



Committee and Date
Bridgnorth, Worfield,
Alveley and Claverley
Local Joint
Committee
Wed 20 February
2013
7.00 p.m.

Item No

3

Public

**NOTES THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2012 AT
BECKBURY VILLAGE HALL, BECKBURY, SHROPSHIRE TF11 9DQ
(7.00 – 9.00 p.m.)**

Responsible Officer Anne Cousins

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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

Christian Lea (Chairman)
Tina Woodward (Vice Chairman)
John Hurst-Knight
Les Winwood
Michael Wood

Town/Parish Councils

David Voysey, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council
Simon Elcock, Astley Abbots Parish Council
Terry Lipscombe, Badger Parish Council
David Tooth, Beckbury Parish Council
Adrian Tacchi, Bridgnorth Town Council
Richard Cotham, Claverley Parish Council
Ian Amos, Kemberton Parish Council
Isabel Faithful, Quatt Malvern Parish Council
Malcolm Duff-Walker, Ryton and Grindle Parish Council
Kathryn Ward, Stockton Parish Council
Peter Dent, Tasley Parish Council
Len Ball, Worfield and Rudge Parish Council

Shropshire Council officers present:

Jake Berriman, Internal Consultant – Places
Tom Brettell, Senior Community Action Officer (CAO), South East
Anne Cousins, Committee Officer

West Mercia Police:

Inspector Rob Thomas
Sergeant Richard Bailey
Constable Richard Wood

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Dave Jennings, Officer-in-Charge,
Bridgnorth Fire Station

ACTION

12. Apologies and Substitutions

- 12.1 Apologies were received from Mr William Parr, Shropshire Council.
- 12.2 The Chairman read out a letter from Cllr Geoff Bodenham, the former Bridgnorth Town Council representative on the Committee, describing the great pleasure and pride he had had as an LJC Member over the past five years. Mr Bodenham wrote the LJC had helped so many people in South Shropshire and he was sorry he was no longer a part of it. He thanked everyone for their help and wished the LJC well in future.

13. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- 13.1 Mr Voysey declared an interest in funding application L7 (Alveley Village Hall floor restoration project) and left the room during discussion of this application.
- 13.2 Mr Ball declared an interest in funding application L8 (Worfield Cricket Club) and left the room during discussion of this application.

14. Notes of meeting held on 16 May 2012

RESOLVED:That the notes of the last meeting, held on 16 May 2012, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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

- 15.1 Inspector Rob Thomas, Section Commander for Bridgnorth and South Shropshire, reported a drop in crime, with 4000 fewer crimes being recorded in the past six months across the West Mercia area; and 258 less crimes in the Bridgnorth and South Shropshire area. There had also been a reduction in anti-social behaviour.
- 15.2 Inspector Thomas then referred to the need to make significant savings to the police budget. The West Mercia force was in alliance with the Warwickshire force in order to make savings in areas such as procurement and transport. A number of police officers had retired and a greater number of support staff had been redeployed or made redundant. Although £10 million had been saved as a result of these measures, another £20 million had to be saved by 2015. More would be known about how these savings were to be made once the Police and Crime Commissioner had been elected on 15 November.
- 15.3 The inspector advised the public on crime prevention measures, including a website www.immobilise.com. This enabled owners to store photographs of valuable items, which helped to identify stolen property. Property could also be marked with Smartwater or similar products to deter burglars. The West Mercia police website (www.westmerciamerica.police.uk) provided information on crime reduction.

ACTION

- 15.4 PC Richard Wood, the local police officer for Bridgnorth, then spoke about the work being done to reduce burglary in the area and encouraged everyone to report anything suspicious to the police. He said the police, the Town Council and Shropshire Council were working together to reduce anti-social behaviour in Bridgnorth, including alcohol-related anti-social behaviour. He commended the CCTV system in the town which was a very valuable resource for the police.
- 15.5 In response to a question, Inspector Thomas explained it was often more difficult to have CCTV cameras in rural areas and automatic number-plate recognition (ANPR) technology was an easier resource to deploy.
- 15.6 Concerns were raised about the reductions in police numbers and how this was affecting Alveley and other rural areas. Inspector Thomas agreed the local police in rural areas had larger areas to cover, but he reassured residents that 24/7 cover was still available. More would be known about future arrangements for local policing once the Police and Crime Commissioner had been elected.
- 15.7 The Chairman then invited Mr Dave Jennings, Officer-in-Charge, Bridgnorth Fire Station to speak. Mr Jennings referred to the need to make savings within Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, but reassured residents that the Chief Fire Officer had given a public commitment not to close fire stations. Savings were being found by changing crewing arrangements for specialist appliances and by not replacing staff who left the service.
- 15.8 Mr Jennings reported an increasing number of chimney fires and advised everyone with open fires or log burners to ensure their chimneys were swept at least three times a year. He was pleased to report a reduction in road traffic accidents and property fires.
- 15.9 John Hurst-Knight, a Member of the Fire Authority, added that the Fire Service was sharing services with Warwickshire to reduce costs. He reported the Chairman and Chief Fire Officer were in discussions with central government over the funding allocation for Shropshire, which had been disadvantaged because of the rural nature of the county. Mr Hurst-Knight informed the public that there were vacancies for retained fire fighters and he encouraged anyone interested to find out more from the website (www.shropshirefire.gov.uk).

