

WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the: **MELKSHAM AREA SEMINAR**

Held on: **7 JULY 2005**

Held in: **MELKSHAM ASSEMBLY HALL
MELKSHAM**

Present:

West Wiltshire District Council Representatives: Rosier (Chairman), Cox (part), Hames, Mudge, White and Wiltshire

County Council Representatives White

Melksham Town Council Representative Wilkinson

Parish Council Representatives

Parish Cluster Representative

Community Area Partnership Representative Colin Goodhind

Also in attendance: David Richards – Melksham 1st

Officers: Jacky Nicholas - Community Development Officer
Melanie Stimpson – Member Support Officer

20 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chivers, Oakman and Melksham Without Parish Council

21 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2005/2006

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

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

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 2005/06

22 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 Cox 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 2005/06.

23 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the addition of Cllr White to Minute No. 10 – Apologies for absence.

24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

25 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman announced David Richards was unable to be the Community Area Partnership representative; therefore the representative would be Colin Goodhind.

Those listed under the membership section of the agenda had the right to vote should the necessity arise during the meeting, however this did not exclude other councillors from Parish and Town Councils becoming involved in any debate or discussions.

26 APPOINTMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR MELKSHAM 1ST AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

The Chairman informed the committee that the Leader of the Council wanted the Chairman of Melksham Area Seminar to be the representative for Melksham 1st Area Community Development Trust.

There being no other nominations or objections it was: -

RESOLVED: That Councillor Malcolm Rosier be appointed as the Melksham 1st Community Development Trust Representative for 2005/06

The Chairman asked Cllr Wiltshire, as Vice Chairman, be the substitute if required, which he agreed to and reminded members that they were all welcome to attend the meetings.

27 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Youth & Community Services Committee

No meetings had been held

Skate Park

Cllr White informed members that she would be officially opening the Skate Park on 16 July at 6.30pm. The skate park is already operational and was originally planned to be officially opened by a professional skate boarder, however due to his sponsors wanting him elsewhere that evening Cllr White will now be responsible for the official opening.

RESOLVED:

- i. Councillor Malcolm Rosier be appointed as the representative of Melksham 1st Area Community Development Trust for 2005/06**
- ii. The following appointments to outside bodies be noted:**

Melksham Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme Advisory Committee	No Longer Exists
Youth and Community Services Committee – Melksham	Mudge
Melksham 1st Area Community Development Trust	Rosier

**28 MELKSHAM 1ST (MACDT) COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP
PRESENTATION AND ENDORSEMENT OF COMMUNITY PLAN**

David Richards, Chairman of Melksham Area Community Development Trust Ltd, explained his professional background, how he had become involved with Melksham 1st and that he was one of four directors of MACDT, who were each responsible for a priority of the Community Strategy.

Originally there were 11 priorities which have now been reduced to four key priorities, those four priorities were explained.

Melksham 1st have become a Development Trust. Development Trusts are social enterprises which hold assets for the community and are used to generate wealth for the community. A range of legal forms were considered, but a Company Limited by Guarantee were chosen. Sometimes this can be confused with a charity. Presently there are no plans to set up a charity but this is something which may have to be considered in the future.

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 states that less than 19% of the board and membership have to come from local authority, hence the reason for requiring a representative of Melksham Area Seminar to be a member.

There have been many issues faced, including that of funding. The Countryside Agency funding which MACDT received ceased therefore to replace this local authorities were approached. The paperwork to access funding from West Wiltshire District Council was very different from that previously experienced of other bodies. It was a 22 page document (before appendices) and still it has not been agreed if it is a service agreement or a grant agreement.

MACDT held a meeting with WWDC to try to reduce the pages of the contract. MACDT wanted a 2 page document plus work plan. As of 6 July 2005 all that has been agreed are the terms of heads of agreement.

MACDT have also experienced a lack of willingness to help on behalf of certain WWDC Officers who could have informed them of certain obligations, in stead of which MACDT have had to spend money finding out for themselves. Currently too much concentration and money are being spent on legal and financial issues which should be being spent on the Strategy.

Other financial issues are the Town Council, having previously hired the rooms to MACDT free of charge, are now going to start to charge and the Tourist Information centre are also going to reconsider the funding.

As MACDT are leading the field in terms of Community Plans it is a frustrating exercise as they are the first to experience the problems. By the time other Community Plans have to go through the funding process all teething problems should have been resolved. There are 22 Community Area Partnership and 5 in West Wiltshire

MACDT was asked how the threat to Melksham Train Station would fit into the Community Plan. Melksham Train Station is very important to MACDT and will be fighting for the train station to be improved, maintained and developed. It is hoped that in the future MACDT will be able to use resources to carry out an integrated transport study

The PCT approached MACDT to act as the go between for the public and the PCT. MACDT are eager to get the two parties together and have already opened up negotiations. A concern raised at the meeting was that there is a shortfall in NHS resources and any new housing developments are only to add to this problem. It was felt that the PCT should be responsible for providing new medical practices to fulfil the needs of the community.

29 ANY ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE REFERRAL TO CABINET

RESOLVED:

- i. Melksham Area Seminar ask Cabinet to give serious consideration to the issues raised in the Melksham Community Area Action Plan with consideration of the contractual problems mentioned by David Richards as explained in the meeting and further with Cllr Duncan Hames.**

- ii. **Request that Cabinet consults with the PCT on the need to provide adequate medical and dental facilities and personnel before full planning permission for large housing developments is granted.**

30 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 16 March 2005 at Melksham Assembly Hall, Melksham at 7pm. However in light of the issues discussed and those difficulties expressed members resolved to hold an extra meeting in October – date to be agreed and circulated.

A request was made that a press release be issued to advertise the next meeting in Melksham News and the Wiltshire Times.

(7.00pm – 8.34pm)

These minutes were prepared by Melanie Stimpson, Member Support Officer
Telephone 01225 770322 or email: mstimpson@westwiltshire.gov.uk