

**Committee and Date**

Bayston Hill Local
Joint Committee

Thursday 24 October
2013
7:00 p.m.

Item No

3

Public

**NOTES THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 JUNE 2013 AT
OAKMEADOW CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, BAYSTON HILL
(7.15 – 8.55 p.m.)**

**Responsible
Officer**

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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Ted Clarke

Jane Mackenzie

Bayston Hill Parish Council

Teresa Lewis

James Moraghen

Alan Parkhurst

West Mercia Police

Sgt Claire Greenaway

PC David Harte

Shropshire Council Officers present:

Lucy Roberts, Community Action Officer

Steve Law, Strategic Asset Manager

There were approximately 50 people present at the meeting.

ACTION

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED: That Ted Clarke be elected Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year.

2. Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies were received from Mr Jon Tandy, Shropshire Council.

3. Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED: That Alan Parkhurst be appointed Vice Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year.

4. Chairman's Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the delayed start to the meeting, due to difficulties accessing the building. Each Member of the Committee then introduced him/herself.

5. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were disclosed.

6. Notes

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting held on 4 October 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

7. Key Current Policing Issues – PACT (Partners and Communities Together)

7.1 PC D Harte introduced himself and explained that the Bayston Hill and Haughmond Local Policing Team was going to be merged with the Shrewsbury Rural South policing team to form a Safer Neighbourhood Team. PC Harte reported the new team would consist of one police constable and two community support officers. The reason for these changes was the need to make significant savings, although every effort was being made to protect frontline policing.

7.2 PC Harte then reported on local police issues, including:

- anti-social behaviour by youngsters driving vehicles inappropriately (warning notices issued and vehicles could be seized by police)
- theft of catalytic converters from vehicles (police targeted scrap metal dealers to combat this)
- Distraction burglaries, especially of elderly people. PC Harte advised everyone to look out for their elderly neighbours and report any suspicious cold callers to the police.

7.3	In conclusion, he encouraged everyone with an e-mail address to sign up for Ruralwatch to receive 4 newsletters a year.	ACTION All
7.4	Sgt Greenaway then spoke in more detail about the changes to the local policing teams from 1 October. She said police officers would not be able to spend time in police stations when they were on shift, but would be in police cars with data terminals. It was hoped this would lead to better results and a greater police presence in the area. She confirmed there would be 24/7 cover in all areas.	
7.5	In response to a question, it was confirmed the area of the new Safer Neighbourhood Team was approximately 200 square miles.	
7.6	Mrs Janet Hughes, local co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch then spoke about the work of the group. Members helped the police by being the “eyes and ears” of the local community; by providing “No Cold Callers” stickers to householders; encouraging use of Smartwater to protect goods from theft and by providing Datalink packs where people could record their emergency medical information. New members were always welcome and she invited anyone interested to speak to her afterwards or to come along to the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting on 8 October at the Beeches pub.	All
7.7	A member of the public commended the clearance work which had taken place at the bottom of Pulley Lane by those on community service and the Chairman said he would pass this comment on.	Chairman
8.	Bayston Hill Good Neighbours Scheme	
8.1	Mrs Jacky Burnell then spoke about the work of the Bayston Hill Good Neighbours Scheme. This group had started in August 2012, sponsored by Shropshire Rural Community Council. The idea was to match up volunteers with people needing help or support. Volunteers could call round for a weekly visit; take someone shopping, etc. In the short time the scheme had been operating, it had already made a significant difference to people’s lives, allowing them to remain independent for longer.	
8.2	The group was looking for new volunteers and were also interested to hear about anyone needing support. Mrs Burnell invited everyone to a coffee morning at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 13 July, 10.30 to 12.30, when they could find out more.	All
9.	Jubilation Group	
9.1	Mrs Teresa Lewis and Mrs Judy Shone then spoke about the work of the Jubilation Group. Mrs Lewis reminded everyone of the very successful events the group had organised last year to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.	

ACTION

9.2 Mrs Shone, Chairman of the Group, then outlined the Jubilation plans for the weekend of September 7 and 8 2013. On Saturday, there would be a carnival parade on the theme of "Hooray for Hollywood". On Sunday 8 September, there would be a church service and picnic lunch, followed by lots of sporting event, e.g. a fun run, ramble, football, rounders and much more. The events were being supported by the Village Association and the Parish Council and as much as possible would be free. Lots of volunteers were needed and anyone interested in getting involved was invited to leave their contact details.

All

9.3 Mrs Lewis then commended Judy Shone, who had just won a Shropshire Star People's Champion award for her voluntary work.

10. The Former Oakland School Site

10.1 Lucy Roberts, Community Action Officer, updated everyone on progress since the last Local Joint Committee in October 2012:

- In December, a working group of residents had met to consider the results of the public consultation which had taken place in the autumn.
- Some realistic suggestions for a community hub on part of the site had then been reported back to Shropshire Council. These had included proposals to re-site the library and parish office and include a multi-use room, with some outside green space.
- She reported that Steve Law, Strategic Asset Manager, had taken over responsibility for the project in December and the next stage would be the production of a design brief.