16. Place Plans and Beckbury Parish Plan

- 16.1 Jake Berriman, Internal Consultant – Places, Shropshire Council, gave a presentation on Place Plans (copy attached to signed minutes). This was a new planning approach, unique to Shropshire Council, which gave local communities a say in plans for their area and enabled the benefits of development to be shared locally. He explained how the system worked and how local communities could benefit from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 16.2 Tom Brettell, Senior CAO, updated residents on which areas had completed their Town or Parish Plan. He explained Shropshire Council was working closely with Bridgnorth Town Council to ensure place plans were accurate. A Place Plan workshop was due to be held on 21 November, which would enable interested groups to work together. He invited any Parish Councils requiring more information or help with parish planning to contact him.
- 16.3 The Internal Consultant – Places then described the next steps in the process and referred to the need to consider whether partnerships could help to develop a collective vision, e.g. Bridgnorth Town working with Tasley Parish. He concluded by saying that, in financial terms, based on proposed developments, Bridgnorth could be set to receive approximately £2 million CIL funding to be spent on collectively agreed priorities.
- 16.4 Heather Thomas from the Beckbury Parish Plan Working Group then described the work of a small group of volunteers in Beckbury who had come together to produce a Parish Plan. They had spent several months raising awareness and had held a public meeting two weeks ago. The next steps were to design and distribute a questionnaire. Tribute was paid to the help the group had received from Tom Brettell, Senior CAO, and the Rural Community Council for Shropshire.
- 16.5 In response to a question, the Internal Consultant – Places confirmed affordable housing was still a clear priority for the Council but this had to be provided in realistic and viable ways. He suggested one way could be for Parish Councils to bring forward proposals for affordable housing on an exception site basis.
- 16.6 A member of the public raised a query about S106 money which he felt had not been honoured in the past. The Internal Consultant – Places advised anyone with S106 queries to pass them on to him and he would ensure a detailed response was provided (E-mail: jake.berriman@shropshire.gov.uk).

ACTION

**Parish Councils/
Senior CAO**

ACTION

16.7 It was confirmed that all CIL monies would be recorded on the Shropshire Council website, with a total given for each settlement. A question was asked about what would happen to the money if the CIL scheme folded. It was confirmed Shropshire Council was the accountable body with responsibility for making decisions about any remaining funds, subject to any provisions stipulated at the time by the government.

17. Market Towns Revitalisation Programme and Rural Challenge

17.1 The Senior CAO proposed deferring this item to the next meeting, when he would give a full presentation on all projects which had benefited from the funding programme. He added the next meeting would be held in St James Hall, Bridgnorth, which had received one of the grants.

18. 2012/13 Finance Report, including Update on Funding Requests for consideration

18.1 Before considering the Finance Report, the Chairman read out a letter of thanks from the Treasurer of Bridgnorth Sponsored Walk Committee. A grant had been given at the last LJC meeting to enable the group to purchase Jubilee medals.

18.2 The Senior CAO introduced this report, explaining how much funding was available and how many applications had been received.

18.2 There were four applications for funding from the Larger Grant Scheme, three of which were agreed. With reference to the application from Worfield Cricket Club, the Senior CAO explained the normal limit for grants was £2000 but this could be exceeded in exceptional cases at the discretion of the Committee.

18.3 There was discussion about the application for £4995 for an on-line booking system from the Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth. The Senior CAO explained this application had been received unexpectedly using the online system and, as result, was less detailed than the other applications. The applicant, Mr Ian Reddihough, explained the on-line application form had not enabled him to provide as much detail as he had wished, but he emphasised it was a much more comprehensive project than simply an on-line booking system.

18.4 The Chairman suggested a decision could be deferred to the next meeting in February, or authority could be delegated to himself and the Vice Chairman to make a decision once additional information had been obtained. After discussion, it was agreed that, once available, full details of this funding request would be sent to all LJC Members. Authority would then be delegated to the Chairman and Vice Chairman to make a decision to avoid any delay. In response to

**Senior
CAO**

a question, the Senior CAO confirmed, if approved, this application would come largely out of the remaining Arts budget.

ACTION

18.5 RESOLVED:

A The following grants were approved:

Community Chest

C5	Squirrel Bowling Club	£750
C6	Beckbury Defibrillator Project	£300
C7	Bridgnorth Sibling Group	£676

Larger Grants Scheme

L6	Red Cross Young Carers	£1,390
L7	Alveley Village Hall Floor Restoration Project	£1,500
L8	Worfield Cricket Club Pavilion Project	£5,000

Senior CAO

B That authority be delegated to the Chairman and Vice Chairman to make a decision in respect of L9 (Theatre on the Steps) once additional information had been provided and circulated to all LJC Members.

**Chairman/
Vice
Chairman**

19. Public Questions and Identification of Future Agenda Items

19.1 It was suggested that the Shropshire Community Leisure Trust could be discussed at a future meeting.

20. Date of Next Meeting

20.1 The Chairman explained the next meeting was due to take place on Wednesday 20 February 2013, 7.00 p.m. at St James Hall, Bridgnorth, and that the Leader of the Council, Cllr Keith Barrow, had agreed to attend.

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....