-mail

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**Area Boards: Electoral Divisions****Amesbury Area Board****Electoral Divisions 6**

Amesbury East  
 Amesbury West  
 Till & Wylde Valley  
 Durrington & Larkhill  
 Bulford, Allington & Figheldean  
 Bourne & Woodford Valley

**Members**

John Noeken  
 Fred Westmoreland  
 Ian West  
 Graham Wright  
 John Smale  
 Mike Hewitt

**Bradford on Avon Area Board****Electoral Divisions 4**

Holt & Staverton  
 Winsley & Westwood  
 Bradford on Avon North  
 Bradford on Avon South

**Members**

Trevor Carbin  
 Magnus Macdonald  
 Rosemary Brown  
 Ian Thorn

**Calne Area Board****Electoral Divisions 5**

Calne Rural  
 Calne North  
 Calne Chilvester & Abberd  
 Calne Central  
 Calne South & Cherhill

**Members**

Christine Crisp  
 Glenis Ansell  
 Tony Trotman  
 Howard Marshall  
 Alan Hill

**Chippenham Area Board****Electoral Divisions 10**

By Brook  
 Chippenham Cepen Park & Derriads  
 Chippenham Cepen Park & Redlands  
 Chippenham Hardenhuish  
 Chippenham Monkton  
 Chippenham Queens and Sheldon  
 Chippenham Hardens and England  
 Chippenham Lowdon and Rowden  
 Chippenham Pewsham  
 Kington

**Members**

Jane Scott  
 Peter Hutton  
 Nina Phillips  
 Nick Watts  
 Chris Caswill  
 Desna Allen  
 Bill Douglas  
 Linda Packard  
 Mark Packard  
 Howard Greenman

### **Corsham Area Board**

#### **Electoral Divisions 4**

Box and Colerne  
Corsham Pickwick  
Corsham Without & Box Hill  
Corsham Town

#### **Members**

Sheila Parker  
Alan Macrae  
Dick Tonge  
Philip Whalley

### **Devizes Area Board**

#### **Electoral Divisions 7**

Bromham, Rowde and Potterne  
Devizes & Roundway South  
Devizes East  
Devizes North  
Roundway  
The Lavingtons & Erlestoke  
Urchfont & The Cannings

#### **Members**

Liz Bryant  
Simon Jacobs  
Peter Evans  
Sue Evans  
Laura Mayes  
Richard Gamble  
Philip Whitehead

### **Malmesbury Area Board**

#### **Electoral Divisions 4**

Brinkworth  
Malmesbury  
Minety  
Sherston

#### **Members**

Toby Sturgis  
Simon Killane  
Chuck Berry  
John Thomson

### **Marlborough Area Board**

#### **Electoral Divisions 4**

Aldbourne & Ramsbury  
Marlborough East  
Marlborough West  
West Selkley

#### **Members**

James Sheppard  
Stewart Dobson  
Nick Fogg  
Jemima Milton

### **Melksham Area Board**

#### **Electoral Divisions 6**

Melksham Central  
Melksham North  
Melksham South  
Melksham Without North  
Melksham Without South  
Summerham and Seend

#### **Members**

David Pollitt  
Pat Aves  
Jon Hubbard  
Terry Chivers  
Roy While  
Jonathon Seed

### **Pewsey and Tidworth Area Committee**

#### **Electoral Divisions 6**

Pewsey Vale  
Pewsey  
Burbage & The Bedwyns  
The Collingbournes & Netheravon  
Ludgershall & Perham Down  
Tidworth

#### **Members**

Paul Oatway  
Jerry Kunkler  
Stuart Wheeler  
Charles Howard  
Chris Williams  
Mark Connolly

### **Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board**

#### **Electoral Divisions 6**

Cricklade and Latton  
Lyneham  
Purton  
Royal Wootton Bassett East  
Royal Wootton Bassett North  
Royal Wootton Bassett South

#### **Members**

Bob Jones  
Allison Bucknell  
Jacqui Lay  
Mollie Groom  
Mary Champion  
Chris Hurst

