

WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the: **TROWBRIDGE AREA SEMINAR**

Held on: **18 JULY 2005**

Held in: **CONFERENCE ROOM, WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES, TROWBRIDGE**

Present:

West Wiltshire District Council Representatives: Oldrieve * (Chairman), Brice, Burnan, Carbin, Conley, Content *, James, Knight, Osborn *

County Council Representatives: Hill and district members listed above with an asterisk

Trowbridge Town Council Representative

Parish Council Representatives: Polglase – Southwick
Warne – Staverton

Parish Liaison Group Representative

Community Area Partnership Representative: Gaynor Polglase (also representing Southwick Parish Council)

Also in attendance:

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

12 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blakemore, Clark, Phillips and Heywood Parish Council.

13 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2005/2006

The Member Support Officer called for nominations for the position of Chairman of Trowbridge Area Seminar.

Councillor Oldrieve was proposed by Councillor Osborn and seconded by Councillor Brice

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

RESOLVED: That Councillor Oldrieve be elected as Chairman of Trowbridge Area Seminar for 2005/06

14 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

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

Councillor Knight was proposed by Councillor Oldrieve and seconded by Councillor Osborn.

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

RESOLVED: That Councillor Knight be appointed as Vice Chairman of Trowbridge Area Seminar for 2005/06.

15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Hill declared an interest in the Trowbridge skate park as her house backs onto the skate park. Should the item be discussed she would leave the room.

17 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman made no announcements.

18 UPDATES

Following the previous Trowbridge Area Seminar on 17 January 2005 a number of issues were raised. The Chairman updated the committee on the progress with the following issues: - Post of Project Manager, Provision of Facilities and Services for the Youth of the District and Fly Posting, Graffiti and other street scene issues.

Provision of Facilities and Services for the Youth of the District

Cllr Content explained to the committee that the recommendations, featured in the agenda papers, regarding the provision of facilities and services for the youth of the district had now changed. It was felt more work needed to be done to the report therefore Cabinet would be agreeing in principal to the recommendations on the proviso more work is done and that the report is then brought back before the Cabinet at a future date.

A comment was made that the reports were excellent and easy to digest, but occasional words within the report were not so easily understood, such as holistic.

Fly Posting, Graffiti and Other Street Scene Issues.

The current Environment portfolio holder, Cllr Brown, provided the Chairman with the following statement:

The questions raised at the Trowbridge Area Seminar meeting on 17 January were in two parts:

- Trowbridge Area Seminar asked Councillor Wiltshire (previous Environment portfolio holder) to foster joined-up working between the District and the County Council to address Street scene issues.
- Trowbridge Area Seminar requested Councillor Wiltshire to report findings back to Cabinet.

The County Local Strategic Partnership had identified improving Street scene as one of its four priority areas. Mark Bowden, the Chief Executive of Kennet District Council, is leading the initiative. The Street scene meetings provide a forum for Officers and Members to discuss how best co-operate to improve the Street scene. Those discussions have covered fly posting and graffiti.

The Wiltshire Technical Officer Group, which comprises Officers from all the Districts and the County Council who are responsible for Street scene issues, are developing stretch targets for improving the Street scene across Wiltshire. The intention is that these targets will be agreed with the Government Office of the South West and form part of the Local Public Service Agreement. This will attract some pump priming money from Government and a financial reward if the stretch targets are met. Currently discussions are focussing on the removal of litter and detritus and general satisfaction with town centres. However, we are hoping those targets will be extended to cover fly posting and/or graffiti. This would lead to a joint approach and common targets across the County.

The Government has issued the performance targets for all local authorities for the removal of fly posters and graffiti. The Wiltshire Technical Officers Group is covering how best to meet these targets and, again, this is promoting a joint approach and co-ordination between local authorities in Wiltshire.

The Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act have given local authorities new powers to deal with graffiti and fly posting and the Wiltshire Technical Officers Group is assessing how these can be used to hit the targets mentioned above. Again, the intention is to have common standards and a co-ordinated approach across the County.

The District Council's Corporate Management Team are preparing a report on the new powers and targets (both mentioned above) to consider how these can be used to improve how we address Street scene issues. Once the Local Public Service Agreement's two targets are clearer and Corporate Management Team are able to provide some clarity on these issues Cabinet will receive a report.

