



Committee and Date
Meole Column & Sutton
Local Joint Committee

11 May 2011

7pm

Item

3

Public

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2011 IN THE MEOLE BRACE
PEACE MEMORIAL HALL**

7.00PM – 9.10PM

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee:

Mr Ted Clarke	Shropshire Council
Mrs Liz Parsons	Shropshire Council
Mrs Kath Owen	Shrewsbury Town Council

Officers:

Graham Chidlow	Head of Finance (Treasury and Pensions) (Lead Officer)
Nicola Fisher	Senior Community Action Officer
CSO Chris Jones	West Mercia Police
Shaun Baker	Group Manager, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
Michelle Evans	Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services (Notes)

There were approximately 31 members of the public in attendance

ACTION

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

- 1.1 Nominations for Chairman were received and it was **AGREED** that Mrs Liz Parsons be elected Chairman for this meeting only.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Mr Mike Owen (Shropshire Council), Mr Jon Tandy (Shropshire Council & Shrewsbury Town Council) and Mrs Jackie Brennand (Shrewsbury Town Council).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 No declarations were received.

It was agreed to take agenda item 6 next followed by agenda item 5.

4. SHROPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

- 4.1 A briefing note had been circulated (copy attached to the signed Notes) which provided an overview of the budget constraints facing Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service following the coalition government's comprehensive spending reviewing.

ACTION

- 4.2 The Group Manager informed the meeting that the service was likely to sustain cuts of approximately £4m over the next four years. Following a review in 2010, savings of £3m had already been identified. He confirmed that there were no plans at present to close any of the 23 fire stations however this position may change over time.
- 4.3 In order to make savings the management structures would be shrunk, the life of fire engines would be extended from 12 to 15 years, buildings would receive less routine maintenance and the way in which specialist appliances were staffed would be looked at, including those that attend Road Traffic Accidents. The Group Manager reassured the meeting that most of these changes would be invisible to the public.
- 4.4 The Group Manager went on to report that in response to these budget cuts their approach to providing community safety advice would be focussed at those in most need eg the elderly and vulnerable. The emergency response element would however remain unchanged.
- 4.5 In conclusion, the Group Manager highlighted the priorities of the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service and its new deal with the community.
- 4.6 The Group Manager answered a number of queries from the public, including the number of fire fighters that would be lost. He explained that over the next four years 15-20 officers were expected to retire and these would not be replaced. The Group Manager then explained the factors taken into account when considering the number of staff needed.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 5.1 The Chairman invited questions from members of the public and the following issues were raised:

- 5.1.1 • Request that Youth Shelter be removed by specified date

The Chairman appreciated the comments made about the Youth Shelter and agreed that the situation had gone on for a long time whilst a solution was being sought. She explained that as neither the Town Council nor those who used the play area were happy with the proposal to relocate the shelter, a resolution had been reached to remove the shelter however there was no guarantee that it would be removed by 28 February 2011. These comments would be reported back.

- 5.1.2 • Excessive cut timbers and debris strewn around the mere at Springfield Recreation Ground

LP

		ACTION
	The Chairman confirmed that this issue would be referred back to the Town Council.	LP
5.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs not on lead on Sutton Farm Estate <p>CSO Jones reported that the Police had been contacted about this issue and had spoken to the owner following the attack on the goose. That one particular dog was now being kept on a lead and the Police had spoken to the owner about keeping the other dogs on leads.</p>	
5.1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was the impact of the budget cuts on the Local Joint Committee <p>The Lead Officer reported that the arrangements for the Local Joint Committees across Shropshire had been reviewed, and it had been agreed that two Shrewsbury wide LJC meetings would be held alongside the Shrewsbury area LJC meetings. The Lead Officer explained that 30% of the Shrewsbury area LJC funding had been top sliced for Shrewsbury wide projects. It was noted that the first Shrewsbury wide LJC meeting was due to take place on 28 April 2011 at The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury to coincide with Shrewsbury Town Council's Annual Meeting.</p>	
5.1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was felt that the Meole, Column and Sutton Area was not an appropriate fit. Meole had more in common with Radbrook. <p>The Chairman reported that the configuration of LJC's had been reviewed. Although there had been a reduction in the total number of LJC's and some boundaries had been altered, the Shrewsbury Area LJC's had not been altered. The Chairman agreed to take these comments back and request that they be considered further.</p>	LP
5.1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern was raised about the increased traffic at the Junction of Vicarage Road and Church Road <p>The Chairman agreed to take this issue back to relevant officers.</p>	LP
5.1.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can Shropshire Council put any pressure on Meole Retail Park to improve the access road <p>It was suggested that residents write to the owners of the retail park when identified.</p>	LP
5.1.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional Litter and Dog Mess Bins in Meole Village <p>The Lead Officer explained that an allocation had made from the local budget to provide an additional 10 bins following an exercise undertaken at a previous meeting whereby members of the public identified locations where these bins were needed. He agreed to take this issue back to relevant officers.</p>	GC

ACTION

5.1.9 • Possible sale of Crematorium and Cemeteries

The Chairman confirmed that a proposal had been made for the provision of the crematorium and bereavement services to be put out to tender and that she was aware that Shrewsbury Town Council had intended to put a bid in. The Chairman was not sure of the outcome but thought that no decision had yet been made.

