

**Committee and date**

The Five Perry Parishes Local  
Joint Committee

14<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

**Item**

**6**

**NOTE OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE FIVE PERRY  
PARISHES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY 2011**  
7.15pm – 9.40pm

**Responsible Officer:** Tim Ward

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**Present:**

Members of the Committee:

Aggie Caesar-Homden	Shropshire Council
Frank Beech	Hordley Parish Council
Trevor Benyon	Baschurch Parish Council
David Curtis	West Felton Parish Council
Greg Hickman	Whittington Parish Council
Ros Slowley	Ruyton-XI-Towns Parish Council

Officers:

Bobby Mulheir	Head of Customer Services (Lead Officer)
Carol Fox	Health & Safety Manager (Support Officer)
Trish Grantham	Community Action Officer
Corrie Davies	Community Action Officer
Tim Ward	Committee Officer
George Candler	Area Director (North)

John Das Gupta	Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service
PC Mark Moth	Local Police Officer

**There were approximately 26 members of the public in attendance**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Steve Charmley (Shropshire Council).

**2. Substitutions**

- 2.1 There were no substitutions.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 Cllr Benyon declared an interest in agenda item 10 – resolution from Baschurch Parish Council as he was Chair of the Parish Council.

Cllr Benyon declared an interest in agenda item 11 – application for funding from Baschurch Allotment Association as the Parish Council would be the leaseholder for the allotments. He made the declaration

**ACTION**

as soon as it became apparent and took no part in the discussion or vote on the application.

#### **4. Note of the Previous Meeting**

- 4.1 **AGREED:** that the note of the meeting held on 19 October 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **5. Presentation from Baschurch Scouts**

- 5.1 The meeting received a short presentation from members of Baschurch Scouts following their receipt of a grant from the Local Joint Committee. The Scout leader explained the background to their application and expressed thanks for the money received which together with grants received from other organisations had enabled them to install their new scout hut.
- 5.2 The Chair commented that she had visited the new hut and was very impressed with the facilities that it provided for the scout groups.

#### **6. Partnership and Communities Together**

- 6.1 PC Moth apologised that he did not have a formal report as he was standing in at short notice for a colleague that was on sick leave but that he would answer questions. There were no questions.

#### **7. Update from the Fire Service**

- 7.1 A briefing note informing the meeting of the way current budgetary cuts would affect the way Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service would deliver their service had been distributed. Mr John Das Gupta, Area Manager informed the meeting that the Shropshire Fire and Rescue had received an excellent rating for use of resources in the last audit commission assessment and that they had started to plan for the impending cuts about 8 months ago working on the basis of 25% cuts over 4 years. He went on to say that following the comprehensive spending review the level of cuts was 38% of the budget over 4 years which coupled with the fact that the precept was frozen had lead to severe problems. He informed the meeting that front line services were protected for the next two financial years but that no guarantees could be given for future years. He then outlined other measures which were being taken which included changes to the management structure, reduction in the workforce by approximately 60 posts, increase in the life of fire appliances and reduction in building maintenance. Mr Das Gupta reiterated that the service would continue to maintain its priorities for the service but asked for the publics help by them taking more responsibility for their own safety and that that of their family and local community and by supporting the fire service in any way that they could. He then took questions: -

- Q If money is available from other sources such as the parish precept can this be used to support the Fire service?
- Yes – donations can be used for things like buying and fitting smoke alarms and supplying of other such services

- Q What is the position of fire-fighters who speak out against the cuts and anything that arises as a result of the cuts?
- It has been made quite clear that there will be no change to service in the first two years but in years 3 and 4 there may be need for changes. We have a very good Chief Fire Officer who is very committed.
- Q There will be some cuts in the number of fire-fighters will this affect retained as well as full time fire-fighters?
- There is currently a freeze on recruitment of full time fire-fighters and currently the service lost 18 to 20 retained fire-fighters per year 5 of which would not be replaced. A risk based approach was taken when deciding which posts not to fill.

Several members of the public expressed their thanks to the Fire Service for the excellent job that they did.

- 7.2 The Chair echoed these thanks and thanked Mr Das Gupta for attending the meeting.

