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| <u>Committee and Date</u> Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley and Claverley Local Joint Committee 3 March 2010 7:00 p.m. |
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| <u>Item/Paper</u> 3 Public |
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**NOTES OF ACTIONS AND DECISIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2009 AT ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL,
ALVELEY**
7:00 – 9.20 p.m.

Responsible Officer Anne Cousins
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Committee Members Present:
Shropshire Council
Mr John Hurst-Knight
Mr Christian Lea (Chairman)
Mr Les Winwood
Mr Michael Wood
Mrs Tina Woodward (Vice Chairman)

Town/Parish Councils
Mr David Voysey, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council
Mr Simon Elcock, Astley Abbots Parish Council
Mr Terry Lipscombe, Badger Parish Council
Mr David Tooth, Beckbury Parish Council
Mr Geoff Bodenham, Bridgnorth Town Council
Mr Richard Cotham, Claverley Parish Council
Mrs Isabel Faithful, Quatt Malvern Parish Council
Mr Malcolm Duff-Walker, Ryton and Grindle Parish Council
Mr Allan Chatham, Sutton Maddock Parish Council
Mr Peter Dent, Tasley Parish Council
Mr Len Ball, Worfield and Rudge Parish Council

Shropshire Council Officers present:
Helen Powell, Support Officer
Vicky Turner, Community Regeneration Officer (CRO)
Anne Cousins, Committee Officer
Hugh Dannatt, Group Manager, Traffic and Engineering Team (agenda item 6)
Steve Brown, Head of Environmental Maintenance (agenda item 7)

West Mercia Police:
Insp Bob Matthews
PC Matt Picken (Bridgnorth Rural East)
PC Richard Wood (Bridgnorth Town)

There were approx 50-60 people present in total.

At the start of the meeting, the Chairman paid tribute to Cllr M Griffiths, Mayor of Bridgnorth, who had passed away suddenly two days earlier.

ACTION

1. Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies were received from Mr William Parr, Shropshire Council; Mr Ian Amos, Kemberton Parish Council and Mr John Owen, Stockton Parish Council.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Mr Richard Cotham, Claverley Parish Council, declared a personal interest in the grant application from Claverley Village Hall Committee for refurbishment of Claverley Village Hall (agenda item 8, grant application 9 under the Larger Grants Scheme).
- 2.2 Mr David Voysey, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council, declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the grant application from Alveley and Romsley Parish Council for play sand (agenda item 8, grant application C5 under the Community Chest Scheme). He left the room during consideration of this application.
- 2.3 Mrs Isabelle Faithful, Quatt Malvern Parish Council, declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the grant application from Quatt Village Hall Committee for repairs to the village hall (agenda item 8, grant application 13 under the Larger Grants Scheme). She left the room during consideration of this application.

3. Notes

- 3.1 It was reported that a letter had been sent to BT requesting that Bridgnorth addresses be added to the Bridgnorth telephone directory (paragraph 6.2 refers) and the matter of speeding along the Wenlock Road had been taken up by the two local Shropshire councillors for the area (paragraph 6.5 refers).
- 3.2 **RESOLVED:** That the notes of the previous meeting, held on 16 September 2009, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Information on Services in the Bridgnorth area

The Chairman thanked all the organisations who had provided displays and information for the benefit of the public. These included council services and local charities. He drew attention to the map of the area at the back of the room, which provided an opportunity for members of the public to report any areas of concern.

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

Inspector Bob Matthews, West Mercia Police, introduced this item and the following matters were discussed:

- Progress made in investigating theft of valuable farm equipment. Insp. Matthews emphasised the need for local intelligence and encouraged all those present to contact the police immediately if they had any concerns about any suspicious activity in their area.
- A Task Force has been set up to consider anti-social behaviour at The Grove.
- Bridgnorth town centre had been identified by the police as a priority area in which to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and disorder.
- Progress made on addressing the issue of boy racers in Bridgnorth town centre. The police explained the owner of any vehicle found to be causing a nuisance could be issued with a notice which meant they had to pay a fine or the vehicle was crushed. To date, all those issued with such a notice had paid the fine.

6. Road Safety

6.1 The local policing team gave a presentation on road safety, with particular reference to motorcycles, following an issue raised by a member of the public at the previous meeting. This presentation covered:

- The high casualty rate among motorcyclists on Bridgnorth roads. Motorcyclists made up only 1% of road users, yet accounted for 45% of fatalities on the roads, which was far higher than the national average.
- The issue of nuisance and effect on quality of life for residents by large numbers of motorcyclists passing through the Bridgnorth area.

