



Committee and Date

Market Drayton and Rural Areas
Local Joint Committee

23 October 2013

Item

5

Public

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JULY 2013

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Present: Howard Berry, Karen Calder, John Cadwallader, Stephen Clifford, Karen Connolly, Marius Coulon, Chris Dutton, Peter Eardley, Mike Hill, Roger Hughes, Chris Mackie, David Minnery (Chairman), Chris Purcell, *Chris Sharp, Mark Williams, Paul Wynn.

Approximately 40 people were in attendance at the meeting.

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED: That Mr David Minnery be elected as Chairman of the Local Joint Committee for the ensuing year.

2. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Alison Bates [*Substitute: Mrs Chris Sharp was present at the meeting] and Richard Wright.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED: That Mr Stephen Clifford be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Local Joint Committee for the ensuing year.

4. Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded not to participate in the discussion if they had a disclosable pecuniary interest and to leave the room prior to the debate.

5. Notes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 February 2013, be confirmed as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

6. Public Questions

Mr Ken Mulliner expressed concern at the excessive speed of traffic through the villages of Woodseaves and Hodnet and asked if the speed limit was actually adopted or not. In his opinion vehicles speeding were making that stretch of road very dangerous. Mr Mulliner was assured by the Local Police Officer present that the police were working jointly with highways officers to introduce better traffic calming measures in those areas to alleviate the problem.

Further to a question at the previous meeting about any feedback from the Parish Councils regarding the speed watch sign, the Senior Community Engagement Officer had undertaken to write again to the Parish Councils seeking a response. This had been done, but it was reported that the response had been poor to date.

7. Police Update

The representative from the Police reported that there had been no major issues within the community in recent times. He also updated on the success of the Special Constable Recruitment campaign that was currently underway.

8. Forthcoming Changes in the Fire Service

Roger Smith, Shropshire Fire and Rescue representative from Market Drayton Fire Station gave a short presentation on the challenges facing the Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service which was currently looking at having to make cuts of £1.6 million.

In order to achieve this reduction, 60 various options were being looked at in order to reduce budgets. These included losing a fire engine in either Shrewsbury or Telford, or closing on-call fire stations based in Baschurch, Prees, Hodnet and Clun. Impact assessments were imminent and a preliminary meeting was scheduled for September 2013 to discuss these further. Options would not be agreed upon until early 2014 and if any stations were to close, Mr Smith assured that this would not be until at least 2015.

The Chairman, who was also Vice-Chairman of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority, told the meeting that he was personally confident that no stations would close.

It was noted that Hodnet Fire Station was holding an Open Day event on Saturday 17 August 2013 between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. All were most welcome to come along and join in the fun.

9. Ambulance Service Update

In introducing this item, the Chairman set the background; concerns had been expressed at previous LJC meetings about the attendance and physical arrival of ambulances on scene. This, coupled with geographical problems of the local area which covered three counties; SY, TF and CW postcodes, had lead to many concerns and perceived difficulties for the ambulance service.

Barry McKinnon, West Midlands Ambulance Service's Operations Director for Shropshire, said that since April this year there had been 124 incidents in the Market Drayton area and 75 per cent of ambulances had arrived within 30 minutes and he added that more than half of those ambulances arrived within 20 minutes. Mr McKinnon confirmed that these figures related to the TF9 postcode when a rapid response vehicle had arrived on scene first and requested an ambulance as back-up.

It was acknowledged that when the 'Make Ready' scheme had started, times were not as expected. However, improvements were being made across the country and not least in Shropshire, where staff looked to reduce times and improve services wherever possible.

One of the main aims was to reduce the number of patients being conveyed to hospital if treatment was not necessary. In recent calls that had wasted officer's precious time, the meeting heard that emergency services had been called to deal with an incident of toothache and a baby crying for five minutes. The public were urged to not make needless calls to the service and to ensure their properties were clearly marked – such as displaying visible house names and numbers.

The Chairman thanked Barry McKinnon for his attendance, the useful information given and acknowledged that there had been an improvement in recent times. He suggested that the matter be closely monitored and possibly reviewed in about 12 months time.

RESOLVED: That subject to the foregoing the update be noted.

10. 2013/14 LJC Budget Report and Funding Requests for Consideration

RESOLVED: That funding be approved for the following applications:-

- A) Cheswardine Nursery within Cheswardine Primary School Grounds
£3,091.40.
- B) Norton in Hales Tennis Club £350.

11. Broadband Update – June 2013

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

12. Future Agenda Items

The Chairman referred to the pro forma's that had been circulated at the meeting, so that people could complete and return to officers, if they wished to suggest a future agenda item.

Mrs Karen Calder informed the meeting about the "Rural Health Survey" that was currently underway: Shropshire residents living in rural communities could help make a real difference by taking part. Representatives from GPs across the county, Shropshire Council and other bodies representing rural interests, such as the Country Land and Business Association (CLA), were seeking views from people who lived in rural areas in Shropshire, to help to improve and develop the things that affect people and in particular, their quality of life.

Everyone was urged to take part online by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/s/ShropshireRuralHealth or for more information or a paper copy please contact **01743 252594**.

The Closing date for the survey was 31 July 2013.

Mrs Calder proposed that one of the issues they were looking at was the creation of 'Dementia Friendly Town Centres' and that she considered Market Drayton to be perfect to pilot such a scheme. It was therefore proposed and duly agreed that this be an agenda item for the next meeting.

13. Dates of Future LJC Meetings

RESOLVED: That Market Drayton and Rural Areas LJC meetings be held on the following dates in 2013/14;

Wednesday 23 October 2013 at 7.00 pm at Stoke Upon Tern Village Hall
Wednesday 19 February 2014 at 7.00 pm at a venue to be confirmed.

CHAIRMAN

DATE