

**CRAVEN ARMS & RURAL LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE****NOTES OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2014 AT CRAVEN ARMS BOWLS CLUB****Present:****Shropshire Council**

David Evans	Church Stretton and Craven Arms Electoral Division
Cecilia Motley	Corvedale Electoral Division
Lee Chapman	Church Stretton and Craven Arms Electoral Division

**Town/Parish Councils**

Mandy Fowler	Diddlebury Parish Council
Robin Gatehouse	Stanton Lacy Parish Council
Richard Rallings	Munslow Parish Council
Tony Willetts	Craven Arms Town Council
Mike Hardingham	Clee St Margaret Parish Council

**Co-opted Member**

Mark Trafford	Sibdon Carwood Parish Meeting
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**Shropshire Council Officers**

Lisa Bedford, Senior Community Action Officer

There were approximately 15 members of the public present at the meeting.

**1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Buster Evans [Munslow PC], Brian Norgrove [Hopton Cangeford and Stoke St Milborough PC], David Clarke [Hopesay PC], Andrew Pike [Culmington PC], Caroline Magnus [Onibury PC], David Bytheway [Wistanstow PC], Donald Brooks [Abdon and Heath PC]

**2. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

No interests were raised

**3. Notes of the meeting held on 20 November 2013****RESOLVED:**

that the Notes of the meeting held on 20 November 2013 be approved as a correct record.

**4. Community Safety Update**

PC Preston gave an update regarding the Safer Neighbourhood Team and the crime in the area. There are now three CSO's and one police officer

**ACTION****LB**

based in the Church Stretton and Craven Arms area, all based at Church Stretton police station. There are also volunteers and special constables supporting their work.

There were 298 incidents from November to March resulting in 38 recorded crimes. There were also 28 reports of Anti social behaviour.

Work is currently being undertaken in local schools and community groups. Multi-agency vehicle checks will continue in the area.

## **5. Public Question Time**

A member of the audience requested that planning be considered as a topic for a future agenda item.

A query was raised regarding the handover of the Discovery Centre and the protection of the land from development.

## **6. Future of Local Joint Committees**

Cllr Motley explained the going forward due to budget pressures there would not be any funding to allocate through the Local Joint Committees. This was an opportunity to change how the committee works and take on different roles and challenges. The council is working towards being a commissioning council rather than providing services directly.

Craven Arms LJC and previously the Market Towns Partnership has an excellent track record of working together for the good of the whole area and engaging with the parishes.

It was suggested, and all were in agreement to continue to meet and develop using a style more associated with the market town partnership. Membership should be extended to include; SSFS, SSHA, Police, Grow Cook Learn, education, churches, health, youth, business.

It was agreed that some desk based research was needed to identify issues and trends about the local area, this should then tell us what some key themes of work could be.

It was suggested the committee also needed to look at ways to generate funds to deliver activity or support to community activity.

Although concern was expressed about the loss of funds, those present expressed overwhelming support for the LJC to continue and change focus. The majority of representatives felt the money had sometimes distracted away from the great value of meeting and working together as a unit.

The Community action officer was tasked with looking at sources of data to build up a picture of the area based on census data, place plan, parish plans etc and come back to a planning meeting in May with the next

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meeting in June.

## **7. Craven Arms Bowls Club**

Phil Baker from the Bowls Club gave an overview of the project to rebuilt the bowls club on a new site. It had taken 4 years and a lot of fundraising but the project has now been completed. They have gained an additional 235 social club members since it has opened. Over the winter they have had skittles, snooker, darts etc in the building. There are also some disabled users in wheelchairs and funding has recently been secured to purchase a buggy to enable people in wheelchairs to play bowls in the summer.

The original project had to be scaled back but they have still achieved the same floor plan but with a different construction for half of the cost. Funding came from a number of sources including Shropshire Council Community Fund, Market Towns, Awards for all, charitable trusts and their own fundraising.

Phil was congratulated by all present for an outstanding achievement and a great facility for Craven Arms and the surrounding area to enjoy.

## **8. Relocation of the Library**

An overview was given on the status regarding the relocation of the library by Elaine Moss from Shropshire Council.

