



Committee and Date Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley and Claverley Local Joint Committee Wednesday 19 October 2011 7.00 p.m.
--

Item/Paper 3 Public

**NOTES OF ACTIONS AND DECISIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2011 AT ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL**

6:30 – 9.00 p.m.

Responsible Officer Anne Cousins

e-mail: anne.cousins@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: (01743) 252743

Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Mr Christian Lea
Mr Les Winwood
Mrs Tina Woodward

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
Mrs Kathryn Ward, Stockton 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:

Tom Brettell, Senior Community Action Officer, South East
Steve Brown, Head of Environmental Maintenance
Anne Cousins, Committee Officer
Michael Hyatt, Lead Officer

West Mercia Police

Insp Andy James
PC M Sturland
PC M Fletcher
CSO Sue Eden

There were approximately 40 people present in total.

ACTION

1. Election of Chairman

- 1.1 It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Mr Christian Lea be elected Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year.

2. Apologies and Substitutions

- 2.1 Apologies were received on behalf of Mr John Hurst-Knight, Mr William Parr and Mr Michael Wood, Shropshire Council, and from Mr Ian Amos, Kemberton Parish Council.

3. Appointment of Vice Chairman

- 3.1 It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Mrs Tina Woodward be elected Vice Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year.

4. Declarations of Interest

- 4.1 Mrs Tina Woodward declared a personal interest in the funding applications from Bridgnorth Athletics Club (C3) and Valley Community Radio Station (7).
- 4.2 Mr Len Ball declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the funding applications from: Ackleton Village Green Sub Committee (5); Stockton Bowling Club (10); Norton Village Hall (11) and Hilton Residents Association (C4).
- 4.3 Mr Richard Cotham declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Bridgnorth Athletics Club (C3).
- 4.4 Mr Les Winwood declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the funding applications from Bromford Support (C1) and Bridgnorth West and Tasley Taking Action Together Partnership (9).
- 4.5 Mrs Kathryn Ward declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the funding applications from Stockton Bowling Club (10) and Norton Village Hall (11).

5. Notes

RESOLVED: That the notes of the previous meeting, held on 9 February 2011, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

ACTION

6. Biker Safety and PACT

- 6.1 PC Mick Sturland gave a short talk about the Shropshire Motorcycle Road Safety Outreach Display team. There had been an opportunity for members of the public to view the display vehicle and speak to members of the team before the meeting started.

PC Sturland explained the team tried to address poor motorcycling behaviour. In the past, this had been done by the use of fixed penalty tickets but because of an increase in the numbers of motorcyclists being killed on the roads in the area a few years ago, a different approach had been developed.

A partnership had been formed, with the aim of educating road users to change behaviour. The display vehicle toured around motorbike meetings all over Shropshire, and officers handed out safety leaflets, DVDs and talked to motorcyclists about road safety issues. This approach had been a great success and this year alone the team with the display vehicle were attending 50 events across Shropshire and Staffordshire. In addition, rider skills events were held regularly.

PC Sturland reassured everyone that enforcement was still carried out, but in conjunction with the education events. The overall aim was to reduce the number of people killed and injured on Shropshire's roads.

- 6.2 Inspector Andy James added that there had been no fatalities this year, for any road user, whereas in the past the overall casualty rate for motorcyclists had been high.

He agreed with a point raised by a member of the public that it was important for all road users, not just motorcyclists, to be aware of safety issues. He informed those present that 1500 fixed penalty tickets had been issued to vehicles.

- 6.3 Inspector James then moved on to the regular PACT meeting (Partners and Communities Together). He provided the latest crime figures, which showed an 11% reduction in the Bridgnorth Town area and a 5% reduction in the Bridgnorth Rural and East area.

He informed those present of on-going operations to combat rural crime, anti-social behaviour arising from some visitors coming through the area in the summer and to combat thefts of metals. He asked members of the public to help the police by noting the registration numbers of any vehicles used by scrap metal dealers. All these vehicles should be licensed, but the police were aware not all of them complied with the necessary regulations.