6.2 The presentation also provided a brief history of events over the past few years and how the police had worked together with other agencies, such as the fire service, to reduce both the casualty rate and the incidents of disorder. As a result of these efforts, there had been no deaths of motorcyclists in 2008. In 2009, however, there had been five fatalities to date and all agencies were concerned to ensure that this toll was reduced.

6.3 The anti-social behaviour problems at Quatford were discussed. The local Shropshire Councillors recognised the seriousness of the problem and offered to do as much as possible to help to resolve them. The police and fire service were also doing their best to raise awareness among bikers, both of road safety

ACTION

Police/Fire Service

**Cllrs Mrs T. Woodward/
C. Lea**

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| issues and how their behaviour affected local residents. | ACTION |
| The use of speed cameras was discussed, including the use of speed cameras mounted on motorcycles. | |
| 6.4 Hugh Dannatt, Group Manager – Traffic and Engineering Team, Shropshire Council, then spoke about the proposed changes to Whitburn Street, Bridgnorth, and encouraged all present to let their views be known. | All |
| 6.5 Other road issues raised by members of the public were: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The design of the road by Tesco and the Esso garage by The Hermitage needed to be changed to avoid garage traffic blocking the roundabout. The bus stop was used as a car park which was a further hazard.• A suggestion was made to alter the road layout by the Shell garage at Sutton Maddock. If it were possible, the wide verge could be utilised to improve access at the roundabout. | |
| The Group Manager – Traffic and Engineering Team undertook to investigate both these matters further and report back. | HD |
| 7. Environmental Maintenance | |
| 7.1 Steve Brown, Head of Environmental Maintenance, Shropshire Council, explained that the Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley and Claverley Local Joint Committee area had been selected as one of three or four places nationally to take part in a national pilot scheme on environmental maintenance run by Keep Britain Tidy. It was hoped the agreement would be signed before Christmas. | |
| 7.2 The Head of Environmental Maintenance described the purpose of the pilot scheme, which was to test out new ways of working with the local community to ensure that the council was offering an appropriate service in relation to environmental maintenance. At present, performance on environmental maintenance was judged by the use of National Indicators. Although Shropshire performed well, it was recognised that the National Indicators did not cover all aspects which affected the quality of life for residents. The pilot scheme would be used to inform best practice nationally. Another aspect of the pilot scheme was the development of a new reporting system. The Head of Environmental Maintenance undertook to report on progress with the scheme at the next meeting. | SB |
| 7.3 A question was asked about the pilot scheme for A-boards in Ludlow and if this was likely to be extended to Bridgnorth. The Head of Environmental Maintenance confirmed a draft procedure was now in place for both towns. | |

ACTION

7.4 The Chairman confirmed he had requested a review of all litter bins in Bridgnorth town centre to ensure the litter bin provision was adequate. The Head of Environmental Maintenance confirmed the only way officers could enforce people dropping litter in the street was if an incident was witnessed. He also confirmed there were enforcement officers who could issue fixed penalty notices to dog owners if an incident of dog fouling was witnessed.

7.5 Mr Dent, Tasley Parish Council, requested that the issue of leaking guttering on the Newmarket buildings in Bridgnorth could be rectified as he felt it gave a poor image for the town. The Head of Environmental Maintenance undertook to investigate this matter. Mrs Rachel Humphries, Town Clerk to Bridgnorth Town Council, confirmed the Town Council also had similar concerns.

SB

8. Consideration of the Second Round of Funding Applications

8.1 This report was introduced by Helen Powell, Support Officer, who explained that nine organisations had submitted bids for funding. Eight of these were applications to the Larger Grant Scheme and one was to the Community Chest. The total value of the applications received exceeded the budget available and therefore a recommendation had been made that the £16,000 which had been retained by the Committee to spend on local priorities be added to the balance available for the second round of applications. The reason for this was that several of the applications had a focus on promoting tourism, which was a local priority. On being put to the vote, this recommendation was agreed.

8.2 The Committee then considered each application in light of the officers' recommendations.

8.3 In relation to the application for funding from the Countryside Explorer Bus, members of the Committee felt the project was not sustainable in terms of revenue. The Support Officer confirmed the recommendation for funding 50% reflected officers' concerns about sustainability. On being put to the vote, the application was refused.