Mr Clarke explained that he had tabled a request for Full Council to reconsider tendering this service as he felt that the cost of necessary improvements could be recovered in five years. Residents requested a show of hands for those in favour of Shropshire Council retaining the service and those in favour of putting it out to tender. The majority of residents present at the meeting were in favour of retaining the service.

6. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 6.1 **AGREED:** That the notes of the meetings held on 12 October 2010 and 25 November 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

7. PROGRESS REPORT

- 7.1 The Committee received the report of the Lead Officer – copy attached to the signed Notes – which provided details of the progress made on the issues raised at the previous meeting.

8. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET UPDATE

- 8.1 The Lead Officer gave an update on Shropshire Council's Budget for 2011/12 (copy of slides attached to the signed Notes) which covered the following areas:
- How Shropshire Council was funded
 - Overall impact on Shropshire of the Comprehensive Spending Review and Draft Settlement
 - 2011-12 Revenue Budget
 - Meeting the Savings Target
 - Next Steps
- 8.2 The Lead Officer reported that the cuts in funding were bigger than expected however the priority for the Council would be to protect front line services. In summary, the Lead Officer explained that £31 million had already been found leaving a further £47 million to be found over the next three years.
- 8.3 The Lead Officer answered a number of queries from members of the public in relation to the savings. In response to a query the Lead Officer reported that all expected savings from unitary had been achieved however further savings were now required.

ACTION

8.4 Concern was raised that the Council were recruiting four new posts at £370K per annum. It was felt that these jobs could be done for much less money and that other staff were taking a pay cut. In response, the Lead Officer explained that a new Corporate Head of Finance was being recruited as the previous post holder had left the authority, however this was to be a shared post with Telford & Wrekin Fire Authority. The Lead Officer also reported that following a senior management restructure, the number of posts had been reduced from 90 to 60.

8.5 Concern was raised about the way in which the service cuts were being communicated to the public.

9. WEST MERCIA POLICE

9.1 CSO Jones updated the Committee in response to issues raised at the previous meeting.

9.1.1 He reported that the issue of homeless people on the banks of Reabrook had been looked into and steps had been taken to resolve the issue.

9.1.2 In relation to speeding on London Road, there had been a delay in Officers receiving laser training due to budget constraints.

9.2 CSO Jones then invited members of the public to raise any issues of concern. Issues raised included:

- 9.2.1 • Article in the Times that stated that Shrewsbury had more crime per head of population than Manchester

CSO Jones suggested that the public go on the Police website in order to get the facts.

9.2.2 In response to a query CSO Jones explained that Anti Social Behaviour recorded on the police website had been broken down into individual areas eg Nuisance outside shops, neighbour nuisance, malicious communication etc. He confirmed that statistics were recorded when Police attended an incident.

- 9.2.3 • Cycling on pavements

CSO Jones reported that the police could issue £30.00 Fixed Penalty Notices for cyclists over 16. He explained that officers took cyclists details and sent them a letter before issuing a fine.

9.2.4 In response to a query CSO Jones explained how the budget cuts would affect West Mercia Police. He reported that West Mercia Police had not been recruiting for some time and that retiring Police Officers were not being replaced. It was hoped to preserve front line police services however there may be a smaller police presence on the street.

ACTION

9.2.5 • Parking on pavements

In response to a query, CSO Jones reported that the police could only take action if an obstruction was caused, however they did advise drivers not to park on pavements. He advised the public to report any incidents to the local policing team who would check whether the vehicle was causing an obstruction.

9.2.6 • Speeding through Meole Village

It was requested that the local policing team do some speed checking in this area.

10. BUDGET BIDS

10.1 The Committee received the report of the Head of Finance (Treasury and Pensions) – copy attached to the signed Notes – which provided the Committee with details of the bids for funding received by the deadline.

10.2 In response to a query the Lead Officer reported that previously the Multi-Cultural Week had been funded by Meole Brace School however this year they wanted to host an improved festival. The festival encouraged diversity and was an opportunity to celebrate different cultures.

10.3 In response to a query the Chairman confirmed that adequate arrangements for litter at the site of the BMX Track had been discussed.

10.4 **It was therefore AGREED that:-**

A. Up to £1,672 be allocated for the installation of goal posts at Whitehart and Kemps Eye by Shrewsbury Town Council.

B. £598 be contributed towards the expansion of the Belle Vue Youth Football Club.

C. £1,000 be contributed towards Meole Brace School Multi-Cultural Week.

D. Up to £10,000 be allocated for the development of the BMX track at Mereside.

11. COMMUNITY LED PLAN

11.1 The Senior Community Action Officer gave an update. She reported that there had been an excellent response however it was proving to be very time consuming to input all of the data. She thanked the Lead Officer and his team who had done the bulk of data inputting.

ACTION

11.2 The Senior Community Action Officer introduced Lucy Roberts who was the new Community Action Officer for the Meole, Column and Sutton LJC Area.

11.3 The Chairman congratulated the Senior Community Action Officer on her promotion and welcomed the new Community Action Officer.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12.1 Wednesday 11 May 2011, venue to be advised.

The Chairman thanked the Lead Officer, the Senior Community Action Officer and the Committee Officer for all their work and assistance with the LJC over the previous two years.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____