

**THESE MINUTES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE NEXT MELKSHAM AREA SEMINAR ON  
20 SEPTEMBER 2006 FOR APPROVAL AS A CORRECT RECORD.**

**WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the: **MELKSHAM AREA SEMINAR (SPECIAL)**

Held on: **30 MAY 2006**

Held in: **MELKSHAM ASSEMBLY HALL**

Present:

West Wiltshire District Council Representatives: Cllrs Rosier (Chairman), Mudge, While and Wiltshire

County Council Representatives Cllr White

Melksham Town Council Representative Cllr Westbrook

Parish Council Representatives Cllr Brindle - Melksham Without

Parish Cluster Representative

Community Area Partnership Representative Carolyn Beale

Also in attendance:

Officers: Gwilym Gibbons – Community Initiatives Manager  
Melanie Stimpson & Pam Sidgwick – Member Support Officers

**13 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2006/2007**

The Committee was asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of Melksham Area Seminar.

Councillor Malcolm Rosier was proposed by Councillor White and seconded by Councillor Mudge.

There being no other nominations and on being put to the vote it was: -

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Malcolm Rosier be elected as Chairman of Melksham Area Seminar for 2006/07**

## 14 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

## 15 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman of Melksham Area Seminar.

Councillor Richard Wiltshire was proposed by Councillor Rosier and seconded by Councillor Mudge.

There being no other nominations and on being put to the vote it was: -

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Richard Wiltshire be appointed as Vice Chairman of Melksham Area Seminar for 2006/07.**

## 16 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting, held on 16 March 2006, were deferred for approval until the next meeting of Melksham Area Seminar.

## 17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared an interest in agenda item, 'Impact of the potential closure of Melksham Hospital and the reorganisation of the NHS in the area':

Councillor White was a board member of the Health Advocacy Partnership and Cllr Westbrook was an employee of the Health Advocacy Partnership; Councillor White was a member of the County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cllr While was the Chairman of the County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## 18 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

There were no announcements.

## 19 THE IMPACT OF THE POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF MELKSHAM HOSPITAL AND THE REORGANISATION OF THE NHS IN THE AREA

OPEN FORUM: Mrs Grabham (read out by Cllr Rosier)

The Chairman discussed the consultation document in relation to Melksham:

Option 1 closed Melksham facilities, Option 2 provided new facilities and Options 3 maintained the existing facilities.

A discussion regarding the potential closure of Melksham Hospital then ensued. A summary of the main points were:

- Melksham needed a service for the people of Melksham.
- It was accepted that change was necessary and Melksham needed enhanced facilities. However future service provision was not clear and it was necessary to

know this information before services were lost, this also included information regarding time scales.

- Option 1 was a 'cuts' option and would not be good for Melksham therefore the District Council should vote against this option. Options 2 and 3 were about change and not cuts.
- Concern was expressed if there would be adequate GP and other medical cover provided for people who required care in their homes.
- Melksham Hospital was essential as it had an improving and increasing community and was also geographically central.
- The present Melksham Hospital was still a viable proposition, access and parking was good, facilities just needed upgrading.
- Option 3 delivered an enhanced hospital in Chippenham. Option 2 was better for Melksham and West Wiltshire.
- Would the old hospital close before the new one opened? Or would the old hospital be closed in stages? If so what facilities would be accessible during that period.
- Each of the Five Towns should have a minor injuries unit linked to primary care facilities
- There was an ownership issue regarding the hospital and its land, which needed to be addressed.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

- 1. Melksham Area Seminar support Option 2 which was felt to be the best for Melksham and West Wiltshire. Melksham Area Seminar completely rejects Option 1 and does not see Option 3 as a way forward.**
- 2. Melksham Area Seminar ask that firm assurances are given before services are lost, and that every area in West Wiltshire knows what will replace them, and how, with clarity given on time scales for the process.**
- 3. Access issues across West Wiltshire should be addressed taking into account both the needs of private drivers and public transport for people who live in rural communities and those that have no access to transport such as elderly people. The access issues and services such as the Hopper should be looked at on a long-term basis.**
- 4. 24 hour Minor Injury Units be provided in all New Generation Hospitals and that Primary Care Centres also have minor injury capability during opening times.**
- 5. Community initiatives and/or plans for re-use of the site should be in consultation with Town and Parish Councils.**
- 6. That Melksham Area Seminar express concern that care in the community implies meeting health and social care needs as it was not evident from the proposals how this would be delivered.**

## **20 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on 20 September 2006 to be held in the Town Hall at Melksham at 7pm.

(7pm – 8.30pm)

These minutes were prepared by Pam Sidgwick, Member Support Officer who can be contacted on direct line 01225 770322 or email [psidgwick@westwiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:psidgwick@westwiltshire.gov.uk)