



Committee and date:
Whitchurch & Prees
Local Joint Committee

25 June 2013

7.00 p.m.

Item

5

Public

WHITCHURCH & PREES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

**NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2013
AT PREES VILLAGE HALL, PREES, AT 7.00 PM.**

Committee Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council</u>
Mr Gerald Dakin (Chairman)	Shropshire Council (Whitchurch South Ward)
Mr Tom Biggins	Shropshire Council (Whitchurch North Ward)
Mrs Peggy Mullock	Shropshire Council (Whitchurch North Ward)
Mr Paul Wynn (Vice-Chairman)	Shropshire Council (Prees Ward)
Mrs Jean Betteridge	Ightfield Parish Council
Mr Ian Henderson	Prees Parish Council
Mr Peter Thompson	Whitchurch Rural Parish Council

Officers Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
Cllr Tim Barker	Chairman of the Scrutiny Chair's Group, Shropshire Council
Roy Broad	Shropshire RCC (Rural Community Council)
PC Karena Evans	Local Policing Team: Whitchurch Rural and Town.
Karen Nixon	Committee Officer
Nicki Young	Community Action Officer (CAO)
Steve Roberts	Shropshire Primary Care Trust (PCT)
Ian Johnson	Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service

There were approximately 35 members of the public at the meeting.

42. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone and explained the nature and remit of Local Joint Committees (LJC's).

43. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Doris Ankers.

44. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

ACTION

45. **NOTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the previous meeting held on 18 October 2012, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Committee also noted the 'Comments, Questions and Suggestions' Action Sheet which was circulated at the meeting.

46. **PRESENTATIONS FROM LJC FUNDED PROJECTS**

Presentations on various LJC funded projects were made as follows;

Shropshire Playbus: Peter Dunhill thanked the LJC for its financial contribution last year and reported back about the success of this mobile play facility which had visited Ash, Whitchurch, Prees, Manor Place and Higher Heath over the summer 2012 and had proved very popular. Due to popular demand it was hoped to apply for funding again in future, which was noted.

1st Prees Scouts: Tracey Williams, Scout Leader and three scouts gave a short presentation with pictures, about their grant which had helped secure the purchase of an Icelandic Tent. This tent had been used on several occasions by the scouts and provided great shelter for camping trips.

Whitchurch TV: Dane Rainford thanked the LJC for their support. He showed a HD film of the 2012 Jubilee celebrations in both Whitchurch and Prees. He explained that these were now on the internet, which helped increase the online presence of the local community and boost tourism.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their feedback and commented that he believed they were all 'money well spent'.

47. **PACT MEETING: INCLUDING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND SHROPSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE UPDATES**

PC Karena Evans of the Local Police Team gave a verbal update on local policing issues in both the rural and town areas of Whitchurch. PC Evans explained that since the departure of PC Jones, she now covered both areas with the support of CSO Baines and Meredith. The following issues were highlighted:

- It was reported that 3 sheds had been burgled recently. Thieves had been apprehended and were currently on bail. Fishing tackle and power tools had been recovered.
- Scams involving motorists being flagged down by individuals in lay-bys and then being asked for money for fuel or selling gold were cited. If anybody was to experience this, they were advised to report it to the police.
- Loud bangs in the village of Prees had been reported and were currently being investigated. If anyone hears such noise they were

asked to let PC Evans know.

In response to a question from Mr Henderson, anyone wishing to contact their local police team were asked to use the police non-emergency telephone number 101.

No new issues were raised by local residents present at the meeting.

Mr Gilling, Area Co-ordinator, Neighbourhood Watch updated as follows;

- Following on from the police update, he spoke of his personal concerns at the 50% reduction in the Local Police team.
- Moves to re-establish a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Tilstock continued and a new scheme in Higher Heath was currently being set up.
- He highlighted two forthcoming Neighbourhood Watch meetings to which anyone who was interested was invited to attend on either 21 March (Local area Inspector attending) or 20 June (police Crime Commissioner, Bill Longmore attending) at the Tern Hill Hall Hotel.

Ian Johnson of North Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, gave an update on recent local issues and was pleased to announce there were no significant trends to be concerned about in the local area. The following points were particularly noted;

- Flooding at Tilstock.
- Community Fire Safety – lots of enquiries had been received about carbon monoxide and how to reduce risks. Officers were happy to advise on this and any other issues of concern for people.

48. HEALTH CHAMPIONS

Steve Roberts, PCT Lead on 'Health Champions' introduced and amplified a new initiative that was currently being rolled out across Shropshire.

The PCT is looking for people to be the public face of a county-wide health initiative called 'NHS Health Check'. The campaign, aimed at everyone in Shropshire County, aged between 40 and 74 years old, is designed to create awareness about the risks of heart and kidney disease, type 2 diabetes and strokes etc, and show how the 'Health Check' can help detect early signs of the conditions and suggest lifestyle changes to help combat them. Gerald Dakin, Chair of the LJC and also Chair of the Healthy Communities Scrutiny Committee encouraged everyone to get involved in this exciting new initiative.

48a Additional URGENT item: THE SHROPSHIRE RCC FUEL BUYING SCHEME (Registered Charity No 1096779)

With the prior agreement of the Committee, the Chairman introduced an urgent item to the published agenda – Fuel Buying Scheme – provided by the Shropshire Rural Community Council, covering the purchase of oil.