10.2 Steve Law explained there had been two developments which had led to a pause in the progress of the project.

- The proposal for part of the development to contain some assisted living bungalows had been withdrawn due to lack of funding.
- The Diocese of Lichfield had contacted the Council to discuss their intention to sell the adjoining Glebelands and to suggest the two sites were considered as a joint development.

As the Scout and Guide headquarters was situated on the Glebelands, Mr Law explained this was an additional factor which had to be taken into account.

As a result, the project was on hold to enable another public consultation to be completed. Mr Law emphasised there was no immediate time pressure for Shropshire Council to sell the school site and that the views of the local community were very important.

ACTION

- 10.3 Rev Tim Lomax, from Christ Church, then addressed the meeting. He explained the church was promoting a joint development in order to ensure the village benefited from additional community facilities. He said the development would release money which could be used to develop the community hub further. He went on to say that the Diocese owned a field at the back of Yew Tree Drive which they would be prepared to offer as replacement open space for the Glebelands. This area could be used for walking and for wildlife.
- 10.4 In the ensuing discussion, the following points were raised:
- Mr Law said it was not possible at this early stage to know how many houses might be built on the combined site.
 - Concern was raised over the future of the current library site and Mr Law confirmed there were no definite proposals yet.
 - Rev Lomax confirmed the Glebelands was private land, leased for public use. He also confirmed the Scout and Guide headquarters was sited on Diocese of Lichfield land, but the Diocese did not own the building.
 - The Glebelands was valued as being one of the last pockets of green space remaining in the centre of the village. Several speakers spoke about all the other open space being around the periphery and therefore less accessible, including the alternative being offered by the Diocese.
 - The Glebelands was used by dog walkers and was a safe place to go, particularly for women, whereas the Yew Tree Drive site was boggy and not as safe.
 - It was noted the Scouts and Guides used the open space of the Glebelands, as well as having their headquarters building there.
 - The size of a joint development would have implications for the infrastructure of the village, e.g. school, doctor, dentist.
 - In response to these concerns, Rev Lomax invited a former planning officer to speak. He estimated the size of the joint development would be under 5 acres and there was an average of approximately 10 houses per acre.
- 10.5 The Chairman stressed that no formal agreement had been made and that another public consultation would be undertaken in September.
- 10.5 Lucy Roberts, Community Action Officer, encouraged everyone who was interested in joining the working group to leave their contact details with her or with Emma Kay at the Parish Office.
- 10.6 A member of the working group then spoke of how impressed she had been at how they had been kept informed about what was happening and how valuable it had been to have some input and she encouraged others to join in as well.

All

ACTION

- 10.7 Another member of the working group described how he had become involved after the last Local Joint Committee meeting. Initially, he had been involved because he had a vested interest (i.e. he lived close to the school site) but he had been heartened with the way the process had developed.

The working group had come up with realistic suggestions, bearing in mind the need to avoid duplicating village facilities and making sure any development brief reflected the wishes of the local community, e.g. the desire for retirement housing to enable residents to downsize but remain in the village. The working group had been kept informed and he felt the whole process was a model of local democracy. He felt it was important for the working group to remain optimistic and realistic, but he was worried about the implications of doubling the size of the development.

- 10.8 The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions.

11. Bayston Hill Local Joint Committee Budget and Funding Report 2013/14

- 11.1 Lucy Roberts, Community Action Officer, reported the Local Joint Committee had a total budget of £9,210 for 2013/14. An application for funding of £2,000 towards replacing the roof of the Scout and Guide headquarters had been received. The total cost of the project was £15,700, of which £13,700 had already been secured. She explained the proposed repairs would keep the headquarters building warm, safe and more energy efficient.

- 11.2 **RESOLVED:** That funding of £2,000 be agreed towards the replacement of the Bayston Hill Scout and Guide Headquarters roof.

12. Public Question Time

- 12.1 A member of the public raised the issue of access on to the A49 from the Lyth Hill Road/A49 junction by Fox Close. In response, the Chairman agreed this had been a matter of concern for a number of years. The Parish Council was keen improve the A49 junction and to provide a safe pedestrian access across the A49, but with the current climate of reduced public spending, the only possibility was to use any Community Infrastructure Levy money received as a result of new housing being built.

- 12.2 There was discussion about the poor state of the garden at the back of the library and Lucy Roberts agreed to discuss this with the library manager.

- 12.3 It was confirmed there was no date yet for implementation of the new circular bus route around the village and that there would be a need for the Parish Council to consider bus shelters once the new route was established.

CAO

ACTION

13. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 24 October, 7.00 p.m.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....