## **8. Shropshire Council Budget**

- 8.1 The meeting received a presentation on the Shropshire Council Budget for the financial year 2011 – 12. The Lead Officer informed the meeting that Shropshire Council had a total budget of £630 million and that as a result of the comprehensive spending review £66million savings would need to be found over the next 4 years. She then took the meeting through how the savings required in the financial year 2011 – 12 would be found. She then took questions.
- 8.2 Mr Green asked how much the council had wasted persecuting one of its inhabitants. The Chair advised him that the matter was currently sub judice and could not be discussed.
- 8.3 Mr Case commented that Shropshire always seemed to come off second best and asked whether Shropshire Councillors were lobbying the county's MP's and if they where whether this lobbying was effective. The Chair informed him that Councillors had regular meeting with MPs and with Central Government and forcibly put the case for the council.
- 8.4 Mr Roberts asked whether the recent fact finding trip to Ireland was a good use of resources. The Chair commented that she felt it was as the Leader of the Council had made many useful contacts and had seen how matters were being dealt with in Ireland where the financial situation was much worse.

## **9. The Role of the Area Director**

- 9.1 George Candler, the new Area Director for the northern area gave a presentation on the role of the Area Director.
- 9.2 The Area Director explained that the Area Director would have responsibility for all the services that Shropshire Council devolves. He explained that there were four drivers for change: -

- The current financial climate.
- The Coalition Governments drive for the devolution of services to the front line and the Localism bill.
- The fact that Shropshire has an aging population which will put pressure on certain services.
- The change in people's expectations and the requirement for access to services 24/7.

9.3 He went on to say that previously the Council had delivered services in a "one size fits all" approach but that the Council was keen to work closer with communities on the delivery of services.

9.4 The Area Director then explained his role which was: -

- To support elected members in their role as "community leaders".
- To be responsible for the delivery of all locally based and delivered services such as environmental maintenance and libraries and leisure services.
- To develop and enhance links with town and parish councils, voluntary and community groups, social enterprises and local businesses.

9.5 The Area Director then took questions: -

Q What power/functions will be passed to Town and Parish Councils?

- The power passed to Parish Councils will depend on the capacity and will of the council to take on the extra roles.

Q What real power will the Area Director have and how determined are you that things are going to happen?

- The key role of the Area Director is to look at the better delivery of services locally and to look at where further efficiencies can be made. Not about power but more about working with local members to improve the area.

Q Is part of the role the implementation of Agenda 21 which concerns issues around sustainability?

- Not sure of the details of Agenda 21 but am sure that provision will be made for sustainability.

The Chair thanked the Area Director for his presentation.

## **10 Resolution form Baschurch Parish Council**

10.1 The LJC had received the following resolution from Baschurch Parish Council: -

The Parish Council recommend to the Five Perry Parishes Local Joint Committee that there was a need for greater transparency in their decisions relating to funding and that this should be an item to be discussed at their next meeting.

10.2 Councillor Mrs Budgen informed the Committee that the unanimous

decision of the Parish Council was not directed at any members of the Committee but at the process for determining the allocation of funding as many people had the perception that the decision was made prior to the meeting, and that there was no transparency in the way the decision was made. She cited a comment made by a member of the committee at the last meeting to a suggested amendment to the officers recommendation that “we had already discussed this” as an example of this.

- 10.3 Councillor Roberts commented that he had attended the last agenda planning meeting as a substitute member where the he had gained a better understanding of the process. He went on to say that he had suggested that applicant should be present at the planning meeting to hear the discussion around their application which would give them a better understanding of the reasons behind the recommendations and decisions made.
- 10.4 The Chair commented that she understood peoples concerns and then explained the process that was followed. She stressed that no decision was made until the formal LJC meeting and that discussion that took place at the planning meeting was used by officers to aid them in reaching their recommendation and also to assess whether the Committee required any further information to aid them in making a decision. She went on to say that members of the Committee were able to proposed amendments to the recommendation if they so wished.
- 10.5 Discussion followed regarding the matter. Several Parish Councillors commented that they did not know what was happening at the LJC. Several members of the Committee commented that they regularly feedback information at their Parish Council meetings.
- 10.6 A query was raised regarding whether the public were allowed to attend the agenda planning meeting. The Committee Clerk commented that as far as he was aware they were not public meetings but that he would check the status.
- 10.7 The Chair thanked the meeting for their input and commented that she had taken all the points on board.