Mr Roy Broad of Shropshire RCC outlined a new community project that reduced the cost of domestic fuel, each time an order was placed. All you had to do to take advantage of this community scheme was to pay an annual membership fee (£20 domestic, £30 community building and £100 for a business). There were currently 700 members in the oil scheme who on average had saved 4.5 pence per litre to date.

Plans were in place to widen the type of fuel out, to include electric and gas in the future. At this stage expressions of interest were sought from anyone who may be interested in joining.

For more details about how to join the scheme or how to become a local coordinator please contact: Lizzy Thain on Tel 01743 342167 or email oil@shropshire-rcc.org.uk for a membership form.

49. SCRUTINY AT SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Cllr Tim Barker, Chairman of the Scrutiny Chair's Group at Shropshire Council gave a presentation to the LJC about 'Scrutiny and how to make a difference'. He explained what scrutiny was and more importantly how the general public could help set the scrutiny agenda in the future.

Scrutiny was one of the building blocks of local democracy. It held Cabinet to account for the decisions it made, challenged performance and made suggestions for improvement. It was explained how scrutiny work was undertaken; select committee style sessions, in depth reviews by Task and Finish Groups or Inquiries, what Call-in was, pre-decision discussions and analysis, one-off reviews and listening to the views of local people.

Various ways in which the public could be involved were highlighted;

- Bring matters to the attention of your Local Councillor or Local Joint Committee
- Suggest topics for review using your knowledge of local services and concerns
- Use the new Facebook page 'Shape My Shropshire' -a new tool that had been introduced for the public to interact with the Council.
- Use Public Question Time at Scrutiny meetings
- Cllr Tim Barker, Lead Scrutiny Member on tim.barker@shropshire.gov.uk
- Jane Palmer, Senior Committee officer on jane.palmer@shropshire.gov.uk

50. TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Whitchurch Town Council (Peggy Mullock), highlighted the following important dates and upcoming events;

- Whitchurch Portas Business Project meeting 13 March 2013
- Whitchurch Tourism meeting 27 March
- Local Parish and Unitary Elections on 2 May
- Whitchurch Walking Festival 10 to 12 May
- The Big Lunch – Party in the Park 1 June

- Blackberry Fair 5 October
- Christmas Lights Switch on 30 November
- Christmas Market 7 December

Prees Parish Council (Paul Wynn) announced that the Grocott Family Trust had kindly offered funding to build a new Doctors Surgery on the outskirts of Prees.

It had been recognised for a very long time that the existing Doctors Surgery was too small to cater for the Parish and there was no suitable parking for patients who were visiting doctors. Dr Carter was retiring next year and it was his premises that currently housed the Prees Doctors Surgery and dispensary. Therefore, the Grocott Family Trust have offered to buy some land and build a new surgery and dispensary, with ample parking facilities.

Prees Parish Council are in agreement with the proposed site for development, which is on the Whitchurch Road, just before the row of houses on the left-hand side as you leave the village. The site is big enough to provide a suitable one-storey building to house all the doctors rooms, waiting area, health visitors and practice nurses, as well as the dispensary and enough parking for up to 25 cars.

The project is still at the planning stage and the Grocott family's architects are currently working with the local NHS, PCT and the Doctors surgery on the design and layout of the premises, which was welcomed and duly noted.

There were no other updates.

51. 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 2012/13 plus seven funding applications and notification of a decision made under delegated powers, were considered by Members.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation was given by Mike Scutt, Chairman of the Whitchurch Foodbank Steering Group, who hoped to open the Whitchurch Foodbank around June/July 2013.

After discussing each application in detail the Committee approved the following grants;

RESOLVED:

- i. Prees Cricket & Recreation Club – Qualified trainers for childrens' cricket teams; £530.00.
- ii. St Alkmund's Church PCC – Bargates Hall Refurbishment; £2,062.00 granted from this financial year, and the organisation was advised to apply again in the 2013/14 financial year for the balance of £2,000 that was originally requested.

- iii. Whitchurch Walkers – Whitchurch Walking Festival Banners; £150.00
- iv. Whitchurch Army Cadet League – Purchase of 4 x archery sets; £796.00
- v. Churches Together in Whitchurch – Whitchurch Foodbank; £2,000.00
- vi. Whitchurch Youth Council – Set-up Costs; £250.00
- vii. Tilstock Bowling & Tennis Club – Heating and Carpet for Clubhouse; £1,500.00
- viii. Kingsway Court Age Concern – Day Trips for the Elderly; £330.00
- ix. Whitchurch Alport Football Club – Disabled Toilet Facilities; £1,850.00

Total awarded at the meeting = £ 9,468.00.

52. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

More information/feedback about the Rural Toolkit meeting was requested. Nicki Young CAO undertook to update on this following the meeting if those that were interested left their contact details with her.

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

53. 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 Karen Nixon or Nicki Young.

55. FUTURE LJC MEETING DATES

It was noted that the following future meeting dates would be held in 2013/14;

- Tuesday 25 June 2013 at Calverhall Village Hall, 7.00 pm
- Thursday 17 October 2013, 7.00 pm – venue tbc
- Thursday 27 February 2014, 7.00 pm – venue tbc.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: