



Committee and Date  
Bishop's Castle, Chirbury &  
Worthen and Clun LJC

14 February 2013

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 4 OCTOBER 2012  
7.00 PM – 9.00 PM  
AT  
BETTWS-Y-CRYWYN VILLAGE HALL**

**Responsible Officer** Amanda Holyoak

e-mail: [amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01743 252718

Fax 01743 252713

**Committee Members Present:**

Shropshire Council

Charlotte Barnes	Bishop's Castle (Chair)
Nigel Hartin	Clun
Heather Kidd	Chirbury & Worthen

Town/Parish Councils

Valerie Whately	Bettws-y-Crwyn Parish Council
John Croxton	Clunbury Parish Council
Sandra Davies	Newcastle on Clun Parish Council
Llewellyn Morgan	Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council
Keith Pinches	Bishop's Castle Town Council (substitute member)
Jonathan Roberts	Clungunford Parish Council (Vice Chair)
Ann Parry	Myndtown Combined Parish Council

**Officers Present:**

Mathew Mead, Community Action Officer

**ACTION**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Karen Bavastock, Bishop's Castle Town Council  
Rod Bond, Chirbury with Brompton Parish Council  
Kate King, Lydbury North Parish Council  
Trevor Hughes, Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

Brian Ince, Worthen with Shelve Parish Council  
James McVicar, Clun and Chapel Lawn Parish Council  
Ann Parry, Myndtown Combined Parish Council

## **2. Disposable Pecuniary Interests**

Members were minded that they must not participate in the discussion or vote on any matter in which they had a disposable pecuniary interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

## **3. Decision Note of the Meeting Held on 14 June 2012**

- 3.1 The Decision Note of the Bishop's Castle, Chirbury & Worthen and Clun Local Joint Committee held on 14 June was approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **4. Grant Applications – Decision Report**

- 4.1 **RESOLVED: that the following grants be made as listed:**

BC 22 Bishop's Castle and District Community Land Trust £625  
BC23 Clunton Village Hall Committee £538.90  
BC24 The Bog Visitor Centre £550  
BC25 Rectory Gardens Lunch Club, Worthen £930  
BC26 Grange Road Residents Group £308  
BC27 Bucknell Memorial Hall & Recreation Ground new electricity connection £2,500

## **5. Report from Fire Service**

Mel Kapitanec and Rob Corfield reported that Bishop's Castle had just taken possession of a new bigger fire appliance with a larger water capacity.

They reported on the response to the recent flooding which had been unprecedented.

Members of the Committee asked about funding of the fire service and likelihood of cut backs and station closures. In response, the Fire Officers reported that the service had already experienced dramatic budget reductions without making compulsory redundancies or closing fire stations. However further difficulties were likely to arise following the next funding round but the extent of potential reductions was not currently known.

It was confirmed that for the time being the Service could still install smoke alarms for people with disabilities, those aged 75 or over, or

on benefits.

The officers were thanked for attending the meeting.

## **6. Environmental Maintenance**

6.1 Kate Adams, Environmental Maintenance Team, was welcomed to the meeting. She explained that the Street Scene Team was based at Craven Arms along with Highways Officers. The Environmental Maintenance Team had transferred over to Ringway but this should not impact on the service available.

6.2 Areas dealt with by the Team included dealing with:

Street cleansing  
Litter picking in verges  
Mud  
Dog fouling  
Weed spraying  
Emptying bins  
Drug related waste  
Fly tipped waste  
Abandoned vehicles

6.3 She explained that officers had the power to issue fines for dog fouling or littering, but only if they had witnessed this personally. Equipment for litter picking was available to borrow and the Team was also able to arrange for the Probation Service to carry out large scale clean ups.

6.4 Members of the Committee and others present asked questions covering: highways, markings on the road disappearing, grass cutting, blocked drains and link pipes.

6.5 In response, Kate emphasised that any intelligence provided by councillors or members of the public would help direct the activity of the team. She asked that when reporting a problem that as specific a description of the location as possible be provided.

6.6 It was acknowledged that there were some who did not want grass to be cut due to the presence of wild flowers. Members were reassured that grass could be left if requested as long as there were no health and safety implications.

6.7 Members expressed particular concern about blocked drains and enquired about the frequency of this. Kate confirmed that this responsibility would be transferring to environmental maintenance but was currently with Highways. The contract for clearing drains was set at twice a year, but some Members were concerned that as link pipes were not cleared, blockages remained.

6.6 Kate emphasised that the first point of call for any problems should be Shropshire Council, the Streets, roads & transport number was : **0345 678 9006**. She also suggested making contact with the Local Shropshire Council Member if problems were not resolved satisfactorily.

6.7 Those present heard that the litter picking equipment available included high visibility jackets and litter pickers and that these and any litter gathered would be picked up and removed. In response to questions, Kate reported that insurance for those participating was not included in this support. Members felt that many Parishes were not aware of this service and it was suggested that a note to Clerks could help.

**KA**

6.10 Members asked if litter picking should be the responsibility of Ringway. It was confirmed that the team could come out once they were aware of a problem, but resources did not allow trips looking for any issues. The Team aimed to cover all market towns once a month and if anything was spotted during these journeys it could be dealt with.

6.11 In response to a question about weed control in and around rivers, Members were informed that this was within the remit of the Environment Agency.

The Committee thanked Kate for attending.

## **7. Public Question Time**

7. There were no questions from Members of the Public.

## **8 Issues update from Around the LJC Area**

8.1 Nigel Hartin informed members of the serious impact of government funding changes on provision of school meals, particularly in small rural schools. Over 70 schools in Shropshire would be affected and Shropshire Council was working with individual schools to address the problem and was also lobbying central government.

Other concerns in relation to education, particularly in small rural schools, included the increase in costs of supporting children with special educational needs , and schools also having to finance their own broadband provision.

Another issue raised by members was lack of co-ordination between the utility providers and Highways Agency when it came to closing roads and obvious diversion routes at the same time. It was suggested that this be raised with the Area Director.

**CB**

## **9. Police Report**

- 9.1 Members were warned that there had been some diesel thefts in the area recently. 30 mph hour signs for sticking on wheely bins were available at the end of the evening and could be posted out to Parishes. **MM**
- 9.1 All present were encouraged to ring 101 to report any suspicious activity.

## **10. Report from Community Action Officer**

- 10.1 Matthew Mead drew attention to a letter circulated to Parish Councils regarding clarification of Community Infrastructure Levy priorities. He reported on a helpful meeting held in Clungunford to identify priorities.
- 10.2 He also reported that grants were available to produce or refresh Parish Plans. **MM**

## **11. Future Agenda Items**

It was agreed that the 14 February 2013 meeting should be held in Bishop's Castle if possible, and focus on housing issues, including those in relation to changes in the housing benefit system which many people were currently unaware of.

## **12 Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 14 February 2013 at 7.00 pm

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 14 February 2013