

**CLEOBURY AND RURAL LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2013 AT
LACON CHILDE SCHOOL, LOVE LANE, CLEOBURY MORTIMER, DY14 8PE
7.00 pm – 8.55 pm**

PRESENT:**Members of the Committee:**

Madge Shineton	Shropshire Council
Richard Huffer	Shropshire Council
Jane Thomas	Coreley Parish Council
John Price	Hopton Wafers Parish Council
Chris Jones	Milson and Neen Sollars Parish Council
Andrew Vanderhook	Neen Savage Parish Council
Brian Hamilton-Russell	Stottesdon and Sidbury Parish Council
Bill Foster	Wheathill Parish Council

In Attendance:

Nick Bews	Boraston Parish Meeting
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Shropshire Council Officers:

Tom Brettell	Senior Community Action Officer
Linda Jeavons	Committee Officer

West Mercia Police:

Bill Longmore – Police and Crime Commissioner
Barry Sheldon – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
PC Richard Wood
CSO Ben Harris

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Graham Phillips

Also Present:

Dr Dawn Powick	Cleobury Mortimer Medical Centre
Sue Arrowsmith	Business Manager, Cleobury Mortimer Medical Centre
Ashley Seymour	Matrix Medical

Karen Roper	Shropshire Association of Local Councils
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There were approximately 45 members of the public at the meeting. All attendees sat in groups and were joined by Councillors and Officers.

30. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and Members and Officers introduced themselves. She drew everyone's attention to the rolling film that had been played up to and prior to the meeting, which had showed the day the Olympic Torch went through Cleobury Mortimer.

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Gwilym Butler	Shropshire Council
Brian Howells	Burford Parish Council
Deborah Brown	Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council
Theresa Mackrow	Coreley Parish Council (Sub: J Thomas)
Stephen Jones	Farlow Parish Council
Linda Clayton	Hopton Wafers Parish Council (Sub: J Price)
David Haywood	Kinlet Parish Council

Co-optees

Bob Braddock	Cleobury Country
Val Simpson	Governor – Lacon Childe School

32. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

33. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the decision notes of the meeting held on 23 October 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

34. CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED: That item 6 (Police and Crime Commissioner) be taken as the next item, followed by item 5 (Community Safety).

35. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Mr Bill Longmore, Police and Crime Commissioner, outlined his plans for local policing in the area. He commented that he was responsible for scrutinising and holding the Chief Constable to account; and would work with him/her to achieve the best for the area.

He acknowledged that the population of Cleobury Mortimer was increasing, and to travel anywhere was costly, so it was important to retain as many facilities in the town as possible. Cleobury Mortimer Police Station was one of those stations planned for closure and the building would eventually be sold. He reassured the meeting that a police presence would be retained in the area and a Community Policing Post would be established elsewhere in the town. He was insistent that there would be an increased police presence in the area, and all villages and towns would have the services of a Community Support Officer (CSO). A recruitment drive was planned to appoint more Special Constables, and CSOs would be given more powers and extended hours.

He commented that there had been a change in the way crime was reported by the public, with fewer people visiting police stations and choosing to report crime via other means, eg mobile phones. Many police stations were underused, and some not used at all, and this was a major drain on resources.

His ultimate aims were to improve policing in the community, to make communities as safe and happy as they possibly could be, and encourage young people to enter into partnerships. He would make regular return visits to towns/villages throughout the summer in an effort to talk to, and get to know, as many people as possible.

Mr Barry Sheldon, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, introduced himself and explained that he had been tasked with driving forward the Police and Crime Plan for West Mercia, which was currently out for consultation. A copy of the Plan was available to view at www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk, and outlined the aims and objectives for policing and community safety across the West Mercia police area.

He informed the meeting that, as a result of the austerity measures, Warwickshire and West Mercia Police were required to identify £31 million in savings by 2015 – West Mercia's element of this was £20.1 million. To help achieve these savings, a strategic alliance had been formed between West Mercia and Warwickshire Police, which would provide the force with the opportunity to protect frontline policing by sharing assets and resources. This alliance would see the number of Chief Constables reduced from four to two, with one being responsible for local policing and the other responsible for protective services. They would be supported by two Assistant Chief Constables, a Director of Enabling Services and a Director of Finance

A restructuring programme of police teams would take place, probably in September, which would see new response teams put in place throughout West Mercia. This would see a move from 30 response bases to 11, and 145 local policing teams to 82 Safer Neighbourhood Teams, which would provide blanket cover for West Mercia. There would be a move towards mobile data technology, whereby Police Officers would be provided with the technology to record crime details

without the need to return to a police station; and there would be change to shift patterns which would help to achieve a police presence at all times. Response teams would be located across the area to react to priority/emergency incidents.

They would shortly be writing to all Town/Parish Councils asking for their views about local policing, and this exercise would be undertaken again in 12-15 months' time to ascertain if there had been any detrimental impact to communities as a result of any changes.

