



Committee and date:  
Whitchurch & Prees  
Local Joint Committee  
  
18 October 2012  
  
7.00 p.m.

Item  
  
**4**  
  
Public

## WHITCHURCH & PREES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

### NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 14 JUNE 2012 AT TILSTOCK VILLAGE HALL, TILSTOCK, WHITCHURCH.

**Responsible Officer:** Shelley Davies

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#### **Committee Members Present:**

##### Name

Mr Gerald Dakin (Chairman)  
Mr Tom Biggins  
Mrs Peggy Mullock  
Mr Paul Wynn (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr Ian Henderson  
Mr Peter Thompson

##### Council

Shropshire Council (Whitchurch South Ward)  
Shropshire Council (Whitchurch North Ward)  
Shropshire Council (Whitchurch North Ward)  
Shropshire Council (Prees Ward)  
Prees Parish Council  
Whitchurch Rural Parish Council

#### **Officers Present:**

##### Name

Victoria Doran  
Keith Clorley  
Ian Walshaw  
Shelley Davies  
Nicki Young  
CSO Tim Meredith  
Ian Johnson

##### Role

Streetscene Manager (North East)  
Dog Warden (North)  
Highways  
Committee Officer  
Community Action Officer (CAO)  
Whitchurch Rural Local Policing Team  
Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service

There were approximately 25 members of the public at the meeting.

#### **14. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Paul Wynn, seconded by Tom Biggins and duly **RESOLVED:** that Gerald Dakin be elected as Chairman of the Whitchurch and Prees LJC for the ensuing year

#### **15. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Doris Ankers (Whitchurch Town Council) and Mrs Jean Betteridge (Ightfield Parish Council).

#### **ACTION**

**16. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Ian Henderson, seconded by Peter Thompson and duly **RESOLVED**: that Paul Wynn be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Whitchurch and Prees LJC for the ensuing year.

**17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received

**18. NOTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the previous meeting held on 8 March 2012, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Committee also noted the 'Comments, Questions and Suggestions Action Sheet. Further information was requested in relation to the question regarding car park income.

**19. SHROPSHIRE STREETSCENE**

Victoria Doran (Streetscene Manger - North East) and Keith Clorley (Dog Warden) were present to talk about streetscene matters, in particular the Dog warden service and the issue of fly tipping.

Keith Clorley reported that he had been a Dog Warden for approximately 40 years. He explained that he covered the former North Shropshire District Council and Oswestry Borough Council areas and was on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. He noted that his main role was dealing with stray dogs but due to time constraints it was difficult to patrol the large area he covered.

In response to questions Mr Clorley confirmed that:

- He was the only Dog Warden for the North area;
- The number of stray dogs he picked up was approximately the same as when he started the job;
- Most stray dogs were returned to their owner and those that were not returned after 7 days went to a re-homing kennel;
- Prior to the Unitary Council, the dog warden service in Oswestry did not operate out of normal office hours;
- An area where signage in relation to dog fouling was required would undergo an assessment before any sign was installed;
- Information from members of the public on dog fouling matters within the community, was important as the area could then be patrolled effectively;

- The best way to let the Council know about dog fouling was to phone the main contact centre number; 0345 678 9000
- Information on the service was available on the Council's website;
- He would look into the suggestion to have stickers on dog bins with the Council's contact details for members of the public to report issues; and
- In the last 12 months there had been 94 phone calls made to the Contact Centre in relation to dog fouling in the North area, with 20 calls relating to the Whitchurch area.

KC

Victoria Doran discussed the matter of fly tipping, giving a definition of fly tipping and explaining the remit of the service once an incident was reported. It was noted that prior to removal, the Council would look for evidence as to who was responsible for fly tipping and take enforcement action if possible.

Ms Doran reported that in the North East area there had been 133 reported cases of fly tipping and the Council was able to recover costs in relation to 6 of these incidents. She added that 34 of these cases were in the Whitchurch area with Blackpark Road being a 'hot spot' for fly tipping. It was stressed again that information from the public was vital to the service.

