



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Brown Clee and Highley Local Joint Committee
Brown Clee Zone
12 October 2011 - 7.00pm

<u>Item</u>
<b>4</b>
Public

## BROWN CLEE AND HIGHLEY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

### BROWN CLEE ZONE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011 7.00 pm – 8.05 pm

**Responsible Officer** Linda Jeavons

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#### Committee Members Present:

Mrs M Nicholls Shropshire Council  
Mr R Tindall Shropshire Council  
Mr N Lewis Aston Botterell, Burwarton and Cleobury North Parish Council  
Mr H Lane Billingsley, Deuxhill, Glazeley and Middleton Scriven Parish Council  
Mr B Theobald Chelmarsh Parish Council  
Mr C Millington Chetton Parish Council  
Mr S Wentworth Ditton Priors Parish Council

#### Officers present:

Jonathan Hayes, Team Leader Public Transport, Shropshire Council  
Les Lumsdon, Shropshire Bus Users Group  
Linda Monteith, Community Action Officer, Shropshire Council  
Linda Jeavons, Democratic Services, Shropshire Council

#### West Mercia Police:

CSO Shelley Hyde West Mercia Police

#### Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Dave Jennings, Retained Support Officer, Shropshire Fire and Rescue

There were 5 members of the public in attendance, including a Parish Councillor from Ditton Priors Parish Council.

#### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and all Members and Officers introduced themselves.

**ACTION**

Mr Dave Jennings, Shropshire Fire and Rescue, was also in attendance and introduced himself to the Committee.

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr D Bache                      Highley Parish Council

## 3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

### RESOLVED:

That Councillor H Lane be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

## 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was made:

PERSONAL		
Name	Item	Nature of Interest
Mr C Millington	Item 8 – Funding Applications – Chetton Parish Council	Member of Chetton Parish Council

## 5. DECISION NOTES

**RESOLVED** : that the decision notes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to it being noted that, at minute number 51, reference should be made to Cllr M Nicholls and not Cllr M Whiteman.

## 6. UPDATE FROM LOCAL POLICE

CSO Shelley Hyde was in attendance prior to the meeting and provided an opportunity for members of the public to raise any local policing or community safety concerns. No issues were raised.

CSO Shelley Hyde gave an update during the meeting on recent police activities within the area, and reported a spate of petty thefts from sheds, and incidents of cold callers seeking scrap metal. She urged everyone to make a note of any vehicle registration numbers and forward these to the local Police who would then check to see if they held a valid scrap dealers licence.

## 7. THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Jonathan Hayes, Team Leader Public Transport, was in attendance and gave an update on the Draft Bus Strategy for Shropshire 2011-2016 – Public Consultation. The Strategy detailed potential changes to local bus services across the county following adoption of the minimum network detailed within the bus strategy; and service implications of the proposed withdrawal of subsidy from high cost bus services, as defined in the budget strategy. The comprehensive 16-week public consultation exercise had been undertaken, and had involved key stakeholders, including public transport users, Shropshire Bus Users' Group, and the Ludlow 21 Transport Group. He explained that Shropshire Council's Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee had established a Task and Finish Group to oversee and scrutinise the exercise, and a final report and recommendations would be presented to Shropshire Council's Cabinet Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> May. The meeting noted that there would not be a significant impact on this area of the County.

Questions were raised on the following issues:

- A Member questioned why the ShropshireLink bus displayed “Not in Service” at varying times. In response, Jonathan Hayes explained that this was a very well used, pre-booked, demand responsive service, and would not have been booked at that time. At present, bookings must be made up to 24 hours in advance, and up to a maximum of seven days in advance. This may be reviewed in the future, as the software was capable of taking bookings up until two hours prior to need. A Member of the public praised the drivers, who were always very helpful and polite.
- Shropshire Council would be withdrawing the subsidy from high cost services, which equated to over £4 per passenger trip. For this area, this would mean the withdrawal of subsidy on the 492 Bridgnorth Town Service (Thursday only service). However, Commercial bus operators could opt to continue to provide these services without financial support.
- The 436 – Bridgnorth to Shrewsbury (Sunday Service) – would continue to September. Following this Arriva would continue to operate this route on a commercial basis and would assess whether it was viable next year.
- 9.20 am Highley to Bridgnorth - A Member commented that bus pass holders boarding in Highley had to pay to use this route, whereas those who boarded at Chelmarsh after 9.30 am were permitted to travel free, and questioned why the timing of this bus could not be moved to 9.30 am. In response, Jonathan Hayes explained that Shropshire Council was bound by statutory provision, and funding from the DfT did not cover pre 9.30 am travel. Shropshire Council had to fund anything over and above the statutory scheme. Busses from Highley to Bridgnorth ran at hourly intervals, so it was possible to catch a later bus. Bus operators could be approached to see if they would be willing to change times on certain routes.

In response, the Chairman commented that he would request that consideration be given to making an exemption to the scheme to permit pre 9.30 am travel, and/or the timing of this route.

RT

Les Lumsdon, on behalf of the Shropshire Bus Users' Group, gave a presentation entitled "The future of bus services in Shropshire". A copy of the presentation could be obtained by contacting Linda Jeavons (01743) 252738 or [ljeavons@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:ljeavons@shropshire.gov.uk)

## 8. FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The Community Action Officer introduced the report.

LM

**RESOLVED:** that the following grants be approved:

Applicant	Project	Decision
Chetton Parish Council	Replacement of old trestle tables	£1,453.00
Aston Botterell, Burwarton and Cleobury North Village Hall	Replacement of store room roof	£294.00

## 9. COMMUNITY ACTION OFFICER – UPDATE

The Community Action Officer gave an update on her work and achievements since the last meeting, which had involved attendance at Ditton Priors AGM to update the meeting on the work of this Local Joint Committee; ongoing work with the community of Neenton; assisting Brown Clee School to obtain funding towards the equipping of the polytunnel; and working with Burwarton Pre School, who had just received confirmation that they had been awarded an Awards for All grant to complete their outside classroom.

The Community Action Officer drew Members' attention to the Ditton Priors and Brown Clee Tool Kit and explained that Shropshire Council were looking for up to 30 local people to share their local knowledge about life in the area. Participation would be on a first-come, first-served basis, and the aim was to have a mix of people of different ages and interests. The event would provide a chance to find out people's current views about what it was like to live and work in the area, and how issues such as public transport, jobs and community facilities affect the area, and ensure Shropshire Council had the best quality information possible about life in the towns, based on local knowledge. It would be one of a series of similar events being held in market towns across the County, with the same questions being asked county-wide to inform planning and community priorities in the area.

In conclusion, the Community Action Officer confirmed that she would continue to work and be available in Ditton Priors on a Thursday.

**10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions.

**11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No agenda items were identified.

**12. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The following dates and venues for future meetings were noted:

**Brown Clee**

Wednesday, 12th October - Cleobury North Village Hall

Pre-Agenda Meeting - 28th September

**Highley**

Wednesday, 6th July - Severn Centre, Highley

Wednesday, 15th February 2012 - Severn Centre Highley

Pre-Agenda meetings - 8th June and 25th Jan 2012

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_