Their aim was to introduce and implement a Business Crime Strategy; a Rural Crime Strategy to ensure appropriate engagement with farmers, gamekeepers etc; to tackle drug misuse and anti social behaviour; safeguard and support victims of domestic and sexual abuse; and support the young offending service.

In response to questions from the floor, Bill Longmore and Barry Sheldon, responded as follows:

- In response to a query regarding how far and how long would it take Police to travel in response to a request for further assistance, they explained that Leominster, Kidderminster, Telford and Shrewsbury would become response stations; Ludlow and Highley would become Safer Neighbourhood Team bases only; it would be down to the Chief Constable to decide which response station would respond to requests from Cleobury Mortimer; and the Chief Constable was confident that he could meet stipulated response times.
- A meeting had recently taken place to assess the timeframe for employing additional CSOs. They had hoped to reduce the timeframe for this process but consideration had to be given to the health and safety implications so this would be a factor when determining training timescales. It was important for any CSO to undertake their duties in a safe manner.
- An announcement on the additional powers to be afforded to CSOs would shortly be made by the Chief Constable.
- BL and BS were concerned about the number of complaints relating to speeding – this would become an agenda item at a forthcoming meeting where discussions would be undertaken with the Chief Constable to assess what action needed to be taken to increase enforcement and identify any training needs.
- They were concerned to hear that offers to work unpaid at Cleobury Mortimer Police Station had been ignored, and they apologised for this. They were attempting to build up community spirit and needed volunteers, and urged everyone who wanted to help to get in touch with them.
- In response to a scenario, they explained that any situation regarding confrontation/altercation with a burglar would be considered by the Crown Prosecution Service who would take into account all necessary evidence; however, it was in order to use reasonable force when faced with a situation.

- In response to comments relating to the location of custody cells, and would the transporting of people to cells impact on the time a police officer spent on the ground, BS and BL explained that this was a potential problem within West Mercia given its geographical area. Custody cells would be available in Telford, Shrewsbury, Hereford, Worcestershire and Kidderminster. Increased legislation relating to the standard of cells meant that custody suites were expensive to maintain – there was now a requirement for medical rooms and medical staff to be available on site at all times. Redditch would be closing shortly because it was no longer fit for purpose and would cost approximately £2.2m to put right. Other avenues were being explored, eg mobile detention centres (although there were issues with this, particularly with all the legislation associated with it), and the use of private companies. They commented that the aim was to try and deal with offenders in other ways and reduce the number of people that went into custody - arresting someone was usually the last resort.

Betsy Pratt, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, introduced herself. She urged the police to work with the Neighbourhood Watch and the Parish Council to see if there was any way the police station could remain open, and maybe look at ways to share the building with other businesses/groups in the area. She was also looking for any help, or for someone to take over the running and coordination of the Neighbourhood Watch, so any assistance would be welcomed.

**Volunteers
Wanted to
help run
N'hood
Watch**

In response, BS explained that the running costs and the low footfall were the reasons behind the closure of the Police Station – they wished to retain a police presence in the area so they would look at sharing other premises where there was a higher footfall.

In conclusion, the Chair commented that all comments would be taken forward to see if there was any way the police station could be retained. She thanked both Bill and Barry for their attendance at the meeting.

36. COMMUNITY SAFETY

36.1 Police

PC Richard Wood was in attendance and gave an update on the crime figures in the catchment area, which had remained virtually the same as the previous year. With reference to speeding, he commented and the meeting noted that a speeding zone had recently been introduced in Buttonoak; however, it had yet to be signed-off by Shropshire Council's Highways Department. Councillor Madge Shingleton agreed to chase.

MS

In the recent past, a Community Speed Watch Scheme had been introduced whereby a volunteer would be trained on the use of a speed gun, the registration number of anybody caught speeding would be passed on to the Police and a warning letter would be sent to the offender. In response to a question, RW explained that it would take a matter of weeks from applying to becoming fully trained on the use of

a speed gun; equipment and appropriate clothing would be provided; and this work was undertaken in partnership with Shropshire Council.

CSO Ben Harris reported that there had been a rise in shed break-ins and the theft of catalytic converters. He advised all to garage their cars where possible. *A member of the public advised that it was possible to put in place preventative measures at a fraction of the cost of replacing a catalytic converter.*

Contact details for those who wished to volunteer or become a Special Constable, as follows:

Address: OPCC West Mercia, PO Box 487, Shrewsbury, SY2 6WB

Phone: 01743 264690

Email: <http://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk>

It was agreed that the above contact details would also be published in the Clarion.

MS/LJ/TJ

36.2 Fire

Sub Officer, Graham Phillips, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, was in attendance. He reported that the service was currently looking for recruits, so if anyone was interested in becoming a fireman, please let him know. There were no questions from the floor.

37. IP&E UPDATE

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Chair reported that apologies had been received from the Leader of Shropshire Council, and this item would be deferred to a future meeting.

