

**WHITCHURCH & PREES LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE
NOTE OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 JUNE 2013
CALVERHALL VILLAGE HALL, 7.00 PM.**

Committee Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council</u>
Mr Gerald Dakin	Shropshire Council (Whitchurch South Ward)
Mr Tom Biggins	Shropshire Council (Whitchurch North Ward)
Mrs Peggy Mullock	Shropshire Council (Whitchurch North Ward)
Mr Paul Wynn (Chairman)	Shropshire Council (Prees Ward)
Mrs Jean Betteridge	Ightfield Parish Council
Mr Joe Whelan	Prees Parish Council (substitute)
Mr Peter Lea	Whitchurch Town Council

Officers Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>
George Candler	Director of Commissioning
Dianne Dorrell	Shropshire Association Local Councils
PC Karena Evans	Local Policing Team: Whitchurch Rural and Town.
Peter Furber	Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service
Karen Nixon	Committee Officer
Nicki Young	Community Action Officer (CAO)

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

1. ANNUAL ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Paul Wynn be elected as Chairman of the LJC for the ensuing year.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Michael Dubicki (Whitchurch Rural Town Council) and Mr Paul Gill (Prees Parish Council).

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Paul Gill (Prees Parish Council) be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the LJC for the ensuing year

ACTION

4. **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.

5. **NOTES**

RESOLVED that the notes of the previous meeting held on 7 March 2013, 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.

6. **PACT MEETING**

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.

The following issues were highlighted:

- 'Party in the Park' on 1 June had been a great success with little trouble.
- The excellent work of the Community Alcohol Partnership Group was highlighted and continued.
- There was some criticism of the traffic lights operating at the junction opposite the police station in Whitchurch where vehicles often jumped red lights. This was dangerous and it was requested that the timing of the lights be looked at again before there was a serious accident.
- Problems were also reported about vehicles turning left from Brownlow Street into Talbot Street. It was requested that the white line at the end of Talbot Street be moved up to enable larger vehicles to turn the corner.

In response to a question about how the reorganisation of the local police would impact on the north of the county and especially the Whitchurch and Prees area, PC Evans could not comment except to say that there would be no less police presence.

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

Mr Gilling, Area Co-ordinator, Neighbourhood Watch updated the meeting on local developments and how to go about setting up a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your area.

Fire Officer, Pete Furber from North Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, gave an update on local issues and was pleased to announce that there were no significant trends to be concerned about within the local area.

Dave
Gradwell, in
conjunction
with the
Police

As
above

However, it was noted that 4 'on-call' fire stations had recently been identified to possibly close under the Fire Service's latest re-structure proposals. Prees's station was amongst those highlighted and would shortly be undergoing an impact assessment. It was very much hoped that the station would be able to continue and everything was being done as far as possible to support staff and the station.

7. COMMISSIONING SERVICES FOR THE NORTH OF THE COUNTY

George Candler, Director of Commissioning, gave a brief presentation about what commissioning was and how Shropshire Council was working with partners on this in the northern part of the county.

First, he outlined what Shropshire Council was trying to achieve;

- Meeting local demand more efficiently and reducing future demand
- Providing customer value
- Engaged and resilient communities that own the challenges and solutions
- Supporting employment and economic growth

George Candler then went on to explain what had been happening recently;

- a) Looking at the needs of the area
- b) Talking to the community
- c) Going into detail around three key areas;
 - *Public realm
 - *Unemployment
 - *Health/Social Care

The following was very briefly what was going on at the moment;

- 3 new ways of working (prototypes) were being tested
- What had been discovered was being fed back to key senior partners very shortly
- More areas were being considered (based on need)

Pleasingly the new approach was already providing dividends and it was planned to roll out this new way of working very shortly.

The Chairman thanked Mr Candler for his full and frank presentation which was very informative.

8. FIND OUT HOW TO BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Dianne Dorrell, Support Officer from Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) gave a short presentation on how to become a parish councillor if anyone was interested.

Ms Dorrell covered the following topic areas;

- What are local councils?
- What do local councils do?
- What do local councillors do?
- How to get involved
- Where to get more information.

If anyone wanted more information they could contact the following
Shropshire Association of Local Councils on Tel :01743 252744 or
www.2shrops.net/alcl

National Association of Local Councils www.nalc.gov.uk

OR contact your local council clerk – contact details are on the SALC website.

9. FEEDBACK FROM GRANT FUNDING RECIPIENTS

Presentations on various LJC funded projects were made as follows;

Whitchurch Walkers

A very successful 1st Whitchurch Walking Festival had taken place in May 2013 and another festival was now being planned for 2014. Thanks were expressed to the LJC for their contribution towards leaflets and posters that been of great benefit to the success of the project.

Manor Place Community Group

Phil Wesley thanked the LJC for their contribution towards the new windows and doors at the community group hall, which had made such a difference to the building. This was now a place that could be used by groups of all ages within the local community.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their feedback, which was duly noted.

10 TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Prees Parish Council, Cllr Joe Whelan

There was 1 vacancy left on Prees Parish Council - if anyone was interested in applying, all applications would be most welcome.

Progression of plans for the new Doctors Surgery at Prees continued, with the support of a local firm.

The Parish Council's website was currently being overhauled and redesigned to make it more user friendly and try and engage more residents.

Finally it was stated that the Parish Council were aware of the proposed budget cuts within the Fire Service and fully supported the retention of the Prees on-call fire station and the local fire service.

Whitchurch Town Council, Cllr Peter Lea

Tenders were going out for Phase 1 of the redevelopment of Whitchurch Civic Centre and works were due to start shortly.

The Civic office was due to close on 12 August 2013 and would probably be re-locating to the Heritage Centre, though this was yet to be confirmed.

Phase 1 Refurbishment was due to be complete by the second week in February 2014.

There were a few events coming up;

- ✓ Our Big Gig on Saturday 13 July
- ✓ Heritage Centre Open Day 13/14 September

Ightfield Parish Council, Cllr Jean Betteridge

The footpath saga continued.

There were no other updates.

11. 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.

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

RESOLVED:

- i. Whitchurch Chamber of Trade – Christmas Lights Switch On £1,480.
- ii. St Alkmund's Church PCC – Bargates Hall Refurbishment; £2,000.00.
- iii. Shropshire Playbus Association – Holiday Activities £1,500.00
- iv. Calverhall Tennis Club – Claverhall Recreation Area £1,050.00
- v. Whitchurch Party in the Park 2013, £862.50 (already approved under delegated powers).
- vi. Whitchurch Rugby and Hockey Club = Application Withdrawn.
- vii. Whitchurch Town Council – Consultant Fees for Phase 2 of the Civic Centre Refurbishment £2,000

Total awarded at the meeting = £ 8,892.50.

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public Questions from the floor. 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.

13. 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.

14. FUTURE LJC MEETING DATES

The following meeting dates were duly approved by the committee;

Thursday 17 October 2013, 7.00 pm
at Sir John Talbot's College, ICT Pink Suite

Thursday 27 February 2014, 7.00 pm
Tilstock Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: