

**Committee and Date**

St Oswald & Llanymynech
Local Joint Committee

5th October 2010
7.00 pm

Item /Paper

4

Public

ST OSWALD AND LLANYMYNECH LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th JULY 2010 AT 7.00PM,
MELVERLEY VILLAGE HALL, MELVERLEY, OSWESTRY****PRESENT:****Members of the Committee:**

Councillor Arthur Walpole
Councillor Mrs Joyce Barrow
Councillor Ron Argyle
Councillor Mrs Shelia Bruce
Councillor David Ward

Shropshire Council – Llanymynech
Shropshire Council – St Oswald
Llanymynech Parish Council
Kinnerley Parish Council
Knockin Parish Council

Officers:

James Walton
Nicki Beardmore
Debbie Marais
Emily Marshall

Lead Officer
Support Officer
Community Regeneration Officer
Committee Officer (Notes)

Also Present:

Councillor Ann Hartley
Dave Edwards

Deputy Leader of the Council
Senior Engineer (Asset Management)

There were approximately 30 members of the public at the meeting.

1. Welcome and Introduction from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the Local Joint Committees operated as a key link between the Unitary Council, Parish/Town Councils and the people who live in the community. Members of the Committee and Shropshire Council Officers were asked to introduce themselves.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Dilys Gaskill (Llanymynech and Pant) and Councillor Pam Broomby (Oswestry Rural) who may be late.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor David Ward declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 - Funding Application, Knockin Luncheon Club.

Councillor Mrs Sheila Bruce declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 – Funding Application, Kinnerley Parish Hall.

4. Notes of the Previous Meeting

AGREED: That the notes of the meeting held on 13th May 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

5. Partners and Communities Together Meeting (PACT)

The Chairman explained that due to policing commitments, PC Dale was unable to attend the meeting. PC Dale had however sent copies of the Rural Watch Quarterly News letter extracts of which may be of interest to those present.

6. Revenue budget 2011/12 and Future Years

The Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council gave a presentation on Shropshire Council's Revenue Budget 2011/12 and Future Years. A copy of the presentation can be found on the Local Joint Committee webpage at www.shropshire.gov.uk. A copy of the presentation was handed out at the meeting.

The following key messages were outlined.

Local Council's were planning for cuts in Government funding in the region of 25% over the next 3 – 4 years. As a result of the recent Government funding announcements cuts of £9.7 million had to be found in the current financial year.

Various changes were being made to make savings internally. These included cutting back on bureaucracy, freezing recruitment to all but essential jobs and improving the ways goods and services were purchased, recognising the importance of supporting local businesses.

A programme of transformation would be undertaken. Statutory and discretionary services would be looked at. It was likely to mean that the scope or standard of some services would be scaled back or cease in their current form.

Working more closely with other public services, such as the fire and rescue service, the police and health authorities to amalgamate services and avoid duplication, would be examined.

It was stressed that the Council's commitment to very low or no increase in Council Tax would not change, but the Council was likely to look to compensate partially for cuts in its funding by carefully applying increases to the fees and charges made for a range of services.

It was stressed that the Council recognised the importance of the support it provided to local businesses and that it still had a crucial role to play in helping to create the conditions for economic growth in Shropshire.

Over the next six months the Council would be looking at all the options available to reduce its spending. The Council would be consulting widely on its proposals, with the feedback received influencing the Council's approach to its financial plan.

The following questions were raised in response to the presentation.

Question: If the number of Council employee's is reduced will the effect on Council premises be looked at?

It was explained that a Member had been appointed as Asset Management Champion and a very thorough Asset Management Review was being undertaken.

The District Council offices were also being used by other agencies, for example the Police had recently moved into Edinburgh House, Wem.

The Council was moving officers to Area HQ's where possible, to make savings in

traveling expenses. Services were initially put together in a short timescale for Unitary, and in the fullness of time as services were transformed, the Council were looking at more remote working, home working and locality working.

Question: How will you find savings just through efficiency changes? Unless the Council was very inefficient before, there would have to be cuts in local services. People want better services and are prepared to pay a bit more to get them. Aren't you storing trouble for the future?

The promise not to raise Council Tax was originally made by the district Council's but was also a requirement from Central Government. It was explained that Parish Council's were not governed by the same requirement so where services were carried out from would be explored.

It was added that the Council would be working with local businesses to help stimulate the local economy.

Question: Will opportunities to spend money in order to recoup money be examined? For example, more prosecutions for dropping litter might mean having to spend less on picking up litter.

It was confirmed that if there were opportunities to invest capital to get a return later on, these would be explored.

For example, the Council had recently invested in the Carbon Reduction Program which would mean that the Council will be much more energy efficient.

Question: How can the public keep up to date with the important issues?

Those present were advised that requests for updates on any issues could be sent to the Council via email, telephone or a written letter. The Council's website would also have up to date Cabinet/ Council reports.

Individuals could also contact their local Councillors for updates.

Question: How will Parish Council's be kept up to date when major issues are coming up?