LJ/TJ

38. MEDICAL CENTRE – UPDATE

Sue Arrowsmith, Business Manager, Cleobury Mortimer Medical Centre, was in attendance. She informed the meeting that the finances to build the medical centre had now been agreed. Matrix Medical had submitted the planning application (Ref. No. 13/00429/FUL), which was available for viewing on Shropshire Council's website. She hoped that the building work would commence on site during August/September, with the facilities becoming available from approximately September 2014 onwards. They would have more of an idea on what facilities would be available at the new medical centre later on in the year.

She further explained that the NHS structure would be changing as from April, with GP Commissioning Groups assuming responsibility as from April 2013.

She thanked everyone for all their support on this project.

Ashley Seymour, Matrix Medical, was in attendance. He explained that the planning application had been validated and a decision on the application would hopefully be made by May, subject to any issues. Anyone who wished to comment on the application could do so via Shropshire Council's website.

In response to a question from the floor asking what additional facilities would be available at the new medical centre, Sue Arrowsmith explained that, at this point in time, she was unable to confirm. The new Commissioning Group would decide what services would be available at the facility. However, they would like to have as many associated health care groups based at the medical centre as possible, eg chiropody, physiotherapy, and also a district nursing presence.

39. ELECTIONS 2013

Karen Roper, Shropshire Association of Local Councils, was in attendance. She reminded the meeting that Elections for both Shropshire Council and Town/Parish Councils (T&PC) would take place on Thursday, 2nd May 2013. All Parish and Town Councillors' played an important and vital part in the local community, by giving views on behalf of the community on planning applications and other proposals that affect their area, working in partnership with other bodies, and alerting relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needed to be done.

There were 153 T&PCs in the area. The number of Councillors on an individual T&PC ranged from between five and 17, and was based on the number of electors in each area. T&PCs could raise money via a precept on the Council Tax, and could influence how this money was spent. She encouraged all Clerks to publicise the elections and encourage as many people as possible to stand. If, because of a lack of people standing for election, T&PCs became inquorate, Shropshire Council would have to step in and run the local councils.

Information relating to elections, including key dates, had been circulated at the meeting and would be attached to the signed minutes.

In response to questions from the floor, KR responded as follows:

- There were 13 T&PCs with quality status in Shropshire, including Telford. However, the scheme was currently under review;
- In response to comments relating to the publicising of the elections, she explained that details of the forthcoming elections would be included in a newsletter to be distributed to all Clerks and Chairmen shortly, and posters had been emailed out to local newspapers. In the past they had tried to publicise via the use of newspapers and radio to little avail, so this year they were using

local papers and journals.

- It was the responsibility of the local council to display election notices;
- A Good Councillors' Guide was available and provided an introduction on the role of a local councillor;

From the floor, it was suggested that the elections should be publicised in the local Cleobury Clarion, which was published on a monthly basis. 850 copies of each edition were printed and distributed all over Shropshire.

40. APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

The Senior Community Action Officer introduced the item and it was decided as follows:

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the following funding applications be approved:

(A) Kinlet Village Hall Car Park	£1,500
(B) Cleobury Country Historic Core and Market	£7,165
(C) Defibrillator Project	£701.40
(D) Scout Hut Survey	£200

- (ii) That the funding application approved by delegated powers, as detailed below, be noted:

South Shropshire Youth Forum – Skate Project - £1,015

41. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In response to a question from the floor asking how a group could be awarded over £7,000, when the maximum was set at £2,000, the Chairman explained that this Local Joint Committee had the powers to permit over the £2,000 threshold, and the application from Cleobury Country would benefit all the parishes in this area.

When asked about the bad condition of the roads, when would work be undertaken to improve them, and would there be sufficient money to repair them, MS acknowledged that the roads were in appalling state due to the bad weather, and explained that work on them could not be undertaken if the temperature was below a certain level. As soon as the roads were dry and the weather conditions were right, potholes would get repaired. Workmen had also been called to help with flooding and gritting. Shropshire Council had received a Government grant for road repairs, but work had to be prioritised, with minor roads coming way down the list. She urged everyone to report the location of potholes to Shropshire Council.

RH reiterated that work was being prioritised, with major roads being repaired first. He warned all to drive with caution as potholes were appearing overnight.

Cleobury Mortimer Community Led Plan Questionnaire Analysis -

The Chairman reported that survey forms had been distributed to every household in the area during Sep/Oct 2012, and the data had now been inputted and analysed. The next step would be to produce an Action Plan. She thanked everyone for all their hard work on this project.

42. IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Highways – condition of and repair of
- ip&e update
- Youth related issues
- Renewable Energy

43. DATES / TIMES OF MEETINGS IN 2013/14

Thursday, 4 July 2013	Burford Village Hall
Wednesday, 30 October 2013	Kinlet Village Hall
Thursday, 25 February 2014	TBC

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____