



Committee and Date
Bridgnorth, Worfield,
Alveley and Claverley
Local Joint
Committee

Wed 16 Oct 2013,
7.00 p.m.

Item No

5

Public

NOTES THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2013 AT WORFIELD RECREATION ROOM, WORFIELD
(7.00 – 9.00 p.m.)

Responsible Officer Anne Cousins

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Committee Members Present:

Shropshire Council

John Hurst-Knight
Christian Lea
Les Winwood
Michael Wood

Town/Parish Councils

Andrew McDougall, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council
David Tooth, Beckbury Parish Council
Adrian Hinton, Bridgnorth Town Council
Richard Cotham, Claverley Parish Council
Jenny Yates, Quatt Malvern Parish Council
Julie Bedward, Ryton and Grindle Parish Council
Kathryn Ward, Stockton Parish Council
Len Ball, Worfield and Rudge Parish Council

West Mercia Police

Inspector Rob Thomas, Section Commander, South Shropshire
Sergeant Richard Bailey

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Andy Bevon

ACTION

1. Election of Chairman

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

2. Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies were received on behalf of William Parr and Tina Woodward, from Shropshire Council; Susan Morris, Astley Abbots Parish Council; Terry Lipscombe, Badger Parish Council; Edward Marshall, Bridgnorth Town Council; Ian Amos, Kemberton Parish Council and Peter Dent, Tasley Parish Council. Adrian Hinton substituted for Edward Marshall.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

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

4. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

4.1 Len Ball, Worfield and Rudge Parish Council, declared an interest in the funding application from Worfield Recreation Room and did not participate in the discussion or vote on this application.

4.2 Richard Cotham, Claverley Parish Council, declared an interest in the funding application from Bridgnorth Stage Academy and left the room during discussion of this application.

4.3 Kathryn Ward, Stockton Parish Council, and David Tooth, Beckbury Parish Council, both declared personal interests in the funding application for the car park project, Beckbury Playing Fields.

5. Notes and Matters Arising

RESOLVED: That the notes of the last meeting, held on 20 February 2013, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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

6.1 Andy Bevon, of Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, attended to answer questions from the public. He confirmed the fire service was able to fit smoke alarms for vulnerable people and that they were free for the over-65s. Anyone interested could call the Fire HQ on 01743 260260 or call in at Bridgnorth Fire Station (not manned 24 hours). He confirmed the number of fire incidents in the area had reduced considerably.

ACTION

- 6.2 Inspector Rob Thomas, Section Commander, South Shropshire, West Mercia Police, then spoke about future policing arrangements. He explained the Comprehensive Spending Review meant that West Mercia Police had to save £20 million. Although this was a large amount, every effort was being made to protect frontline policing. Savings were being made in management, estates and vehicles and a merger with Warwickshire police was also delivering savings. Inspector Thomas confirmed that Bridgnorth still had 24-hour cover and had police officers and community support officers with local knowledge, although the 999 response cars were now based in Malinsgate, Telford, rather than Bridgnorth. He concluded by saying Bridgnorth was a good place to live, with a low level of violent crime.
- 6.3 In response to a question, Inspector Thomas confirmed the police liaised with neighbouring forces, such as West Midlands Police, in pursuit of criminals and in sharing information.
- 6.4 A Member commented the most important factor was for Bridgnorth to continue to have a police presence, regardless of where they were based.
- 6.5 There was a question about how the police responded to perpetrators of domestic violence. Inspector Thomas explained national guidelines were interpreted by individual police forces and this may include the use of Domestic Violence Protection Orders. The aim was always to separate the two parties.
- 6.6 Sgt Richard Bailey then spoke about crime in the local area. He reported an increase in burglaries from sheds and outbuildings in rural areas, but said the number of incidents had dropped following two arrests. He encouraged the public to report suspicious incidents or individuals to the police. A number of questions were asked about the two arrests, but Inspector Thomas explained the police were unable to discuss operational matters concerning individuals.

7. West Midlands Ambulance Service

- 7.1 Robert Marsh, Assistant Area Manager – Shropshire, updated the meeting on the Make Ready system, which had been introduced the previous year. He reported performance targets for the Ambulance Service in Bridgnorth were excellent and above the county average. He explained community paramedics were able to treat people in their own homes and thus avoid admittances to Accident and Emergency departments of hospitals, which were under considerable pressure.
- 7.2 In response to a question, Mr Marsh confirmed Bridgnorth had 24 hour cover. Bridgnorth was used as a 'holding point' for

ambulances across South Shropshire.

