

## South Somerset District Council

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Area West Committee** held at the Guildhall, Chard on **Wednesday 15 July 2015**.

(5.30 pm - 7.30 pm)

**Present:**

**Members:** Councillor Carol Goodall (Chairman)

Jason Baker	Paul Maxwell
Marcus Barrett	Sue Osborne
Mike Best	Garry Shortland
Amanda Broom	Angie Singleton
Dave Bulmer	Andrew Turpin
Val Keitch	Martin Wale
Jenny Kenton	

**Officers:**

Andrew Gillespie	Area Development Manager (West)
Helen Rutter	Assistant Director (Communities)
Lynda Pincombe	Community Health & Leisure Manager
Charlie Coward	Healthy Lifestyles Officer
Paul Philpott	Neighbourhood Development Officer
Jo Morris	Democratic Services Officer

*NB: Where an executive or key decision is made, a reason will be noted immediately beneath the Committee's resolution.*

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**18. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 21st May 2015 and 17th June 2015 (Agenda Item 1)**

The minutes of the meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and, having been approved were signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

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**19. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ric Pallister and Linda Vijeh.

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**20. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)**

Councillor Sue Osborne declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10 – Request for a Community Grant – Chaffcombe Village Hall, as the Ward Member.

At the time of the item, Councillor Jason Baker declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11, Chard Carnival Park Project, as a member of a carnival club.

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**21. Public Question Time (Agenda Item 4)**

No questions or comments were raised by members of the public.

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**22. Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)**

There were no announcements from the Chairman.

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**23. Area West Committee - Forward Plan (Agenda Item 6)**

Reference was made to the agenda report, which informed members of the proposed Area West Committee Forward Plan.

Members noted that the August Area West Committee meeting would only be held if there were planning applications to be determined.

In response to a member comment, the Area Development Manager (West) confirmed that an update report on the Chard Regeneration Scheme would be presented to the Area West Committee in September.

Cllr. Mike Best made a request to give an update on A Better Crewkerne and District (ABCD) in February rather than January. An update on the Ile Youth Centre Management Committee from Cllr. Val Keitch would be given in January instead.

Members were content to note the Forward Plan attached to the agenda subject to the above updates.

**RESOLVED:** That the Area West Committee Forward Plan be noted as attached to the agenda subject to the above amendments.

*(Resolution passed without dissent)*

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**24. LEADER Programmes for Rural Economic Development - Heart of Wessex Progress Report (Agenda Item 7)**

The Assistant Director (Communities) summarised the report, which updated members on the progress with establishing district wide coverage of the new LEADER programme for rural economic development and the success of the funding bid for the new Local Action Group (LAG) Heart of Wessex.

During the ensuing discussion, the Assistant Director (Communities) and the Area Development Manager (West) responded to questions on points of detail which included the following:

- Clarified that the governance arrangements and geography of the Blackdown Hills Partnership and the Making it Local Action Group were different;
- Explained in more detail the implications of changing any governance arrangements regarding member representation on the AONB and whether this would affect the ability to draw down funding;

- The Assistant Director (Communities) agreed to set up a briefing session on the Heart of Wessex Programme for the affected ward members;
- Further information on the Heart of Wessex Programme including the funding criteria and framework was available on the website;
- The Assistant Director (Communities) agreed to invite Cllr. Mike Lewis, the member representative on the Heart of Wessex Steering Group for the LAG to report back separately to the Area West Committee;
- The Area Development Manager (West) agreed to invite the Making It Local Programme Manager, who had only recently been appointed, to provide a briefing to members.

The Chairman thanked the Assistant Director (Communities) for attending the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the success of the bid for government funding for Heart of Wessex which, together with Making it Local, gives full LEADER coverage in Area West be noted.

## **25. Community Health & Leisure Service Update (Agenda Item 8)**

The Community Health and Leisure Manager summarised the agenda report, which provided members with an update on the work of the Community Health and Leisure Service in Area West. With the aid of a powerpoint presentation she highlighted the following:

- Staffing Structure within the Community Health & Leisure Service;
- Healthy lifestyles development including the success of the flexicise scheme, health walk leader training and Sport 50 programme;
- A bid to Sport England for funding worth £194,000 had been successful to develop physical activity opportunities from GP surgeries specifically benefiting Crewkerne and Chard;
- Sports Development including successful delivery of schools tennis programme, badminton competitions and area cricket finals;
- Play & Youth Facilities – support being provided with the Henhayes Play Area refurbishment, refurbishment of Packers Way Play Area, Misterton and improvements to the skateboard park in Horton;
- A Bike Fest Event was being held on 12<sup>th</sup> August at Birchfield Park;
- Support provided to youth clubs and the development of playschemes and holiday activity programme;
- The success of the Gold Star Awards;
- Securing Planning Gain – Officers have supported the development of a new Community Pavilion/Community Facility in Ilminster. If successful £113,000 would be spent in Area West. Other schemes supported included New floodlighting at Chard Tennis Club and advice provided to Chard Town Council to take forward the provision of temporary changing at Jocelyn Park.