### **Salisbury Area Board**

#### **Electoral Divisions 8**

Salisbury Fisherton & Bemerton  
Village  
Salisbury Bemerton  
Salisbury Harnham  
Salisbury St Edmund & Milford  
Salisbury St Francis & Stratford  
Salisbury St Mark's & Bishopdown  
Salisbury St Martin's & Cathedral  
Salisbury St Paul's

#### **Members**

John Walsh  
  
Ricky Rogers  
Brian Dalton  
Helena McKeown  
Mary Douglas  
Bill Moss  
Ian Tomes  
Richard Clewer

### **South West Wiltshire Area Board**

#### **Electoral Divisions 5**

Fovant & Chalke Valley  
Mere  
Nadder & East Knoyle  
Tisbury  
Wilton & Lower Wylde Valley

#### **Members**

Jose Green  
George Jeans  
Bridget Wayman  
Tony Deane  
Peter Edge

### **Southern Wiltshire Area Board**

#### **Electoral Divisions 5**

Alderbury & Whiteparish  
Downton & Ebbles Valley  
Laverstock, Ford and Old Sarum  
Redlynch & Landford  
Winterslow

#### **Members**

Richard Britton  
Julian Johnson  
Ian McLennan  
Leo Randall  
Christopher Devine

### **Trowbridge Area Board**

#### **Electoral Divisions 9**

Hilperton  
Southwick  
Trowbridge Adcroft  
Trowbridge Central  
Trowbridge Drynam  
Trowbridge Grove  
Trowbridge Lambrok  
Trowbridge Park  
Trowbridge Paxcroft

#### **Members**

Ernie Clark  
Horace Prickett  
Nick Blakemore  
John Knight  
Graham Payne  
Jeff Osborn  
Helen Osborn  
Dennis Drewett  
Steve Oldrieve

### **Warminster Area Board**

#### **Electoral Divisions 5**

Warminster Without  
Warminster Broadway  
Warminster Copheap and Wylde  
Warminster East  
Warminster West

#### **Members**

Fleur de Rhe- Philippe  
Keith Humphries  
Christopher Newbury  
Andrew Davis  
Pip Ridout

### **Westbury Area Board**

#### **Electoral Divisions 4**

Ethandune  
Westbury East  
Westbury North  
Westbury West

#### **Members**

Jerry Wickham  
Gordon King  
David Jenkins  
Russell Hawker

**Appointment of Committee Members  
Agreed by Annual Council 13 May 2014**

**Strategic Planning Committee (11)**

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
A Davis	G Ansell	-	T. Chivers	-
S Dobson	D Jenkins			
C Howard	G Wright			
W Moss				
C Newbury				
A Trotman				
F Westmoreland				
Substitutes:				
J Shepherd	B Douglas		E Clark	
M Douglas	H Marshall		D Drewett	
P Oatway	N Watts		G Jeans	
J Wickham	I West			

**Area Planning Committee – East (8)**

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (0)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
M Connolly	-	-	N Fogg	
S Dobson				
P Evans				
R Gamble				
J Kunkler				
P Oatway				
C Howard				
Substitutes:				
E Bryant			T Chivers	
J Sheppard			E Clark	
P Whitehead			D Drewett	
C Williams			J Osborn	

**Area Planning Committee – North (11)**

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
C Crisp	H Marshall	-	S Killane	-
M Groom	C Hurst			
P Hutton	M Packard			
S Parker				
T Sturgis				
A Trotman				
P Whalley				
Substitutes:				
C Berry	D Allen		E Clark	
M Champion	G Ansell		T Chivers	
H Greenman	B Douglas		D Drewett	
J Lay	N Watts			

**Area Planning Committee – South (11)**

Conservative Group (6)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)	Labour Group (2)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
R Britton	B Dalton	I McLennan	G Jeans	-
R Clewer	I West	I Tomes		
C Devine				
J Green				
M Hewitt				
F Westmoreland				
Substitutes:				
A Deane	P Edge	J Walsh	T Chivers	
L Randall	H McKeown	R Rogers	E Clark	
J Smale	G Wright		D Drewett	
B Wayman	M Macdonald			

**Area Planning Committee – West (11)**

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (2)	UKIP (0)
A Davis	T Carbin	-	E Clark	-
J Knight	M Macdonald		D Drewett	
C Newbury				
H Prickett				
P Ridout				
J Seed				
R While				
Substitutes:				
J Wickham	N Blakemore		T Chivers	
F de Rhé Philippe	R Brown		J Osborn	
K Humphries	S Oldrieve		R Hawker	
G Payne	G King			

