

# WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Minutes of: **MELKSHAM AREA SEMINAR  
(INAUGURAL MEETING)**

Held on: **THURSDAY 27 MAY 2004**

Held at: **MELKSHAM HOUSE, MELKSHAM**

Present:

Councillors: Barker, Cox, While and Wiltshire

Also in attendance: Councillors Manesseh and Swabey  
Pippa McVeigh – Community Safety and Drug Supply  
Reduction Manager – Wiltshire County Council  
Mervyn Turner – Anti-social Behaviour Reduction Officer  
–West Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership

Officers: Leisure Manager, Northern Area Co-ordinator and Member  
Support Officer (AB)

-----

### **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chivers, Hames, Mudge and Rosier.

### **2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Only four of the nine members of the Area Seminar were present at the meeting. It was therefore agreed that a temporary Chairman be elected for this meeting only. A permanent Chairman would be elected at the next meeting.

Councillor Wiltshire was proposed and seconded and there being no further nominations it was

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Wiltshire be elected Chairman of the Melksham Area Seminar for this meeting only.**

### **3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

As not all of the members of the Area Seminar were present it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

#### **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

#### **5 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman referred to Councillor Jackie Wells who had died on 30 April. A memorial service would be held at St Michael's Church, Melksham the following day, 28 May, at 2pm. A minute's silence was observed in memory of Councillor Wells.

#### **6 MELKSHAM AREA SEMINAR – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Northern Area Co-ordinator explained the Area Seminar's Terms of Reference as approved by Council on 12 May 2004 and answered questions from Members and other attendees.

In response to a question from a member of the public the Chairman explained that no monies would be required from towns or parishes to fund the Area Seminar meetings as the District Council had made provision in its budget.

It was noted that Members wished to consider planning policy as a possible subject for discussion at a future meeting of the Seminar.

Members were asked to contact the Area Co-ordinator if any further information was required following the meeting.

#### **7 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Pippa McVeigh, Community Safety and Drug Supply Reduction Manager for Wiltshire County Council gave a presentation on anti-social behaviour. She explained that one in three people felt affected by anti-social behaviour and levels were increasing. However, there was a range of powers, funding sources and activities that could be used to tackle this type of behaviour. She also introduced Mervyn Turner, Anti-social Behaviour Reduction Officer – West Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership.

Following the presentation, Councillor Manesseh, portfolio holder for community safety and homelessness, addressed the meeting, stating that the support of the whole community was needed to deal with this issue.

Councillor Swabey felt that the District Council needed to give a clear message that anti-social behaviour would not be tolerated. It was noted that a "Tool Kit" was in the process of being sent to all relevant agencies and this would give a clear view on the new legislation governing anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Manesseh then thanked Mrs McVeigh for her presentation.

## **8 WORKING IN THE AREA SEMINAR**

The Northern Area Co-ordinator gave a short presentation on working in the Area Seminar. The following areas were covered:

- Community leadership role
- How Members will operate as an Area Seminar group on outside bodies
- Communications between meetings and reporting back
- Agenda setting

## **9 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Wiltshire reported on a meeting he had attended of the Wilts and Berks Canal Partnership. He asked the Area Seminar to note the progress being made by the Wilts and Berks Canal Partnership and to recommend that the Council further supports the partnership with a financial contribution towards maintaining the existing project officer and thereby the momentum of the project.

(7.00pm – 9.05pm)

These minutes were prepared by Anna Browne, Member Support Officer  
Telephone 01225 770322 or email: [abrowne@westwiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:abrowne@westwiltshire.gov.uk)

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Melksham Area Seminar will be held on Tuesday 18 January 2005 at Melksham Assembly Hall commencing at 7.00pm.