ACTION

- 7.3 Terry Foster, Acting Community Response Manager, then spoke about defibrillators. Mr Foster commented that, in a rural area, it was important to have community first responders and defibrillators in public buildings. The Ambulance Service was actively recruiting community first responders, especially in the Alveley and Claverley areas. In conjunction with the British Heart Foundation, free Heartstart training was available with the aim of training as many people as possible on first aid for heart attacks and choking. Details were on the West Midlands Ambulance Service website. The British Heart Foundation was also providing £400 towards the costs of defibrillators to encourage as many as possible to be put in public areas.
- 7.4 A community paramedic then spoke in more detail about defibrillators. She explained they needed to be kept in a weatherproof cabinet with an external power source. They were powered by a rechargeable battery, which lasted approximately 4 years. The only requirement was for someone to undertake a weekly check. Anyone could use a defibrillator and it was possible for free training to be organised for a group of people, if required. She explained that, if a person's heart stopped, the chances of survival were reduced by 10% for every minute nothing was done.
- 7.5 In response to a question, it was reported the telephone number of the Community Response Unit was 01384 215855.
- 7.6 The Chairman thanked the Ambulance Service personnel and commented that grant applications for defibrillators would be welcomed by the Local Joint Committee.

8. Bridgnorth and District Tourism Association

- 8.1 The Committee then heard about the work of Bridgnorth and District Tourism Association:
- The Association had a 30-year history, 122 members and was the main tourist body for the Bridgnorth area.
 - The Association published the Bridgnorth and Wenlock Guide each year.
 - There were many quality tourist attractions within the area and a big challenge was to increase awareness.
 - The Association was always looking for new sources of funding to supplement membership fees and brochure advertising.
 - There was a close link with Shropshire Tourism, which carried out some activities on its behalf, e.g. marketing.
- 8.2 In response to questions from Members, it was confirmed the Association's turnover was £14,000 last year and £11,000 this year.
- 8.3 The issue of parking in Bridgnorth was raised. The Association representative agreed that this was a sticking point.

		ACTION
8.4	Tim King, Tourism Officer for Shropshire Council, invited everyone to comment on the draft Tourism Strategy which was currently out for public consultation. He reiterated the quality of the tourist attractions in the area and said two million visitors came every year. He felt there was potential to increase this, if more people were actively involved in the Association.	All
9.	2013/14 Finance Report, including update on funding requests for consideration	
9.1	Tom Brettell, Senior Community Action Officer, introduced the report. He explained there was a budget of £44,190 in total for the 2013/14 financial year and invited comments on how this funding should be prioritised.	
9.2	There was discussion about the funding situation facing Shropshire Council and recognition that Local Joint Committee funding may not continue in future. In these circumstances, it was suggested it would be better to support capital projects and to look for projects which delivered lasting value.	
9.3	Some Members felt it was important to adhere to any maximum amount of funding set out in the criteria, but noted this had not always happened in the past. It was suggested the maximum amount could be increased to £2,500 and then not exceeded. The Senior Community Action Officer explained the reason for projects being awarded more funding was because there had always been an element of discretion for the Committee.	
9.4	The funding applications were then considered individually. There was considerable discussion about the application for the Book Award 2014. Although Members recognised the value of encouraging children to read, there were mixed views about this particular project and on being put to the vote, a majority of Members voted against.	
9.5	It was agreed to defer a decision on the application from Beckbury Playing Fields Association to extend the existing car park. It was felt there were some inaccuracies in the application and it was agreed the Senior Community Action Officer would discuss these further with the applicant before any decision was made.	Senior CAO
9.6	RESOLVED:	
A	That the funding criteria be amended to read: The Larger Grants Scheme is to consist of £15,000, to be used to fund applications up to a maximum amount of £2,500. There is a preference to support projects that have a lasting legacy and those that are working to become less dependent on grant support.	

		ACTION
B	The following grants were approved: Larger Grants Scheme The Bridge, Youth and Community Volunteers Programme (16-19s)	
	£2,500	
	Worfield Recreation Room – phased project	Senior CAO
	£1,670	
	Community Chest	
	Bridgnorth Stage Academy (sound equipment)	£750
	Bridgnorth Music and Art Festival	£750
C	The following award was refused: Book Award 2014	
D	The following applicaton was deferred: Beckbury Playing Fields Association - car park project	
10.	Public Question Time and Identifcation of Future Agenda Items	
10.1	There were no public questions.	
10.2	Members expressed an interest in inviting the Police and Crime Commissioner to a future meeting.	
11.	Dates of Future Meetings	
	Wednesday 16 October 2013, 7.00 p.m. at Alveley Village Hall	
	Wednesday 19 February 2014, 7.00 p.m. venue to be confirmed.	

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....