**Licensing Committee (12)**

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (2)	UKIP (0)
A Bucknell	D Allen	-	G Jeans	-
S Evans	N Blakemore		D Drewett	
J Green	N Watts			
M Hewitt				
S Jacobs				
L Randall				
P Ridout				
Substitutes:				
E Bryant	G Ansell		N Fogg	
A Davis	B Douglas		E Clark	
H Greenman	T Carbin		J Osborn	
W Moss	H Marshall			

### **Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (15)**

Conservative Group (8)	Liberal Democrat Group (4)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (2)	UKIP (0)
C Crisp	J Hubbard	J Walsh	J Osborn	-
S Dobson	G King		S Killane	
A Hill	M Packard			
J Lay	Ian Thorn			
P Ridout				
B Wayman				
P Whalley				
J Noeken				
Substitutes:				
M Douglas	G Ansell	R Rogers		
H Greenman	T Carbin		G Jeans	
P Oatway	D Jenkins		H Osborn	
C Berry	N Watts		E Clark	

### **Children's Select Committee (13)**

Conservative Group (8)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
M Champion	P Aves	R Rogers	H Osborn	-
M Douglas	J Hubbard			
S Evans	C Hurst			
J Lay				
S Jacobs				
W Moss				
C Crisp				
P Whalley				
Substitutes:				
C Berry	T Carbin	J Walsh	T Chivers	
J Shepherd	P Edge		D Drewett	
A Davis	I Thorn		J Osborn	
S Dobson	H Mckeown			

**Environment Select Committee (13)**

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (4)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
P Evans	L Packard	I McLennan	D Drewett	
J Green	B Dalton			
M Groom	P Edge			
J Lay	M Macdonald			
C Newbury				
J Sheppard				
B Wayman				
Substitutes:				
A Deane	B Jones	I Tomes	T Chivers	
M Hewitt	T Carbin	R Rogers	N Fogg	
E Bryant	R Brown		G Jeans	
P Whalley	I West		J Osborn	

**Health Select Committee (13)**

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (2)	UKIP (0)
M Champion	B Jones		J Osborn	
C Crisp	G King	J Walsh	C Caswill	
M Douglas	H Mckeown			
J Noeken				
J Knight				
N Philips				
P Ridout				
Substitutes:				
C Berry	T Carbin	I McLennan	D Drewett	
S Evans	D Jenkins	R Rogers		
J Johnson	N Watts		H Osborn	
P Evans	P Aves		T Chivers	

**Standards Committee ( 11)**

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
A Bucknell	D Allen		T Chivers	
H Greenman	T Carbin			
J Johnson	R Brown			
J Noeken				
P Oatway				
H Prickett				
S Parker				
Substitutes:				
M Douglas	G Ansell		E Clark	
J Wickham	M Macdonald		D Drewett	
P Ridout	H Marshall			
J Smale	B Jones		G Jeans	

**Police and Crime Panel (7)**

Conservative Group (4)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
R Britton	G Ansell	-		
C Howard	T Carbin		C Caswill	
P Hutton				
J Johnson				
Substitutes:	B Dalton		E Clark	
C Berry	L Packard			
S Evans	I Thorn		N Fogg	
T Trotman	H McKeown		J Osborn	

**Audit Committee (11)**

Conservative Group (6)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (1)
R Britton	R Brown	-	H Osborn	D Pollitt
A Deane	S Oldrieve			
S Dobson	L Packard			
J Johnson				
S Parker				
J Sheppard				
Substitutes:				
P Evans	H McKeown		T Chivers	
M Hewitt	I West		N Fogg	
J Lay	M Packard		G Jeans	
J Noeken	D Jenkins		J Osborn	

**Appeals Committee (8)**

Conservative Group (5)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (0)	UKIP (0)
C Berry	H Marshall	I Tomes	-	-
A Bucknell	B Douglas			
A Davis				
A Deane				
S Parker				
Substitutes:				
M Hewitt	P Aves			
J Knight	P Edge			
P Oatway	G Wright			
F Westmoreland	D Allen			

