



Brown Clee and Highley
Local Joint Committee

Brown Clee Sub-
Committee

25th May 2011 - 7.00pm

Item

5

Public

**MUCH WENLOCK, BROWN CLEE AND HIGHLEY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH FEBRUARY 2011
7.00 pm – 8.40 pm**

Responsible Officer Linda Jeavons

e-mail: linda.jeavons@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252738 Fax 01743 252713

Committee Members Present:

Mrs M Nicholls Shropshire Council
Mr P M Whiteman Shropshire Council
Mr N Lewis Aston Botterell, Burwarton and Cleobury North Parish Council
Mr H Lane Billingsley, Deuxhill, Glazeley and Middleton Scriven Parish Council
Mrs I Breakwell Chelmarsh Parish Council
Mr S Wentworth Ditton Priors Parish Council
Mr S Brown Easthope, Shipton and Stanton Long Parish Council
Mr C D Bache Highley Parish Council
Mr E Humphries Much Wenlock Town Council

Officers present:

James Walton, Assistant Director Strategy and Business Support, Shropshire Council
Jonathan Hayes, Team Leader Public Transport, Shropshire Council
Wendy Marston, Lead Officer, Shropshire Council
Linda Monteith, Community Action Officer, Shropshire Council
Linda Jeavons, Democratic Services, Shropshire Council

West Mercia Police:

PC Anne O'Leary West Mercia Police
CSO Ben Harris West Mercia Police

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Dave Dicken, Station Officer, Shropshire Fire and Rescue
Adam Matthews, Watch Manager, Shropshire Fire and Rescue

There were approximately 51 members of the public in attendance, including representatives from parish councils, previous recipients of funding, and representatives from groups/bodies applying for funding.

43. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr R Tindall	Shropshire Council
Mrs S Bayliss	Chetton Parish Council
Mr W Griffiths	Eardington Parish Council
Mrs H Harrison	Morville, Acton Round, Aston Eyre, Monkhopton and Upton Cresset Parish Council

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interests were made:

PERSONAL		
Name	Item	Nature of Interest
Mrs M Nicholls	Item 7 – Funding Applications – Highley Scouts and Guides	Knows applicant; and has supported the group in the application process.
Mr S Wentworth	Item 7 – Funding Applications – Ditton Priors Parish Council - Christmas Lights	Member of Ditton Priors Parish Council

46. DECISION NOTES

RESOLVED : that the decision notes of the meeting held on 13th October 2010, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

47. UPDATE FROM LOCAL POLICE

Local Police were in attendance prior to the meeting and provided an opportunity for members of the public to raise any local policing or community safety concerns. They were unavailable to answer any questions and provide an update during the meeting due to work commitments.

48. PRESENTATIONS

48.1 Update on the Shropshire Council Budget 2011/12

James Walton, Assistant Director Strategy and Business Support, gave a presentation on the Shropshire Council Budget for 2011/12 and beyond.

In response to questions, James Walton explained the following:

- With reference to the money invested in Landsbanki by Bridgnorth District Council, he indicated that it was likely that the majority of the money would be returned to Shropshire Council following agreement between all creditors.
- The previous district authorities did have reserves – and in some cases substantial amounts; however, there had also been substantial expenditure and liabilities in the run-up to unitary, and significant levels of retirements and redundancies, and approx. only £3-4m had been carried forward following unitary.
- The Housing Revenue Account had been ringfenced and would remain so.
- £1m had been set aside to cover road gritting and snow clearance following an exceptionally cold, hard winter. It was a statutory duty to keep the road network clear, and it was Shropshire Council policy to keep roads safe.

In response to concerns that Parish Councils were now being expected to take responsibility and pay for services previously provided by Shropshire Council, ie public conveniences, and would have to precept accordingly, Shropshire Council Members responded as follows:

- Council Tax had been frozen until 2013, and £1.6m had been set aside to bring Council Tax in the Shropshire Council area down to the lowest level. In the present economic climate, it was inevitable that there would be cuts across the board. Consideration was being given to partnership working with neighbouring authorities.

