



Committee and Date  
Bishop's Castle, Chirbury &  
Worthen and Clun LJC  
  
Thursday 6 October 2011  
  
7.00 pm

Item  
**4**  
  
Public

**BISHOP'S CASTLE, CHIRBURY & WORTHEN AND CLUN  
LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS STEMMING FROM THE MEETING HELD  
ON 16 JUNE 2011  
7.00 PM – 9.00 PM  
AT  
SNAILBEACH VILLAGE HALL**

**Responsible Officer** Amanda Holyoak  
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**Committee Members Present:**

Shropshire Council

Peter Phillips	Bishop's Castle
Nigel Hartin	Clun
Heather Kidd	Chirbury & Worthen

Town/Parish Councils

Jane Carroll	Bishop's Castle Town Council
Andrew Craig	Chirbury with Brompton Parish Council
John Croxton	Clunbury Parish Council
Llewellyn Morgan	Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council
Jackie Williams	Lydbury North Parish Council
Keith Mansell	Myndtown Combined Parish Council
Brian Ince	Worthen with Shelve Parish Council

**Shropshire Council Members/Officers Present:**

Gwilym Butler	Portfolio Holder Flourishing Shropshire Communities
Mathew Mead	Community Action Officer

There were six members of the public present at the meeting.

**ACTION**

**1. Election of Chairman**

Mr Peter Phillips was elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

2.1 Apologies were received from the following members: Colin Pendry, Clun and Chapel Lawn Parish Council, Jonathan Roberts,

Clungunford Parish Council and Eddie Jones, Newcastle on Clun Parish Council

### **3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

Mr Colin Pendry was appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

### **4. Declarations of Interest**

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

### **5. Notes of the LJC Meetings Held on 10 February 2011 and 21 March 2011**

5.1 The Note of the Decisions of the meeting held on 10 February 2011 were approved as a correct record.

5.2 The Note of the funding decisions taken at the 21 March 2011 meeting were approved as a correct record. The notes taken of the unsupported part of the meeting by Mrs Lesley Thomas were also approved as correct.

### **6. Police Report**

6.1 Inspector James Dunn introduced himself and provided an update on police activity in the LJC area.

6.2 He encouraged all present to raise any issues as soon as they arose rather than wait for a meeting, and this could be done by e-mail, telephone or by visiting a police station.

6.3 Crime was down from 19.5 crimes per month to 12.5 crimes per month, but there was a particular need to be aware of and take precautions against metal thefts and burglaries from non dwellings. Other than that the area was a safe one, low in crime, with most crime carried out by only one or two prolific offenders.

6.4 In response to questions about managing local staffing, Inspector Dunn explained that PC Sparrow was currently covering the Bishops Castle area and confirmed that he was not being shared with the Church Stretton area. Recruitment was underway to the Force and South Shropshire would be receiving new officers which should offer further options for dealing with the local policing area.

6.5 In response to concerns about speed enforcement, Inspector Dunn reported that the new officer for the area would be able to enforce speed restrictions.

6.6 He confirmed that there were four officers per shift for the entire geographic area and other resources could be called in as

Inspector  
Dunn

necessary.

- 6.7 Members of the committee felt that improved communication to keep people informed of what was happening was necessary and Inspector Dunn said he would take that message on board.
- 6.8 He confirmed ways of making contact with the police included: through West Mercia Police Website [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk), by e-mail [bishopscastle.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:bishopscastle.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk), telephone 0300 333 3000, through PACT surgeries and through CSOs located at Bishop's Castle.
- 6.9 Heather Kidd informed the meeting that the issue of paramedics having to stay with a body until arrival of the police when a death occurred had been lodged with the Police Authority.
- 6.10 The Chairman thanked Inspector Dunn for attending the meeting.

## **7. Public Question Time**

- 7.1 The Chairman referred to his note on matters arising from the two previous meetings which had been circulated with the agenda. This provided an update on schools, hospital proposals, buses, public conveniences, the restructuring of Shropshire Council and pylons.
- 7.2 It was reported that the Shropshire Council 5.4% pay reduction would now also cover staff at the highest level.
- 7.3 Members of the Committee expressed their gratitude that the Bishop's Castle – Shrewsbury bus services were to be retained and wished compliments to be passed to the public transport staff for their hard work in achieving this outcome.

Committee  
Officer

## **8. Mid Wales Connection Project – Impact on Local Area**

- 8.1 All present were pleased that the Shropshire Council response to the National Grid consultation opposed all overhead pylons whichever route was chosen. The Committee expressed its full support of the Council's response.

## **9. Future of Local Joint Committees**

- 9.1 Councillor Gwilym Butler, Portfolio Holder Flourishing Shropshire Communities was welcomed to the meeting. He provided a presentation on Localism and the future role of Local Joint Committees which covered the future of community working.
- 9.2 He reported that a key objective of Shropshire Council's new Corporate Plan would be 'Flourishing Shropshire Communities' which reflected central government's agenda for a Big Society,

Localism and Place based budgets.