During the ensuing discussion, the Community Health and Leisure Manager noted the comments of members and responded to questions on points of detail. Members were informed of the following:

- In response to a question regarding the Health Walks Leaflet and encouraging young people to take part, members were informed that there was only one health walk that took place at the weekend due to issues with recruiting lead walkers at weekends

and that participants were mainly older people. Buggy walks and activities within the Healthy Workplace Programme were aimed at younger people;

- In terms of working with businesses, the Healthy Lifestyles Officer already worked closely with gyms and leisure centres as part of the Active South Somerset. The team were limited by their capacity but would give consideration to the possibility of undertaking further work with businesses in the future;
- Steve Barnes, the Play & Youth Facilities Officer would be able to provide assistance with the Disclosure & Baring Scheme;
- The 1610 Leisure Centre in Chard offered its own concessionary discounts and were not part of the Passport to Leisure Scheme;
- With regard to the lack of playing pitches in Chard, members noted that some work had been undertaken and that negotiations were ongoing;
- Members were informed that in line with updated national planning guidance, work on a new playing pitch strategy would be undertaken.

With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, the Health Lifestyles Officers informed members about the Click into Activity Project. Information provided during the presentation included:

- Background and outline of the project;
- Early milestones and targets;
- Key outcomes and sustainability of the project.

In response to member questions, the Health Lifestyles Officer informed members that:

- The Exercise Specialists would also cover the importance of a healthy diet and that access was also available to nutritionists;
- The aim of the project was to provide robust evidence that physical activity and exercise can reduce cost and demand on the NHS;
- She would be interested in working with any groups;
- The University of the West of England evaluation of the project would be very thorough and would include measures around quality of life and mental health.

The Chairman and members of the Committee thanked the Community Health & Leisure Manager for her report and congratulated her on the outstanding work of her team.

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## **26. Area West Committee Working Groups - Appointment of Members 2015/16 (Executive Decision) (Agenda Item 9)**

The Committee agreed the appointment of members to serve on working groups within Area West for 2015/16 in addition to the appointments made at the meeting in June.

A request was made for an update report from the Click Into Activity Steering Group to be included as a future item on the Area West Committee Forward Plan.

**RESOLVED:** (1) That Councillor Martin Wale be appointed to serve on the Chard Regeneration Scheme Project Board.

*(Voting: 12 in favour)*

- (2) That Councillor Val Keitch be appointed to serve on the Click Into Activity Steering Group.

*(Resolution passed without dissent)*

**Reason:** To appoint members to working groups for the municipal year 2015/16.

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**27. Request for a Community Grant - Chaffcombe Village Hall (Executive Decision) (Agenda Item 10)**

The Neighbourhood Development Officer summarised the agenda report, which asked members to consider an application for financial assistance from Chaffcombe Village Hall Committee towards alterations to the internal layout of the hall.

The Neighbourhood Development Officer explained that the hall was a popular and well used venue. Photographs were shown illustrating the existing internal layout which had proved to be unsuitable. The aim of the project was to pull back the existing wall to create a rectangular internal layout. He explained that funds had been secured for 50% of the total project costs and that Area West were being asked to fund the balance.

The Committee was addressed by Mr Stan Robinson, Chairman of the Chaffcombe Village Hall Committee. He commented that there was no shop or pub in the village and that the village hall was very important in generating community spirit in the village. He explained that the aim of the scheme was to undertake alterations to further expand the use of the hall so that further activities could take place.

In response to members' questions, the Neighbourhood Development Officer confirmed that planning permission for the works had been granted and that the only alteration was moving the wall straight back.

The Ward Member, Cllr. Sue Osborne expressed her support for the project and commented that the hall was very valued and that by increasing the capacity further events could be held.

During discussion, members expressed their support for the project and commented that they were impressed with the low cost of the project as a result of voluntary work being undertaken. Members noted that a grant was awarded by the Area West Committee in September 2012 but the Neighbourhood Development Officer had taken the view that the projects were distinct from each other.

Cllr. Sue Osborne expressed her thanks to the Neighbourhood Development Officer, who was leaving the authority shortly, for the help and support he had provided within her ward.

Members unanimously agreed the recommendation outlined in the report.

**RESOLVED:** That £7,191 be awarded to Chaffcombe Village Hall Committee towards alterations to the internal layout of the hall.

*(Voting: unanimous in favour)*

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## 28. South Somerset Carnival Park Project (Agenda Item 11)

The Area Development Manager (West) introduced Steve Dawe, joint Chairman of the South Somerset Carnival Park Committee, who had been invited back to provide more detail about the South Somerset Carnival Park Project.

With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Steve Dawe gave an informative presentation about the project. Points covered in the presentation included:

- The current problems being experienced with a lack of building locations
- The solution being a permanent carnival park
- Plans for the immediate future
- The social, economic and business development benefits of providing a carnival park in the region
- Benefits to individuals, the wider community and companies
- Economic worth
- Outline of project costs
- Potential funding sources and next steps

A copy of the presentation slides were circulated to members at the meeting.

Prior to discussion on the item, Cllr. Jason Baker declared a personal interest in the item, as a member of a carnival group.

During discussion members unanimously expressed their support for the South Somerset Carnival Park Project and thanked Steve Dawe for his excellent presentation. Members felt that it was important for the local carnival scheme to be maintained. Although, some concern was expressed over sustainability, members were sure that the project could be in achievable in time and by working in partnership.

**RESOLVED:** That the aims of the South Somerset Carnival Park project be supported by the Area West Committee.

*(Voting: unanimous in support)*

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## 29. Planning Appeals (Agenda Item 12)

The Committee noted the details contained in the agenda report, which informed members of an appeal that had been dismissed.

**NOTED.**

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## 30. Date and Venue for Next Meeting (Agenda Item 13)

Members noted that the next meeting of the Area West Committee would be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at 5.30pm at the Henhayes Centre, Crewkerne. The meeting would only take place if there were planning applications to be determined.

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Chairman