8.4 It was suggested, and agreed, that future funding reports would always contain an explanation if an assessment had been made by officers that the criteria had not been fully met by applicants.

MH

ACTION

- 8.5 The Community Regeneration Officer explained the reason for only recommending 75% funding for the applications from Promoting Bridgnorth, Alveley Cricket Club, Quatford Village Hall and Quatt Village Hall were because these applications had not demonstrated how they benefited the wider community beyond their immediate area.
- 8.6 There was discussion about the funding application by the Children’s Festival and it was suggested the event could cover its costs by imposing an entry fee. The applicant explained the principles behind the festival and the practical difficulties of charging, which would require manned entry points and the fencing off of the site, which would increase the cost of the event. He confirmed the organisation was looking at all possible sources of funding.
- 8.7 It was suggested that Shropshire Council could consider bringing together the various separate sources of funding for village halls.
- 8.8 There was discussion about the application from Quatt Village Hall. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this application should receive 100% funding, rather than the 75% funding recommended by officers.
- 8.9 **RESOLVED:**
 - A That the £16,000 retained by the Committee to spend on local priorities be added to the balance available for the second round of applications.
 - B That each application received be considered in light of the Community Regeneration and Support Officers’ recommendations for the Community Chest and the Larger Grant Scheme.
 - C The following decisions on grant applications were agreed:
 - Community Chest:**
 - C5 Alveley Parish Council (purchase of play sand) £365
 - Larger Grant Scheme:**
 - 6 English Haydn Festival (assistance with running costs) £6,490
 - 7 Countryside Explorer Bus (assistance with running costs) Refused
 - 8 Children’s Festival (assistance with running costs) £7,000
 - 9 Claverley Village Hall refurbishment £2,783
 - 10 Contribution towards ‘Promoting Bridgnorth’ £3,559 (75% of amount requested)
 - 11 Alveley Cricket Club (equipment) £3,360 (75% of amount requested)
 - 12 Quatford Village Hall repairs £3,750 (75% of amount requested)
 - 13 Quatt Village Hall emergency repairs £3,891

9. Public Question Time and Identification of Future Agenda Items

ACTION

- 9.1 A member of the public commented that the Committee may wish to give further consideration as to how funding was distributed, in view of the likely reduction in money available for public services next year. This meant that applications which had been successful this year may not be successful next year because it was important to share the money and some organisations had not yet applied to the LJC. It was suggested that all applicants needed to look at a wide range of funding opportunities.
- 9.2 Mr Graham Hurry, Parish Clerk to Alveley and Romsley Parish Council, raised the issue of planning. He said the Parish Council was uneasy because the Shropshire Council Planning Committee did not appear to take into account the Bridgnorth Local Plan when making decisions on planning applications. Mr David Voysey, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council added that a further concern was that the meeting of the Planning Committee had been held in Ludlow, not Bridgnorth, and he felt the Planning Committee should meet in the local area.
- 9.3 Mrs Rachel Humphries, Town Clerk to Bridgnorth Town Council, suggested it would be helpful if Town and Parish Councils could receive training on planning from Shropshire Council.
- 9.4 The Chairman suggested, and it was agreed, that planning officers should be invited to attend the next LJC meeting.
- 9.5 Some concerns were raised over road safety matters. It was suggested that local authorities should look beyond their own boundaries and liaise with neighbouring authorities to ensure main roads were treated consistently. A particular site of concern was at Shatterford, just over the border, where there were double white lines on the Shropshire side of the border, but not on the Worcestershire side, which created a hazard for road users. The Group Manager – Traffic and Engineering Team confirmed that the authority did liaise with neighbouring authorities but he undertook to raise this particular issue with Worcestershire.
- 9.6 A member of the public asked about knotweed along the banks of the River Severn and whose responsibility it was to clear it.
- 9.7 A suggestion for a future agenda item was a presentation on hospital reorganisation and its effect on the Bridgnorth area.

MH

HD

ACTION

10. Date of Next Meeting

- 10.1 It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 3 March 2010. The Chairman suggested Kemberton Village Hall as the venue and this was agreed.
- 10.2 The Chairman announced there would be a public meeting on the proposed Shropshire Council Budget 2010-11 on Monday 25 January 2010, 6.30 p.m. at Westgate, Bridgnorth.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....