A copy of the presentation can be obtained by contacting Linda Jeavons (01743) 252738 or ljeavons@shropshire.gov.uk

48.2 Bus Strategy for Shropshire 2011 – 2016 – Consultation

Jonathan Hayes, Team Leader Public Transport, gave a presentation on the Bus Strategy for Shropshire 2011 – 2016, explaining the key aims and identifying the changes for the Local Joint Committee area:

Key Aims

- To establish principals and priorities on which the Council and other partners will develop a sustainable local bus network.
- Address current and future funding pressures (£716,000 required from

- Concessions and Bus Subsidy Budgets)
- Meet needs of travelling public
- Ensure key aims of subsidised bus network are met;
 - Employment & Education opportunities
 - Health Care Facilities
 - Food & Non-food retail
 - Leisure Services

Proposed Changes to the LJC area:

- Service 436 Shrewsbury to Bridgnorth, reduce service frequency to every 2 hours between peak periods.
- Service 436 withdraw subsidy from Sunday service.
- Service 132 Cleobury Mortimer to Bridgnorth school days only service. Predominantly carrying non-entitled school children.

A question and answer session followed. Many members of the public expressed serious concerns about the reduction in services. The Vice Chairman urged all to respond to the consultation.

A copy of the presentation can be obtained by contacting Linda Jeavons (01743) 252738 or ljeavons@shropshire.gov.uk

49. FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The Community Action Officer introduced the report, and circulated additional information relating to the applications for Ditton Priors Village Hall and Highley Scouts and Guides.

LM/LJ

Easthope Church

With reference to the application for Easthope Church, some Members of the Committee expressed concerns and commented on the policy for funding repairs to, and activities in, religious buildings. In response, Members of the Committee, and a representative from Easthope Church, made reference to other church related projects funded by other Local Joint Committees, especially when the church was the only community facility in an isolated community.

RESOLVED: that the following grants be approved:

Applicant	Project	Decision
Ditton Priors Parish Council	Christmas lights	£1,500
Morville WI	To raise awareness of the WI and encourage new members	£249.00
Chetton Parish Council	To purchase new notice boards	£1,000

Easthope Church	Funding towards the re-roofing and new guttering	£5,000
Highley Scouts and Guides	Funding towards the costs of obtaining planning permission and architects fees.	£670.00
Ditton Priors Village Hall	Purchase of light easy to handles tables for the village hall.	£1,566.43

50. COMMUNITY ACTION OFFICER – UPDATE

The Community Action Officer gave an update and highlighted the changes to the Much Wenlock, Brown Clee and Highley Local Joint Committee (LJC) in 2011/12, as follows:

LM / LJ

The Brown Clee and Highley divisions would work together to create a new LJC, operating a two zone principle; one for Brown Clee with surrounding parishes, and one for Highley with Highley Town Council.

Both local Shropshire Council members would each have a voting place at each zoned meeting, but the parish representatives would only have a vote within their own zone. Brown Clee to meet twice a year chaired by the Brown Clee member with a ring fenced budget, and Highley to meet twice per year chaired by the Highley member with a ring fenced budget.

Much Wenlock to merge with Broseley to create a new LJC, with two zones, each zone meeting twice a year. The same voting principles to apply as for the Brown Clee and Highley divisions.

Community Action Officers for the areas will be as follows:

Brown Clee and Broseley	Linda Monteith (01746) 713103 Linda.monteith@shropshire.gov.uk
Much Wenlock and Broseley	Kerry Rogers (01746) 713110 Kerry.rogers@shropshire.gov.uk
Highley and Cleobury Mortimer	Tracy Johnson (01746) 713111 Tracy.johnson@shropshire.gov.uk

The Community Action Officer (CAO) circulated an information leaflet highlighting the principle roles of a CAO and work to date.

A member of the public expressed concern about the number of voting Members in the Highley zone, given that it consisted of one Parish Council compared to the Brown Clee zone with seven surrounding Parish Councils, and requested that consideration be given to appointing more than one

Member from Highley Parish Council.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

51. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In response to a question about the reduction in bus services, Cllr M Whiteman explained that inter-urban services, of which Highley was one, may be seen as high priority and protected.

52. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was **AGREED:** that the following be considered at a future meeting:

- Roads / Highways
- Housing Allocations
- Provision of public transport

53. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

54. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates and venues for future meetings were noted:

Brown Clee

Wednesday, 25th May - Ditton Priors Village Hall

Wednesday, 12th October - Cleobury North Village Hall

Pre-Agenda Meetings - 20th April and 28th September

Highley

Wednesday, 6th July - Severn Centre, Highley

Wednesday, 15th February 2012 - Severn Centre Highley

Pre-Agenda meetings - 8th June and 18th Jan 2012

Chairman: _____

Date: _____