In response to question Ms Doran confirmed that:

- Shropshire Council would only remove fly tipping from public land and fly tipping on farmland was the responsibility of the farmer;
- Shropshire Council would help with signage on private land if there was a persistent problem;
- Fly tipping usually occurred for financial reasons, as commercial vehicles required a licence to use household waste sites;
- Details of an incident of fly tipping in the area that involved toxic chemicals;
- That discarded tyres were chipped by the contractor employed by Shropshire Council; and
- She would pass on the positive comment in relation to staff employed at the Whitchurch household waste site.

*Councillor Mrs Peggy Mullock joined the meeting at this point.*

## **20. PACT MEETING INCLUDING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND SHROPSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

The Chairman explained that Mr Gilling, Area Co-ordinator, Neighbourhood Watch was unable to attend the meeting. It was reported

that the next Neighbourhood watch meeting would take place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June at the Tern Hill Hall Hotel at 7.30 pm.

CSO Meredith of the Local Police Team gave an update on local policing issues, the following issues were noted:

- Scramble Motorbikes on private land at Ash – It was reported that although the area had been advertised on a motor-cross website there had been no permission given by landowners for scramble motorbikes. The police therefore had powers to issue tickets and had sent out warning letters;
- Motorbikes speeding on A41/A49 – The Police were engaging positively with motorcyclists at the Raven Café, Prees Heath in relation to local concerns regarding speeding. Members of the public were asked to contact police on 0300 333 3000 if they had any concerns;
- Manor Place – It was reported that levels of anti-social behaviour had decreased following good partnership working between the community, Police and Shropshire Council. It was added that Smart Water kits had been given out to properties in the area.

The following matters/new issues were raised by local residents present at the meeting;

- Local residents requested a 20mph speed limit on the main road through the Town centre following a road incident involving a child in Brownlow Street. CSO Meredith stated that the Police patrol the area at key times and that the Highways Team had looked into a problem with the traffic lights but the request for a 20 mph speed limit was an issue for the Highways Team.
- It was reported that Brownlow Street car park was being used as a rat run. CSO Meredith explained that the Police had no powers to deal with this issue and it should be passed on to Highways.

Ian Johnson, Crew Manager, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service gave an update on local issues, the following issues were noted.

- Access Issues - Following the issue reported at the last LJC meeting regarding parked cars in Talbot Street, it was reported that a survey had been completed to assess access in Whitchurch. The survey highlighted 14 locations where access for a fire engine was restricted and it would be necessary to use a smaller vehicle.
- Home Safety Risk Assessments – Safety Assessments were available free of charge although smoke alarms were no longer automatically free. Local residents were advised to contact the Fire Safety department on 01743 260200 if they required a home safety risk assessment.

- Canal Boats – There had been a recent campaign by the Fire and Rescue Service offering safety advice to boats on the canal.
- Carbon Monoxide - There had been a number of enquiries in relation to carbon monoxide poisoning following an incident in South Shropshire.

## 21. **DEFENCE HELICOPTER FLYING SCHOOL - SHAWBURY**

The Chairman noted that Squadron Leader Neil Hope was unable to attend the meeting.

## 22. **TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE**

### **Whitchurch Town Council**

- The Town had been awarded 'Walkers are Welcome' status;
- The Mary Portas bid was to be revisited;
- The Community Jubilee event was a great success;
- The Parish Plan was progressing well;
- There would be an extra market on Saturday 23 June to celebrate National Market Day; and
- A meeting had taken place to discuss an action plan for tourism in the whole North Shropshire Area.

### **Whitchurch Rural Parish Council**

- A meeting on proposed development sites was due to take place at Ash Village Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> June between 3.30pm – 7.30pm;
- The Parish Council had received LJC Jubilee funding for benches in Ash and Tilstock;
- There had been a number of issues since the closure of the public toilets by the Raven Café, Prees Heath and a small sub-committee had been set up to look at the area which had fallen in to decline;
- Tilstock Section 106 money had been allocated as follows: £3000 to school, £3500 to Village Hall Play Area, £3500 to Tennis Club; and
- The Parish Plan was complete and the Parish Council was awaiting the booklets.

### **Prees Parish Council**

- The Parish Council had received LJC Jubilee funding for benches;
- The Diamond Jubilee celebrations in the area were noted; and
- It was stated that the village centre required attention.