## **11. Local Joint Committee Budget**

- 11.1 A report advising members of application for funding from the Local Joint Committee budget had been circulated. It was noted that the following applications had been received: -

Ruyton XI Towns Community Project - £1400.00 towards the holding of a community weekend organised by the Christian Youth Group.

West Felton Parish with Haughton PCC - £3,000 for resurfacing of the area surrounding the Church.

Baschurch Allotment Association - £5,000 for the provision of badger proof fencing at Baschurch allotments.

Councillor Hickman commented that he had reservations regarding

the application from the Ruyton XI Towns Community Project as he felt that parts of it did not meet the financial regulations and that no contribution was being asked from participants and that the LJC was being asked to cover the entire costs of the event.

Councillor Slowley commented that we had rejected the application from Haughton Church at the last meeting as it was felt that it did not comply with the financial regulations but that further confirmation had been received which showed that the churchyard was open to all in the parish and that the church was used as a community building as well as a place of worship.

The Chair commented that she felt that we should be supporting projects like the Baschurch Allotment as they provided a real benefit to the local community, she reminded the meeting that the application had been deferred from the last meeting in order that the committee could get more information regarding the lease and that the Committee had been advised that the lease had been agreed and was awaiting signing. Councillor Hickman stated that he would be voting against funding the application as he felt that the Allotments Association should be contributing more to the project. A representative of the Allotments Association stated that the project formed part of a much bigger project and that the Association had raised a lot of money for other parts of the project.

It was RESOLVED: - that the Five Perry Parishes Local Joint Committee allocate funding for the following amounts to the following organisations and their projects:

£3,000 West Felton Parish with Haughton PCC for the resurfacing of the area surrounding Haughton Church.

£5,000 to Baschurch Allotment Association for the provision of Badger Proof Fencing subject to the signing of the lease for the land.

It was RESOLVED that the Five Perry Parishes Local Joint Committee do not fund the following applications for the reasons set out in the report.

Ruyton XI Towns Community Project for £1400.00 towards the holding of a community weekend organised by the Christian Youth Group.

## **12. Consultations**

- 12.1 A list giving details of consultations currently being undertaken by Shropshire Council and other bodies was circulated at the meeting.

Mr Boulding commented that the Bus consultations were not very accessible as they were all being held at times when the majority of people were working and that some should have been held at evenings or weekends. The Chair commented that she had passed Mr Boulding's concerns to the Transport Team but there were other ways of responding to the consultation.

## **13. Public Question Time**

- 13.1 Mr Boulding pointed out that changes to the way the concessionary fares scheme would work would severely reduce the number of busses that the people could use and that there were busses that left Baschurch and Ruyton XI Towns that left just before the 9.30am cut off point with the next bus leaving 2 hours later. He asked whether in cases like this exceptions could be made – considering each on a case by case basis.
- 13.2 Councillor Slowley asked for an update on the youth work service in the area and also on the future of Centre North West. The Chair advised her that the Centre was due to be completely refurbished. She went on to say that the youth work service was currently being revamped with targeted youth work putting support where it was needed most.
- 13.3 Mr Case thanked the LJC for the grant funding received in Ruyton XI Towns for the new tables for the village hall and the creation of the Boccia team. He went on to thank Shropshire Council Highways Team for their prompt response to problems during the recent cold spell. Finally Mr Case thanked all who had voted in the Race to Infinity and advised the meeting that in addition to gaining super fast broadband there was the opportunity to compete for £5000 of funding for an IT based community project.

#### **14. News & Information**

- 14.1 The Chair advised the meeting that a new Boccia Club was being started in Baschurch and that anyone interested in joining should see Susie Hancock after the meeting.
- 14.2 The Chair reiterated the thanks to Shropshire Council Highways for all their work during the snowy weather and commented that there had been a real sense of neighbourliness with lots of people helping others.

#### **15. Date of Next Meeting**

- 15.1 The meeting was advised that dates for future meetings of the LJC were Wednesday 09 November and Wednesday March 21 and that it was also proposed that a "community event" be held sometime in July possibly on a Saturday but time and date would be confirmed.
- 15.2 Councillor Slowley expressed the Committees' thanks to Trish Grantham for all the work that she had done for the Committee and the area during her time as Regeneration Officer and wished her well for the future.

The meeting ended at 9.40pm.

**Signed .....** (Chairman)

**Date.....**