- 6.4 There was discussion about Ruralwatch and Inspector James said this was a valuable asset for the police.

ACTION

6.5 Mrs Ward asked about policing in the Sutton Maddock/Stockton area and was informed this area was covered by Shifnal police.

6.6. Mr Bodenham raised concerns about the Cartway area in Bridgnorth, where residents were suffering from a variety of criminal activity and anti-social behaviour. He was particularly concerned about Bishop Percy's House. There were also concerns about dog fouling and speeding. Inspector James confirmed he was well aware of the issues, as was the local police officer, PC Richard Wood, and that an action plan was being developed with local partners.

Police

7. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

7.1 Dave Jennings informed those present that there had been a slight reorganisation in the divisions of Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service. The divisions now aligned with Local Joint Committees boundaries and this area was covered by Group South. He said the Fire Service would continue to work closely with councils, police and other partners.

8. Bridgnorth and District Community Transport Group

8.1 Mr Jackie Brown gave an informative and interesting presentation on the work of the above group. The main points were:

- It was a voluntary organisation.
- Anyone could become a member: personal membership cost £3 per year; group membership (e.g. a youth group) was £10 per year. Senior citizen bus passes were accepted.
- The group had 2 mini-buses and a number of volunteer drivers.
- It covered anywhere in the UK (£1 per mile for the first 100 miles; 60p per mile thereafter).
- There were a number of regular journeys undertaken.
- The group also incorporated community cars, which was an owner driver scheme. Anyone unable to drive could request a community car, e.g. to go to medical appointments. Cost was 42p per mile. This was subsidised by Shropshire Council.
- Further information from Mrs L Brown, 16 St John's Street, Bridgnorth or e-mail bridgnorthcombust@btinternet.com.

8.2 The Chairman commended the excellent work of the organisation and thanked Mr Brown for his presentation.

9. Environmental Maintenance Quality of Life Project

9.1 Steve Brown, Head of Environmental Maintenance, Shropshire Council, gave a presentation on the outcome of the above project. He explained the project covered street cleaning and highways maintenance and had been organised in conjunction with Keep Britain Tidy. It was a social research project, looking at how environmental maintenance issues could improve quality of life. A variety of research methods had been used to identify residents' priorities.

ACTION

- 9.2 The key findings were:
- 73% of residents were satisfied with the service.
 - Greatest dissatisfaction was with road surfaces, followed by verges, weeds, dog fouling.
 - Priorities for residents were removing litter and dog fouling.
 - Low priorities were cleaning car parks and removing abandoned cars.

9.3 The Environmental Maintenance Team had undertaken actions in response to these findings, including improvements to verges and weed-clearing, use of new road sweepers and re-training of staff to focus on priorities. Dog fouling was a constant priority for the team. There were improved facilities for residents to report concerns.

9.4 There was discussion about the use of fixed penalty notices, which could be issued by street-scene staff, traffic wardens and environmental health officers. It was suggested that signs informing the public of the use of such notices would discourage dropping of litter or allowing dogs to foul the footpath.

9.6 The Head of Environmental Maintenance confirmed weeds were sprayed with approved chemicals. A Member was concerned about the risk of contaminating water supplies and stated weed-killers should not be used on hard surfaces.

9.7 In response to a question, the Head of Environmental Maintenance reported a slight drop in incidents of fly-tipping.

9.8 The Chairman thanked the Head of Environmental Maintenance for the presentation.

The Chairman then drew attention to a very short questionnaire which had been tabled at the meeting, asking Alveley residents about key concerns in advance of an open day on Saturday 16th July.

All

10. Market Towns Revitalisation Programme

10.1 Tom Brettell, Senior Community Action Officer, gave a presentation about the opportunities for Bridgnorth from the above programme and the work underway on projects. He explained there were three key components - £2.5 million to be shared between the larger market towns; Market Towns Capital Initiative fund of £0.5 million and the Rural Settlements Challenge Fund of £0.5 million (replacing the community fund). Bridgnorth would benefit by £450,000 of capital funding. This had to be spent by September 2012.