Shropshire Council's Cabinet will be producing a monthly bulletin. Further consultation would be undertaken through the next round of LJC's.

Question: Will Parish Council's get the opportunity to influence where money is spent?

The Lead Officer explained that any responses made to the budget consultation would have an influence on decisions taken. Everything would be reviewed including the LJC's so it may be that they be given more power to influence where capital budget was actually spent, for example.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Ann Hartley and James Walton for their informative presentation and question and answer session.

7. Flood Forum

The Chairman welcomed David Edwards, Senior Engineer (Asset Management), who gave a short introduction into the work being undertaken by Shropshire Council to create flood forums across the county, working with existing groups and the Environment Agency.

In response to a question, David Edwards stressed that Shropshire Council recognised the great job that the Molverley Internal Drainage Board do and was keen to stress that their role would continue, with Shropshire Council working closely alongside them.

During the ensuing question and answer session confusion arose as to which Parish Council areas fall into which flood forum and there was concern that Cllr Walpole's area had been split between the North West Flood Forum and the Severn Tributaries Flood Forum. David Edwards highlighted a forthcoming North West Flood Forum but a number of Parish Councillors were unsure as to whether letters notifying parishes of forthcoming Flood Forum Meetings had been sent to the correct individuals. The Community Regeneration Officer stated that she would email the agenda she had received to Parish Clerks and would raise the issue of Parish and Flood Forum boundaries.

The suggestion was made that neighbouring parishes should also be invited to flood forum meetings. David Edwards agreed with this suggestion.

The Chairman thanked David Edwards for attending the meeting and for giving an informative presentation.

8. Feedback on Issues Raised at Previous Meetings

The Chairman explained that a summary sheet of issues raised at previous meetings had been distributed on the tables.

9. Local Issues for St Oswald & Llanymynech LJC

The Chairman explained that members of the public were being asked to identify relevant areas for future agenda items.

Members of the public broke into groups. Each group were joined by a Councillor and asked to compile a list of possible future agenda items for the St Oswald and Llanymynech LJC.

Each group gave a brief summary of the issues identified. The Chairman explained that all the responses would be collated and this information would then be used to prioritise a work programme. The lists compiled would be split into general topics and also more specific issues. The suggestion was made that the Young Farmers be invited to give a presentation at a future meeting of the LJC. This suggestion was agreed.

A priority list would be brought back to the next LJC Meeting in October.

10. Public Question Time

The Lead Officer reported a review of the Mobile Library Service would be undertaken. The key areas to be examined were current service provision and also opportunities for partnership working. A twelve week consultation period will be held to gather the views of stakeholders, including customers, non-users, Shropshire Councillors and town and parish councils.

A question was raised regarding the consultation period allowed for Parish Councils to comment on Planning Applications. In response, the Chairman suggested to the Parish Clerk who raised the issue, that she email him directly outlining her concerns.

11. St Oswald & Llanymynech Community Fund

The Committee received the report of the Lead Officer, which considered the devolved funding allocated to the St Oswald & Llanymynech for 2010/11.

The Chairman explained to the public that this was the formal part of the meeting and each bid would be voted on individually.

AGREED:

A The following bids are allocated full funding from the Community Fund (Round One):

- a. **£1,150 to Kinnerley Parish Hall for non slip flooring for ladies toilet and replacement foyer carpeting as recommended in a Health and Safety review. (Councillor Mrs Bruce abstained from voting).**
- b. **£2,000 to Tanat Valley Light Railway in Oswestry Rural to fence off the railway track from the rest of the site.**
- c. **£500 to Pant Methodist Chapel to purchase harder wearing aluminium guttering to replace existing plastic guttering.**
- d. **£130 to Maesbrook Village Leaflet Group in Kinnerley to publish a village leaflet with details of activities/services in the village.**
- e. **£1,445 to Trefonen Village Hall Management Committee and Trefonen Playing Field Association in Oswestry Rural Parish to purchase equipment for village fund-raising events.**
- f. **£2,000 to Shropshire Union Canal Society towards the cost of plant hire and to restore a length of canal between Redwith bridge and Price's bridge.**

B The following bids are provided with partial funding from the Community Fund (Round Two):

- a. **£1,300 to Knockin Luncheon Club against an original bid of £1,500 to purchase an industrial cooker. (Councillor Ward abstained from voting)**

C No bids are deferred from this round.

D The following bids are not allocated funding from the Community Fund:

- a. **£2,000 to Trefonen School towards the cost of replacing the floor in the school hall.**

12. Update from the Community Regeneration Officer

Debbie Marais, Community Regeneration Officer highlighted the school newsletter that had been produced following the May LJC meeting. The Newsletter included some of the comments made by the young people that had attended the meeting.

The deadline for applications for the next round of the Community Fund was stated as 1st September 2010. Members of the public were urged to complete the feedback forms.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman announced that the next meeting will be held on 5th October 2010 at 7pm at Llanymynech Village hall.

The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____