In conclusion there are intensive discussions going at Officer level to improve the removal of fly posting and graffiti. New targets and powers would drive improvements in this area but any impact of this should be seen in the next financial year. In the meantime the District Council has started using "cancelled" stickers on fly posters as a deterrent (this approach has been used successfully in other areas).

Members were please to see that both the District and County council had begun to work closely together. It had been noted that a council employee had been seen driving around on a quad bike spraying weed killer along the kerbsides. It was interesting to note the comments of those interviewed for the Trowbridge Town Clerk post. When asked what the interviewees thought of Trowbridge it was said that it was a dirty place and the District and Town Councils should get something done about it. The state of the roads, pavements and drains was also mentioned.

RECCOMENDATION TO SCRUTINY:

The Trowbridge Area Seminar supports a Scrutiny review of street scene and requests reports back on any outcomes

Cllr Osborn offered to liase with Wiltshire County Council Scrutiny Committee at the same time regarding the recommendation.

19. APPOINMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE FOR TROWBRIDGE COMMUNITY AREA FUTURE

The Chairman called for nominations for a representative for Trowbridge Community Area Future

Councillor Knight was proposed by Councillor Oldrieve and seconded by Councillor Osborn.

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

RESOLVED: That Councillor Knight be appointed as Trowbridge Community Area Future Representative for 2005/06

20. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

No reports from members on outside bodies relevant to the area were given

Cllr Brice expressed that he did not wish to be a representative of Trowbridge Sports Centre Management Body and Cllr Burnan expressed that he was not happy being a representative.

Cllr James informed the committee that there had not been any recent meetings of the Trowbridge Sports Centre Management Body; however there is a need for the meetings. The sports centre staff are dissatisfied that the district council are not getting involved in the sport centre.

It was felt that the body was not achieving what it should especially since DC Leisure have taken over the running of the facility.

RESOLVED:

i. The following appointments to outside bodies be noted:

Historic Buildings Joint Committees – Trowbridge

**Blakemore
Knight
Carbin (Deputy)**

Splitz Parenting Alone Support Services

**Repton
James**

Trowbridge Sports Centre Management Body

**Brice
James
Knight
Oldrieve**

**Youth and Community Services Committee –
Trowbridge**

Bryant

Trowbridge Community Area Future

Knight

- ii. **That Cllr Brice be removed as a representative of Trowbridge Sports Centre Management Body.**
- iii. **That Cllr James be removed as the deputy on the Splitz Parenting Alone Services**
- iv. **The portfolio holder investigate and bring to Cabinet a report to review the terms of reference and function of Trowbridge Sports Centre Management Body to include: - How and if the body can be dissolved, repercussions of the dissolution of this body, suggestion/s for an alternative body where both councillors and the public have an opportunity to offer feedback as well as including the responsibility for financial support.**

21. TROWBRIDGE COMMUNITY AREA FUTURE PRESENTATION AND ENDORSEMENT OF COMMUNITY PLAN

Jacky Nicholas presented a report highlighting the main issues arising from the Trowbridge Community Area Future Action Plan which linked to services provided by West Wiltshire District Council.

The Community Initiatives Manager would be taking summaries of all five plans and the potential implications to Cabinet.

Trowbridge Community Area Future Action Plan is divided into 8 themes and it was suggested that the District Council be represented on each one of the themes.

RESOLVED:

- i. **Trowbridge Area Seminar supports the proposal of a District Member Representative from the Trowbridge Area Seminar on each of the eight themed areas of the Trowbridge Community Area Future Action Plan**

- ii. **Trowbridge Area Seminar asks each portfolio holder to report back to the next area seminar meeting on 17 October progress of each theme area of the Trowbridge Community Area Future Action Plan that impact on the District Council**

22. ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE REFERRAL TO CABINET

- i. **Please see minute no. 20 resolution iv.**
- ii. **Trowbridge Area Seminar ask Cabinet to give serious consideration to the issues raised in the Trowbridge Community Area Future Action Plan**
- iii. **That Cabinet reports back to the next Trowbridge Area Seminar meeting on the provision of services for young people.**

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Monday 30 January 2006, however to coincide with the community area partnership meetings the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 17 October 2005 at the Conference Room, Wiltshire County Council Offices, Trowbridge.

(8.00pm – 9.07pm)

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