

WEST AREA COMMITTEE

23 September 2010

MINUTES

Held at Wootton Wawen Village Hall, Alcester Road, Wootton Wawen

Meeting commenced: 7.00 pm Meeting ended: 7.55 pm

Present: Councillor John Horner (Chairman), Councillors S Adams, P Beaman, H Hayter, K James, J Jones, S Juned, J Kerridge, Sir W Lawrence Bt, E Payne, S Thirlwell and H Wright

Apologies: Councillor G Atkinson, P Barnes, M Gittus, V Hobbs, P Oakley and M Weddell

319. Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest.

320. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2010 were confirmed and signed.

321. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- The Chairman highlighted that he had been in contact with the other Area Committee Chairmen and also the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the matter of care of the elderly in the District. They had come to the conclusion it would be useful to find out more from the County Council and so it was

AGREED:

That the relevant Portfolio Holder from WCC would be invited to a future meeting of the Committee and also, the Chairman would find out more about the roadshows that WCC are running at the moment.

- Local residents were concerned about the potential impact of the Fire Station closures within the West Area and it was

AGREED:

That the Chief Fire Officer would be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to answer these concerns.

- Councillor Adams provided an update on the Alcester Primary Healthcare project informing the Committee that the NHS were due to be holding roadshows around the area to update the local community on the latest position in relation to health services.

322. Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public.

323. Parish Plans - Wootton Wawen

Consideration was given to an assessment of the Wootton Wawen Parish Plan that had been adopted by the Parish Council on 15 February 2010.

Mr Phil Holt, Chairman of the Wootton Wawen Parish Plan Working Party, attended the meeting and answered Members' questions raised on the content of the Plan and its accompanying Action Plan.

The Options open to the Committee were:

- (a) To adopt the Parish Plan fully;
- (b) To choose not to adopt the Parish Plan at this time but allow for a period of investigation by SDC so they may be confident in recommending its adoption; or
- (c) To choose not to adopt the Parish Plan.

In considering the options, the Committee acknowledged that the Parish Plan was a thorough and well prepared example of how a community could prepare a Plan that was both a good source of local community information and provided a sound basis through the Action Plan to address the needs and aspirations of the community. It was specifically noted that the Plan firmly acknowledged the housing needs of the village and had also valued local business input in the development of the Plan.

Having regard to the above, it was unanimously

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Parish Plan be adopted as a local information source to offer advice to the relevant services of Stratford-on-Avon District Council;
- (2) That Stratford-on-Avon District Council would seek to respond to the Parish Plan Action Plan in the ways suggested in Appendix 3 of the report;
- (3) That the Parish Plan be adopted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council as a material consideration in processing planning applications, in accordance with Policy COM.1 of the Local Plan Review; and
- (4) That the Parish Council and the residents of Wootton Wawen Parish be commended for preparing their Parish Plan and that they be encouraged to implement and review their Action Plan.

The Committee went on to debate the involvement that Parish Plans should have in the development of strategies for local and regional issues, such as planning, housing, policing, parking and flooding. Councillor James advised that the Local Development Framework Working Group (LDFWG) had acknowledged this and were currently looking at the use of Parish Plans in relation to housing needs.

324. Local Areas of Concern to Ward Members

The following areas of concern were raised and discussed by Ward Members:

- The unresolved flooding issues in Snitterfield where 35 houses had been affected. Councillor Hayter had attended talks with the Council's Flood Defence Officer and would report back on progress at the next meeting.
- The burnt out Fox Hunter Pub in Snitterfield had still not been demolished 3 years later. It was reported that the Head of Planning has submitted a new court order for its demolition.
- The A435 road in Studley; concerns about the volume of traffic using this road and congestion, particularly near to the Tesco store.
- The problems and issues of cross-boundary working on waste management between Warwickshire and Worcestershire County Councils.
- Concerns over the future of Policing in the Area following the big financial savings that the Police are going to have to make.

RESOLVED:

That Police Inspector Simon Eades would be invited to come and talk to the Area Committee at a future meeting and the other Area Committees would also be invited.

- The work to alleviate flooding problems in Alcester was progressing but it was slow. A request for pressure to be maintained with the Environment agency was requested.
- Continued concern over the future of the Greig Centre, Alcester.
- Concerns in Henley-in-Arden over the Cattle Market site and the changes that are likely to occur at the Fire Station.
- Gypsy and Traveller Site concerns in the Aston Cantlow Ward. The Committee welcomed the news that the Councillor Roach, Chair of the LDF working group has agreed to set up a Member Working Group to develop a travellers and gypsy policy.
- Planning Enforcement concerns were addressed by Councillor James who advised that SDC's Enforcement Team were planning 3 Parish Council roadshows to Shipston, Studley and Southam. They would also be focussing on Planning Consultants and persistent offenders, with changes being proposed to the penalty rules applied to persistent offenders. It was advised that the Enforcement Team were in need of Member volunteers to assist with these roadshows.

Councillor Lawrence was concerned about double decker buses being used on bus routes that travelled through the narrow country lanes of the Aston Cantlow Ward. He would like to see things changed so that only single deckers were permitted on such routes.

Councillor Lawrence offered his congratulations to the Studley Ward for receiving a Silver Gilt Certificate at the Heart of England bloom awards recently.

325. Youth Services in the Studley Area

Members were advised that this item was to be discussed at the next meeting of the Henley-in-Arden/Studley Community Forum which was to be held at Studley Youth Centre on Thursday 7 October at 7.30pm.

326. Appointments to Outside Bodies

Following the review undertaken into the Council's representation on Outside Bodies, approved by The Cabinet on 6 September 2010, the Committee was invited to appoint representatives to the following organisations, having regard to The Cabinet's wish that appointments should reflect the overall political balance of the Council:

Alcester: The Greig Centre

It was

RESOLVED:

That no appointment be made at the present time.

Alcester Heritage Trust

It was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Payne would continue in this role.

Marsh Farm Liaison Group (Salford Priors Quarry)

It was noted that Councillor Slaughter had been appointed to the Group until July 2011.

327. Items for Future Meetings

- Core Strategy
- Policing
- Fire Stations
- Care of the Elderly

328. References from Community Forums

The notes of the meetings of the Alcester/Bidford Community Forum on 21 June 2010 and the Henley/Studley Community Forum held on 1 July 2010 were considered.

Some discussion took place around the Community Forums, notably the lack of public attendance at these meetings, with suggestions being made about ways to increase public awareness of these forums.

Thereafter, it was

RESOLVED:

That the notes of the Forum meetings be received and noted.

CHAIRMAN