**Staffing Policy Committee (9)**

Conservative Group (5)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (0)	UKIP (1)
A Bucknell	B Jones	-	-	D. Pollitt
M Hewitt	D Jenkins			
J Scott	G Wright			
J Smale				
S Wheeler				
Substitutes:				
F de Rhé Philipe	D Allen			
P Evans	M Packard			
W Moss	N Blakemore			
A Trotman	S Oldrieve			

**Officer Appointments Committee (5)**

Conservative Group (3)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
F de Rhe Philipe	J Hubbard	-	N Fogg	-
J Scott				
J Thomson				
Substitutes:				
K Humphries	P Edge		T Chivers	
L Mayes	B Jones		D Drewett	
J Seed	G King		G Jeans	
S Wheeler	H McKeown		J Osborn	

**Pension Fund Committee (5)**

Conservative Group (4)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (0)	UKIP (0)
A Deane	M Packard	-	-	-
C Howard				
S Parker				
R While				
Substitutes:				
F de Rhe Philippe	C Hurst			
C Newbury	I Thorn			
P Whitehead	B Jones			
	G King			

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**Item 18 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without North Division**

**To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning,  
Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property, Waste**

**Question 1**

At the Strategic Planning Committee, on 16th April, the Conservative Group voted on block to refuse the application for a solar farm at Sandridge.

Can you assure me and the residents of Wiltshire that applications aren't being decided on party lines, and every application is decided solely on planning issues?

**Response**

I attended the meeting on 16th April and I can give the assurance that for the Conservative Members on the Committee, every application is determined solely on planning issues.

**Item 18 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Jeff Osborn, Trowbridge Grove Division**

**To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband**

**Question 2**

Please can I be told that why after all the promises made, BBLP have once again failed to provide the residents of my division with a decent and reliable grass cutting service?

**Response**

As you are aware WC officers and BBLP spent a lot of time earlier in the year producing definitive maps of all grass cutting areas and issued these to the town and parish councils so that they too would have a definitive record.

From these definitive maps BBLP were tasked with producing grass cutting schedules and identifying the resource they would apply to each area. BBLP did this, showing the levels that would be applied to each area, north, south, east and west. During our regular service meetings with BBLP we expressed concern about the resource being allocated to the West, and to a lesser extent the South. We made it clear to BBLP that we did not think enough resource was being applied to the West.

However, this is a service contract, and we can only determine the outcome of the service not the input. We therefore monitored the situation through the first cut of the year and into the second cut of the year.

Because of our concerns about resource levels, and through our regular weekly review meetings, we elicited a number of response measures that would be invoked if BBLP were to fall behind the agreed schedules.

At the end of cut 1 BBLP were on schedule in the East and the North, but behind in both the West and the South. However the situation was redeemable so we did not invoke the special measures agreed.

During the last week of April our concerns increased re the West falling further behind so on 30<sup>th</sup> April we requested that the special measures be invoked immediately. Additional teams were employed over the bank holiday weekend at the start of May and by 7<sup>th</sup> May an additional 3 teams of grass cutters, 9 personal, were allocated to the West to bring it back to schedule. This additional resource will be

provided for the foreseeable future to support grass cutting across the county to ensure appropriate standards are maintained.

The impact of these additional teams could be seen immediately and we will remain until the schedules and all back on time.

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**Item 18 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Jeff Osborn, Trowbridge Grove Division**

**To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband**

**Question 3**

Will Balfour Beatty Living Places publicly apologise to the residents of Trowbridge for repeated failures to provide an effective grass cutting service?

Should this aspect of the overall Balfour Beatty contract be curtailed?

**Response**

BBLP apologise, both to Trowbridge residents, and to the Council for any inconvenience caused by any service shortfall in grass cutting in and around Trowbridge. We have now trebled the resources in the area, and are totally committed to providing an excellent service to Wiltshire Council. We will continue to invest more time, more people and more machines until the end of the season.

My comments:

The grass cutting element is a very small part of the contract. Grass cutting in many areas has been delivered in line with the contractual requirements. The implications of changing the grass cutting service arrangements would have considerable financial and contractual implications to the council. The contract has processes and procedures to manage services not delivering to the contract requirements. Corrective action is the most appropriate action to take when issues arise. Balfour Beatty Living Places have given assurances that the grass cutting arrangements will be delivered in line with the contractual requirements across the county.