- 9.3 He referred to the role of Shropshire Council's new Area Directors, and to how the future of community working fit in with Local Joint Committees, the role of local members, Town and Parish Councils, the voluntary and community sector and stakeholders.
- 9.4 He also referred to the review of the Town and Parish Charter and confirmed awareness of the need for the new charter to be flexible as one size did not fit all. It was intended that Town and Parish Councils would be able to sign up to just the elements that suited them.
- 9.5 Shropshire Council was looking at implementing place based budgets in 2013 – 2014 with the intention of communities deciding their own priorities for budgets. Local members would have to be proactive and take a strong role in establishing the key issues for the area. The LJC would have a key role in deciding the priorities for the area and it would be important to support people who did not have loud voice.
- 9.6 In discussing the Parish Charter, the Committee asked why it was felt some parishes were disengaging and withdrawing from the process. Councillor Butler referred to the enforced up front massive budget cuts that had been needed very quickly. Members of the LJC also felt that the public did not feel that they had been listened to on matters such as the Bishop's Castle Biomass Plant and that could be a reason for disengagement.
- 9.7 Members of the Committee raised issues including:
- what if local decisions went against central strategy,
  - who would deliver and manage services determined by local place budgets
  - who would ensure the monies were spent as desired.
  - Would LJC's retain grant funds for small projects
- 9.8 It was confirmed that the Area Directors would hold the budget and it was intended that delivery of services would be undertaken by whoever could deliver them best, whether that be Shropshire Council or the voluntary and community sector or Parish and Town Councils. The role of Parish Plans would be extremely important.
- 9.9 The LJC's were likely to retain a grant pot but be encouraged to use this for identified priorities. Members were concerned that those falling outside of the priorities might be disadvantaged and it was felt there would need to be flexibility.
- 9.10 The Committee went on to discuss the importance of drawing funds into Shropshire and disappointment was expressed that the county had lost out to Herefordshire on Local Enterprise

Partnership funds and had not been success ful in round one of Broadband UK Funds.

- 9.11 In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Councillor Butler for attending the meeting and asked him to take the following messages back: the Council had a lot of ground to make up, concern at the treatment of the LJC which could not understand why it had not been allowed to respond to the consultation on schools or scrutinise a decision that had been made.

## **10. Issues update from around the LJC Area**

- 10.1 Jackie Williams encouraged all parishes to get involved and share the costs of shared training which could take place locally if there was enough demand. Councillor Butler encouraged all local Parishes to join the Association of Local Councils and emphasised the importance of training for clerks as well as councillors.

## **11. Update from Community Action Officer**

- 11.1 Mathew Mead, Community Action Officer provided a report which included details of Rural Challenge Funding applications. The LJC expressed its support for the following applications:

Upgrading of workshops at Enterprise House, Bishop's Castle  
Improved facilities at Clungunford Village Hall  
Tourism promotion in Snailbeach and Stiperstones  
New accommodation units at the Horseshoe Inn at Ratlinghope

- 11.2 He also reported that a report was due to go to Cabinet which would allow grants to be made between meetings. The Committee drew attention to the need to provide plenty of notice, be aware that some people did not check their e-mails every day and also that some members experienced poor broadband speeds or had no e-mail access at all.
- 11.3 The report also provided detail of the Community Games 2011 and 2012 and anyone interested in holding an event were directed to contact Alison Evans, 01743 2555091.

## **12. Grant Applications 2011/2012**

- 12.1 Members considered a report by the Community Action Officer on an assessment of the applications which had been received during the first round for funding from £26,181 available to the Committee to spend.

**RESOLVED:** That, the proposed budget applications as set out in the report by the Community Action Officer be accepted, namely

- a) Leasowes Bank Arts Festival – Costs of running 2011 Festival  
Approved funding: £970
- b) Bishop's Castle Civic Society – Reprint of Bishop's Castle Town Trail  
Approved funding £308.38
- c) Norbury Primary School PTA – New outside education area  
Approved funding: £2500 on condition of matched funding for the project being secured from the Awards for All scheme.
- d) Clunton Village Hall – New oven for the halls kitchen  
Approved funding: £487.00
- e) Worthen Bowls club – new toilet for the club  
Approved funding: £500 on condition of matched funding being raised by the bowls club to meet the total cost of the project.
- f) South Shropshire Engineering Ambassadors (SSEA) – Young Engineer Clubs in local schools.  
Approved funding: £875
- g) Flower Festival at Holy Trinity Church, Lydham  
Approved funding: £125
- h) Grange Road Lunch Club.  
Approved funding: £500

### **13. Future Agenda Items**

- 13.1 An update on pylons, schools and ambulances was requested
- 13.2 The Committee asked that New Area Director, Chris Edwards, be invited to the next meeting to talk about his role and provide an update on issues impacting on the LJC.
- 13.3 A suggestion that the Committee receive a presentation on the new Shropshire Hills and Ludlow Tourism Strategy and Action Plan was welcomed.

### **14. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

- 14.1 Thursday 6 October 2011 at 7.00 pm at Bucknell Memorial Hall  
Thursday 9 February 2011 at 7.00 pm at SpArC Centre, Bishop's Castle

**Signed..... Chairman**

**Date: 6 October 2011**