

WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the: **MELKSHAM AREA SEMINAR**

Held on: **16 MARCH 2006**

Held in: **MELKSHAM TOWN HALL
MELKSHAM**

Present:

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

County Council Representatives Cllr White

Melksham Town Council Representative Cllr Wilkinson

Parish Council Representatives Cllr Brindle - Melksham Without

Parish Cluster Representative

Community Area Partnership Representative Carolyn Beale

Also in attendance: David Richards – Melksham 1st

Officers: Gwilym Gibbons – Community Initiatives Manager
Jacky Nicholas - Community Development Officer
Melanie Stimpson & Stef Keen – Member Support Officers

1 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

2 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:-

Minute 31 – Apologies – To include an apology for absence from Cllr White.

Minute 34 – Announcements Form the Chairman – Melksham Railway – Fourth paragraph should read ‘Melksham Town Council ~~Development Committee~~ had discussed ‘

Minute 36 – Melksham 1st – Third paragraph – should read ‘Cllr Mudge was asked to chair a Community Safety Group meeting on behalf of MACDT. It was very well attended by local businesses, with the main topic of discussion being anti social behaviour. The group **worked with Trading Standards who had received a grant to issue, free of charge, have been issued a grant to promote Validate Cards.....**’

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership

The Chairman announced that Chaloner Chute, Canal Project Officer, had intended to give a presentation to the Seminar; however he was unable to attend the meeting. Instead he had provided an update, which was distributed to the Seminar.

Small Grants Fund

£250 from the small grants fund had been allocated to both the Quiet Lane Project and BY's.

5 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Bowerhill

Cllr Mudge had recently attended a meeting to discuss youth issues at Bowerhill. Police had previously enforced ‘no go’ areas which had proved successful in reducing problems.

An outcome of the meeting was that Bowerhill Youth Club would be re-established and would be based within the Pavilion on the Sports Field.

Jacky Nicholas informed the Seminar that Melksham 1st had chaired the meeting. It had been a productive meeting as not only had it been agreed to re-establish Bowerhill Youth Club, but the following projects would also be investigated: -

- A youth page in the Bowerhill newsletter
- A Youth Club in the village hall for younger children, and
- Blue Bus Project

Dave Richards also agreed that it had been an excellent meeting with approximately 50 people in attendance. Although it was mostly adults who had attended the meeting, the young adults who attended had actively participated throughout the meeting and had volunteered to help with all of the projects.

It was suggested that the West Wiltshire District Council Youth Champion, Cllr Bryant should be invited to any meetings which involved discussions relating to

youth. Bowerhill Action Group Annual General Meeting would be on 17 May 2006 in the Village Hall.

Beanacre Park

Community Representative, Carolyn Beale of Melksham 1st announced that Beanacre Park had been officially opened. Both Jacky Nicholas and Carolyn Beale had attended the opening. £55,000 had been accessed to develop the Park which was a community park for all ages.

Melksham 1st

Jacky Nicholas announced that Carolyn Beale was now the Community Trust Manager of Melksham 1st.

West Wiltshire Police Authority Consultative Group

Cllr Hames reported that he had attended a meeting which had mainly discussed the emergence of Neighbourhood Policing Teams as well as the merging of police authorities. The decision on whether to merge Police Authorities was currently being considered.

PCT

Cllr White informed the Committee that the PCT Consultation document would be launched on 7 April until mid July 2006. A public meeting was being held on 30 March in the Assembly Hall at 7pm. All doctors in the area had been invited to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the following change of appointment, relative to Melksham Area Seminar, be noted:

	Was	Now
Melksham 1st Area Community Development Trust	Cllr Rosier	Cllr Wiltshire

6 UPDATES

The following updates from the previous meeting were presented to the Seminar.

Primary Care Trust (PCT)

At its last meeting Melksham Area Seminar had encouraged Melksham 1st to investigate the possibilities of funding/establishing a surgery or a venue to accommodate and encompass a surgery, citizen advice bureau etc, within the East of Melksham Development. Jacky Nicholas informed the Committee that since the meeting, she had been in discussions with Planning and Legal Departments. It had been established that the Section 106 included a

community building and, was hoped that in the future Melksham 1st could have some input into this.

RESOLVED:

That a meeting of Melksham Area Seminar be arranged, during late May/early June, and its only agenda item to be to discuss the PCT Consultation Document.

Concessionary Fares

Melksham 1st was very pleased to learn that the Community Bus project which they had been working with had been accepted into the Free Concessionary Fare Travel Scheme.

7 WILTS & BERKS CANAL PARTNERSHIP

In the absence of Canal Project Officer, Chaloner Chute, an update was presented to the Seminar.

Cllr Wiltshire informed the Seminar that there was four miles of canal in West Wiltshire and that the Wilts and Berks Canal Partnership involved several District Councils, Wiltshire and Oxford County Councils, Swindon Borough, and many others. West Wiltshire District Council was a member and last year supported the Partnership with £3000 from regeneration, leisure, and planning budgets.