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**Item 18 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Graham Payne, Trowbridge Drynham Division**

**To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband**

**Question 4**

Do you think that Trowbridge will win the "Dandelions in Bloom" competition this year or is it your viewpoint that it would be better for the Town to be entered in the "Best Kept Roadside Verge" category?

**Response**

By the time judging takes place the Dandelions will no longer be there so we suggest collecting as many as possible now and using one of the following recipes:

**Dandelion Wine (2)**

- 2 qts dandelion flowers
- 3 lbs granulated sugar
- 4 oranges
- 1 gallon water
- yeast and nutrient

This is the traditional "Midday Dandelion Wine" of old, named because the flowers must be picked at midday when they are fully open. Pick the flowers and bring into the kitchen. Set one gallon of water to boil. While it heats up to a boil, remove as much of the green material from the flower heads as possible (the original recipe calls for two quarts of petals only, but this will work as long as you end up with two quarts of prepared flowers). Pour the boiling water over the flowers, cover with cloth, and leave to steep for two days. Do not exceed two days. Pour the mixture back into a pot and bring to a boil. Add the peelings from the four oranges (again, no white pith) and boil for ten minutes. Strain through a muslin cloth or bag onto a crock or plastic pail containing the sugar, stirring to dissolve. When cool, add the juice of the oranges, the yeast and yeast nutrient. Pour into secondary fermentation vessel, fit fermentation trap, and allow to ferment completely. Rack and bottle when wine clears and again when no more lees form for 60 days. Allow it to age six months in the bottle before tasting, but a year will improve it vastly. This wine has less body than the first recipe produces, but every bit as much flavour (some say more!).

## **Dandelion Fritters**

For the fritters you only need the tops which are very easy to pick. Do pick them in the sunshine when they are open, and when you have time to make the fritters right after gathering. Bring your basket of flowers inside, find a bowl, and mix together one egg and one cup of milk. Stir in a cup of flour and your fritter batter is ready to go. (If you like your fritters sweet you can add a little maple syrup or honey.)

Now, prepare a skillet on the stove with gently warmed olive oil – keep it over medium heat. Take one of the flowers and hold it by the greens at the base of the flower petals. Dip the petals into the batter and twirl until the flower is covered.

Drop it into the skillet, flower side down. Continue dipping and dropping flowers, checking the first ones every once in a while to see if they are brown. When they've lightly browned, flip them over and brown them on the other side. When they're brown on both sides remove them from the skillet and drain the excess oil on paper towel.

For a sweet treat, drizzle them with maple syrup, honey, jam, or powdered sugar. For savoury fritters try dipping in mustard or adding some savoury herbs to the batter.

Enjoy!

**Item 18 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor Graham Payne, Trowbridge Drynham Division**

**To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council**

**Question 5**

Could you outline the recent successes of the Local Enterprise Partnership together with a report on the strategy to take this organisation forward? What specific benefits have accrued for Trowbridge as a result of LEP activities?

**Response**

The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (S&WLEP) is one of 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships established by business and local authorities and approved by government. The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership comprises of 8 private sector board members and the 2 Local Authority Leaders, plus a representative from the Higher Education/Further Education sector and the military (43 Wessex Brigade).

To date the S&WLEP has delivered the Growing Places Infrastructure Fund, a £10 million revolving fund that is currently supporting the delivery of 3 Wiltshire projects: Gateway to Growth, a £1 million fund to provide business support including a web based portal and intensive support for growth, focusing on development of; new markets, products and processes, leadership and management capacity. In the first round, 4 local businesses were provided with support, and further rounds are available. Additionally, Wiltshire Council and S&WLEP are working to deliver 'The Enterprise Network', providing incubation space and business support for local businesses.

Currently, S&WLEP is working to develop its Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), setting out the schemes and infrastructure necessary to deliver economic growth through Swindon and Wiltshire. From this, the S&WLEP will negotiate with government its allocation of the Local Growth Fund which constitutes a competitive £10bn funding source for strategic infrastructure projects delivered between 2015 and 2021. As part of this, work is ongoing to establish the governance procedures, including the democratic mandate of the two Local Authorities which is being developed from the initial proposition outlined in the bid to establish S&WLEP, submitted in 2011.