- 10.2 A number of ideas had come forward, including:
- St Leonard's Church - £200,000 project, which had already received conditional approval for £100,000. This would provide improvements at the church, e.g. heating.
 - Bridgnorth Riverside Centre – feasibility study to be completed by

September 2011.

- St James Church Hall – in need of repair and improvement. Analysis to be completed by June prior to submitting an application.
- Riverside Enhancements – range of projects to showcase one of the town’s biggest assets.
- Severn Park – project led by the Town Council.
- Castle Walk and Town Steps – project led by the Civic Society.
- High Street Market Day Pedestrianisation – to be scoped by June.
- Astley Abbots Footpath – working with Astley Abbots Parish Council to complete the footpath from Cantreyn to Cross Lane Head.

ACTION

10.3 The Chairman thanked the Senior Community Action Officer for the update.

11. Consideration of Funding Applications

11.1 Michael Hyatt, Lead Officer, introduced the report and informed Members that an additional application, from the Hilton Residents Association, was also to be considered. A revised report was tabled.

11.2 A Member suggested savings could be made by reclaiming VAT, which was commonly done by parish councils. In response, the Senior Community Action Officer, agreed this was an important point and something which was done whenever possible.

11.3 The first application, ICT for the vulnerable at Squirrel Court (C1), was deferred until October as Members felt the application was not complete due to a lack of match funding.

11.4 Members agreed a reduced amount of £350 for Bridgnorth Athletics Club (C3) to reflect 15% match funding by the club.

11.5 The application by the Bridgnorth and District Twinning Association (2) provoked some discussion by Members, but a majority voted in favour of the application.

11.6 It was noted the Bridgnorth Musical Theatre Company (4) had applied for £4,500, but Members agreed not to exceed the maximum amount available for larger grant applicants, which was £3,000. Members were informed the Musical Theatre Company intended to increase ticket prices in future in order to become self-sustaining.

11.7 Mercian Housing Association – Parish Rooms (6) had submitted a revised funding application for £1,185 which was supported by Members.

11.8 The Lead Officer noted the recommendation was to defer a decision on the application by Valley Community Radio (7). The applicant had provided additional information, however, and Members agreed to support it.

ACTION

11.9 Members agreed with the officer recommendation to provide £2,500 rather than £3,000 for the Bridgnorth West and Tasley Taking Action Together Partnership (9), with the difference to be raised by local fund-raising.

11.10 **RESOLVED:**

A That each application received for the Community Chest and the Larger Grant Scheme be considered in the light of the officers' recommendations.

B That the following grant approvals be confirmed:

Community Chest

C2 St Mary's Playgroup (Equipment)	£700
C3 Bridgnorth Athletics Club (Equipment).....	£350
C4 Hilton Residents Association (Community Noticeboard)	£500

Larger Grant Schemes

1 Bridgnorth & District Visually Impaired Group (Equipment)	£2,804
2 Bridgnorth & District Twinning Association (Festival costs)	£3,000
3 Friends of Castlefields Schools (Active Kids Project)	£2,500
4 Bridgnorth Musical Theatre Company (production costs)	£3,000
5 Ackleton Village Green Sub Committee (village green)	£3,000
6 Mercian Housing Association Parish Rooms (equipment)	£1,185
7 Valley Community Radio Station (community radio project)	£3,000
8 Tasley Parish Hall Committee (village hall improvements)	£3,000
9 Bridgnorth West & Tasley Taking Action Together	£2,500
10 Stockton Bowling Club (equipment)	£970
11 Norton Village Hall Committee (furniture)	£1,400

Community Action Officer

12. Public Question Time and Identification of Future Agenda Items

12.1 A member of public suggested invited a licensing officer to a Local Joint Committee meeting, to explain their role and criteria used when making decisions about extended opening hours for licensed premises.

Cttee Officer

12.2 Referring back to the earlier discussion about Bishop Percy's House, Mr Bodenham requested an update on the situation at the next meeting.

Police

12.3 Another suggestion for the agenda was Broadband reception.

Cttee Officer

13. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 19 October 2011, 7.00 p.m. at Worfield Village Hall.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....