Cllr Wiltshire explained that if a similar view of the project was taken this financial year it would involve more than one portfolio holder. The planning portfolio would have significant influence over the next 18 months in resolving a route for the canal between Melksham and the Kennet and Avon at Semington.

RESOLVED:

TO THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER/S

In light of the amount of funding given last year, Melksham Area Seminar ask the Environment Portfolio Holder to inform the Seminar what level of support West Wiltshire District Council would be offering to the Wilts & Berks project and partnership this financial year.

8 MELKSHAM 1ST COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP – THEMES – THE NEXT STAGE

Melksham 1ST informed the Seminar that £10,000 funding had been received for the 'Town Centre' and a further £10,000 had been received for the 'Canal' project.

The Community Safety Group was very successful. The Group was currently working with pubs and shops to establish a radio system which would link them all together.

The Community minibus was becoming increasingly popular and would hopefully continue to be so now that it was covered by concessionary fares could be used on the bus.

As the three parish councils had contributed some funding towards Melksham 1st this had in turn lead to Melksham 1st being able to access further funding from the West Wiltshire District Council Partnership Fund. Four out of the five Community Areas had now been able to benefit from this funding.

A meeting had been organised to deal with the Economic Regeneration of the area, however out of sixty people invited only six had attended.

As of 29 March Melksham 1st was moving offices to: First Floor, Crown Chambers, 7 Market Place, Melksham, SN12 6ES.

9 RESPECT AGENDA – IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY AREAS, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PARISHES, FOR EXAMPLE, NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAMS

Gwilym Gibbons, Community Initiatives Manager, presented a report which informed the Seminar on the emergence of Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT), the Council's response to their arrival and the planned involvement in their development.

Some members were sceptical as promises had been made before. Public were also frustrated as it was difficult to contact the police via the telephone. These issues had been raised during the discussion the District Council had had with the Police Authority.

The role of ward members was considered crucial to the effective delivery of NPT's and Members would be in the centre of guiding how policing should be delivered. Government would also be placing a duty on district councillors to act on information or complaints they received. District Councillors would have to respond within a prescribed timescale.

Currently the term 'neighbourhood' had not been defined; however it was likely to consist of 5-6,000 people.

10 ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE REFERRAL TO CABINET

There were no items to be referred to Cabinet

11 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Melksham Area Seminar meeting was scheduled for 20 September 2006 at Melksham Town Hall, Melksham at 7pm.

(7.01pm – 8.43pm)

APPENDIX

MELKSHAM AREA SEMINAR

MELKSHAM COMBINED STUDY - BLACK & VEITCH

This Study is now starting. There are two parts to this study

PART A

Rivers Route – Technical and Environmental Appraisal

1. Purpose and Background

The junction of the Wilts & Berks Canal with the Kennet & Avon Canal, immediately south of Melksham, has been identified as a priority Flagship scheme by the Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership. The canal will include a stretch of river navigation through Melksham town centre.

This new study will build upon the previous studies undertaken and in particular, the previous report *River Avon Navigation Option in Melksham: Flood Risk and Environmental Constraints November 2003*. The principal aims of the latest study will be to:-

1. Provide a single defined route (or narrow corridor) for the canal from the proposed junction with the Kennet and Avon Canal to immediately north of Melksham, utilising the River Avon through the town.
2. Undertake an investigation in sufficient detail to address the major technical and environmental issues such that the report provides the basis for obtaining support for the amendment of the Local Plan to safeguard the future route of the canal and river navigation.
3. Provide cost estimates for Design and Construction of the works and an updated Economic appraisal on the anticipated economic benefits of such a scheme, building on the Halcrow report and utilising BW reports.
4. Water Supply & management appraisal – K & A Canal - Melksham

The feasibility aspect of the study will assess critical issues relating to river geomorphology and hydrology, as well as an environmental appraisal of the proposed river navigation on the river environment.

PART B

RIVER CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT STUDY

1 Purpose and Background

To ensure that a new canal and river navigation through Melksham Town Centre brings maximum leisure, tourism and economic regeneration benefits to the town, Part B of the

study will focus on riverside enhancement issues. Part B of the Study will have many integral links with Part A – riverside enhancement opportunities will clearly be influenced by the navigational proposals assessed in part A.

Riverside enhancement in the town centre was identified as a key project within the recently published (Dec 2004) Melksham Area Community Strategy. The Melksham Area Community Development Trust Ltd, who worked with Wiltshire County Council to develop the Community Strategy, strongly support the need for continued synergy between a new canal and river navigation through Melksham and the identification of broader riverside enhancement opportunities. Many issues have emanated from several successful conferences and seminars, as well as walk-overs.

Chaloner Chute
Canal Project Officer

16 March 2006

Chairman.....

30 May 2006