While many schemes as mentioned above are LEP-wide, some bring specific benefits to Trowbridge including:

- Gateway To Growth, which has selected Trowbridge based Wessex Chamber of Commerce as its delivery partner

- White Horse Business Centre at Ashton Court Trowbridge, which is one of the centres in The Enterprise Network. Currently 4 businesses are utilising space at the centre, and through the support scheme 96 businesses have been supported across the 4 centres.

In addition, the Strategic Economic Plan, with reference to Trowbridge specifically, sets out the LEPs bid for £8.74million of Local Growth Funding to support essential transport infrastructure across Trowbridge. These projects seek to ensure that the Trowbridge transport network is developed sustainably to accommodate the future growth of the town and will help lever in an additional £8.84million in private sector contributions. In particular, proposed improvements to the West Ashton/Yarnbrook junctions are expected to create around 1470 jobs, opening up land for employment and housing. The SEP also makes provision for strategic improvements to both the local road network, sustainable transport network and the local rail network, supporting the sustainable development of Wiltshire as a whole up to 2026. These projects collectively amount to over £36million of Local Growth Fund matched by over £35million of private sector contribution.

Details of what this will comprise will be available once negotiations are concluded, but the first version of the Strategic Economic Plan is available at:

<http://www.swlep.biz/docs/1>

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**Item 18 - Councillors' Questions**

**From Councillor George Jeans, Mere Division**

**To Councillor Jonathon Seed, Cabinet Member for Communities, Campuses,  
Area Boards, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding**

**Question 6**

I am confused about Area Board Funding for 2014-15.

I am proud of what Area Boards have achieved as I know many Councillors would be. I welcomed the impression during the Budget debate that the Area Board Funding would be maintained at the same level as 2013-14.

However I find that SWWAB has been allocated £56,800 (Capital & Revenue) this year, the similar figure for 2013-14 was £96,467 i.e the amount is reduced by some £40K this year.

I have taken last years' amount from the summary attached to the delegated decision reference ACCH-001-13.

The Budget book for this year has the same amount of £1,027,000 as the prior year for Capital Funding, how can this be?

Would it be possible to have the breakdown of Area Board Funding in a similar format to that produced in Spring of 2013 as part of the delegated decision at the time, as it appears that Administration has substantially reduced the base monies of Area Board funding for this year.

**Response**

The total funding allocated to Area Boards is £1 million in line with Council's budget setting process. However Area Board funding varies from year to year for a number of factors. Last year's allocation included some one off grants for youth funding initiatives, Rural Support Funding and Digital Literacy Funding as well as one off funding for CATG Community Speed initiatives. This year further funding may be allocated following the conclusion of the Youth Services Review when that has been considered by Cabinet. The allocations per Area Board for this year are as follows

2014 Allocation :

<b>Area Board</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>CATG</b>	<b>Total</b>
Amesbury	57,519.51	£10,151	17,731	85,401
Bradford on Avon	32,922.54	£5,810	10,062	48,795
Calne	38,536.98	£6,801	12,465	57,803
Chippenham	78,525.62	£13,857	18,087	110,470
Corsham	34,938.68	£6,166	10,951	52,055
Devizes	58,551.41	£10,333	15,751	84,635
Malmesbury	34,527.87	£6,093	13,360	53,981
Marlborough	35,437.57	£6,254	13,615	55,307
Melksham	47,438.90	£8,372	13,225	69,035
Pewsey	29,392.01	£5,187	12,377	46,956
Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade	49,892.98	£8,805	14,205	72,903
Salisbury	75,926.93	£13,399	14,758	104,084
Southern Wiltshire	37,335.35	£6,589	13,676	57,600
South West Wiltshire	48,299.52	£8,523	17,079	73,902
Tidworth	38,300.43	£6,759	11,757	56,816
Trowbridge	75,942.18	£13,402	15,354	104,698
Warminster	44,968.33	£7,936	15,226	68,130
Westbury	31,543.19	£5,566	10,320	47,430
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>850,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>