## 23. **MARKET TOWNS REVITALISATION PROGRAMME (MTRP)**

Cllr Peggy Mullock updated the meeting on progress of the Market Towns Revitalisation Programme as follows;

## **Civic Centre Complex Project**

- Shropshire Council Cabinet had approved £264,000 for the Whitchurch Civic Complex Market Town Revitalisation Project.
- The total project estimated costs were £1.68m, but the project would be completed in phases as funding became available.
- Phase 1 would revitalise the Civic frontage and reconfigure the foyer area, bringing the Civic Hall bar into the foyer and creating a reception desk and circular area around the staircase.
- Shropshire Council would manage the project in partnership with Whitchurch Town Council. The first Project Board meeting was taking place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Walking in Whitchurch**

- This project was upgrading the walking offer in Whitchurch by improving the links between the canal, town centre and Brown Moss, to include new signs and interpretation boards and upgrade the paths.
- Work began on this project earlier in the year and it was anticipated that it would be completed soon.

## **Business Grant Scheme**

- Whitchurch Chamber of Trade was working with Shropshire Councillors and officers to create a scheme where retail businesses can apply for funding for improvements to the inside and outside of their premises.

## **24. HIGHWAYS UPDATE**

Ian Walshaw, Highways Manager attended the meeting to give an update on Highways matters in the area.

Mr Walshaw explained the work of the team, highlighting the safety checks undertaken on roads throughout the year and the financial constraints on the team. He urged Local residents to email Shropshire Council if they were aware of any potholes and added that feedback from the community was always welcomed.

In response to questions Mr Walshaw confirmed that:

- The team were aware of the issue involving HGV's parking on the road by the garage near the Raven café, Prees Heath and a scheme for double yellow lines had been proposed;

- The no right turn off the A41 into Twemlows Ave, Higher Heath was a decision made by the Highways Agency for visibility reasons when the A41 was a trunk road;
- The recent work on Alkington road was a surface dressing to protect the previous resurfacing work and the pot hole in that area would be repaired in due course;
- Advertising signs on the Whitchurch bypass was not allowed as it was illegal to stop on the road. Signs were removed by the team and the Council was trying to find a solution in relation advertising local events;
- He would look into the 'dip' in the road in Whitchurch Town Centre;
- Consultants had been instructed to draft a scheme in relation to the bollard in Pepper Street;
- The issues at Smallbrook Road had been discussed with Meres and Mosses Housing Association and a possible project to resolve the issue was being developed;
- The Signage was in place at Broughall Cross Roads and visibility issues would be investigated by the Highways team;
- The footpath at Alkington Road had been adopted and the Council was working with young offenders from Stoke Heath to widen the footpath;
- In partnership with HMP Stoke Heath, planned work to resurface the footpath, which runs alongside the Tilstock Primary School, will start in the school holidays.
- He would ensure the footpath between Jubilee Park and Mill Street would be widened following current building work; and
- Newport Road did not meet the criteria for a 20mph speed limit and he would obtain the reasons for this from the traffic engineer.

**25. 2012/13 WHITCHURCH & PREES LJC BUDGET REPORT AND FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

A report setting out the devolved funding for this Local Joint Committee in 2011/12 and 14 applications were considered by the Committee. It was

**RESOLVED:**

a) Funding was awarded by the LJC to the following organisations:

A Preparation and printing of Tilstock & Ash Parish Plan 500.00  
 C Alport Football Club changing room improvements 700.00

D Demon Dance and Streets of Colour Workshops 1,700.00  
F Shropshire Playbus holiday sessions 1,500.00

b) The LJC ratified the decision to award £200 funding to Parish Councils for Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. Details as follows:

B Prees PC – Diamond Jubilee Commemorative benches 200.00  
E Whitchurch Rural PC - Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 200.00  
G Ightfield & Calverhall PC – Diamond Jubilee Mug donation 200.00

**26. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The following issues/public questions were raised by local residents present at the meeting;

- The LJC was thanked in relation to the funding given to local groups.

In conclusion the Chairman thanked everyone for their valued contribution and also explained that there was an opportunity to leave questions by completing Question Cards and handing them in at the end of the meeting.

**27. FEEDBACK FORMS**

Feedback forms (on yellow) were circulated at the meeting and those present were urged to take a minute to complete the forms before they left and leave with either Shelley or Nicki.

LJC's are always looking to improve, so your feedback is vital.

**28. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The meeting of Whitchurch & Prees Local Joint Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at 7.00 pm at Fauls Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** .....