It was explained the library would move next week from the Discovery Centre to the Community Centre and would be located in the foyer area. Community Centre staff have been trained and the library will still be part of the library network and received the support of the Council even though it will be a community library.

Total number of books will decrease due to the space constrictions but the range of books will remain the same. All other functions such as the history group, story time, homework club and IT access will continue.

The library will reopen on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Concerns were raised regarding the security of space and the capacity of the centre to house the additional activities such as the story time etc.

## **9. Transfer of the Discovery Centre**

Valerie Meehan from Grow, Cook, Learn was in attendance to outline the plans for the handing over of the building on a community asset transfer.

Grow, Cook, Learn will take on a tenancy at will for the building and land on the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Grow, cook, learn is the succession organisation (social enterprise) formed following on from the lottery funded grow, cook, share project which was a project developed by Ludlow 21 and based in Ludlow and Craven Arms to encourage people to grow their own food and learn about food and cooking. The discovery centre building and site presented a great opportunity to continue and expand the work of this project.

Once the heads of terms have been agreed, the building will be legally transferred over to SSHA as a community asset transfer and Grow, Cook, Learn will be the tenants operating the building.

There will be no closedown of the building and they are going to work in the building to gain a better understanding before any changes are planned and made.

There will be a site maintenance employee but not a ranger. A land management plan for the site will also be drawn up. The majority of staff will transfer over.

Concerns were raised regarding a covenant on the land and the possible development in the future. Cllr Chapman explained there would be safeguards in place in the legal agreements to protect the land.

Land ownership of the site was queried. It was explained that currently Shropshire Council own the site, it will transfer to South Shropshire Housing Association and Grow, Cook, Learn will lease the site.

## 10. Flooding and Highways

### Flooding

Dennis Wilson from the flood team was in attendance to give an overview of current works in the area, and measures people can take to manage their own watercourse responsibilities and their properties. (see attached presentation).

Queries for attention were:

Park Lane – desilting left on side of ditch only for rain to wash it back in and flood again.

DW

Contact the team for support via [flood@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:flood@shropshire.gov.uk)

### Highways

Chris Edwards, Area Commissioner with responsibility for highways was in attendance to provide information on the highways activity in the area. (see attached slides).

Chris gave an overview of the hedge to hedge gang (Streetscene and highways) which had proved successful in decreasing cost and improving time taken to deal with issues.

Chris explained that the budget for highways improvement would increase due to an increase in funding by 13% from central government from 2015 which would equate to an additional 1.6million for Shropshire.

Concerns were raised regarding Clun Road pavement and its recent works. CE to look in to the issue and report back to the meeting

CE

Those present praised both flooding and highways locally for their support and efficiency in dealing with local issues.

## 11. **Parishes/Community Update**

Parish and Town Council representatives provided an update on local issues and local news updates.

### Hopesay PC — Mark Trafford

Parish Council have held an informal meeting with Matthew Hill, Head of Development, Shropshire Housing Group to discuss a possible way forward on the provision of low cost housing in the parish. Discussions are continuing with Shropshire Council, Sibdon parish and landowners on further work between Longmeadow End and Craven Arms to reduce the risk of flooding. Concerns have been raised at the reported government proposals to give CIL exemptions for single site developments as this would apply to all potential developments in the parish thereby cutting off all CIL funding for local infrastructure development. The local MP has been asked to comment on reports that he supports these proposals and are seeking support from ALC. A contractor has been employed to carry out management works on the tree in accordance with the 2003 AONB management plan. Arbor Day will be on Sunday 24 May.

Munslow PC – Richard Rallings – communication and information regarding proposed temporary closure of B4368 had been managed very badly Severn Trent and there was a lack of communication between all partners.

Diddlebury PC – Mandy Fowler – same issues as Munslow re road closure.

Sibdon Carwood PM - Mark Trafford – Balfours have been helping regarding SAMDev and development issues.

Craven Arms TC – David Evans – working on road safety issues and the school for parents and children.

## 12. **Date/Time of next meeting**

The next planning meeting would be in May and a full meeting in June.

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In drawing the meeting to a close, the Chairman thanked the Bowls club for hosting the meeting free of charge. The hall hire fee had been donated to the community chest scheme.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

