

MINUTES of the Community Benefit Working Party of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 30th November 2015 at Crown Chambers, Melksham at 8.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Richard Wood (Chair), John Glover (Vice Chair) and Steve Petty.

Cllr. Paul Carter as an observer.

Apologies: Cllrs. Mike Mills, Terry Chivers and Jan Chivers.

- 414/15 **Appointment of Chair of Community Benefit Working Party:** The Clerk invited nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Benefit Working Party for 2015/16. **Resolved:** *The Working Party resolved that Cllr. Glover be Chair. The position of Vice Chair to remain vacant until the next meeting.*

Housekeeping: Cllr. Glover welcomed all to the meeting and explained the evacuation procedures in the event of a fire.

- 415/15 **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.

The Working Party agreed to suspend Standing Orders for a period of public participation.

- 416/15 **Public Participation:** Town Cllr. Bruce Sanders attended to speak about funding for the Campus, the underpass and the taking over of the public toilets in Melksham. He stated that the refurbishment of the underpass was going to cost £35,000 and Melksham Town had pledged £5,000 towards this. Wiltshire Council had stated that they were no longer going to take responsibility for toilets within the County. If Town and Parish Councils do not take these assets on, then they will be closed and not re-opened. The Town Council had investigated the cost of running the three public toilets in the Town and this had been estimated at £16,000 per year. The Town Council had made a proposal to only keep the toilets in the entrance to Church Street Car Park open. The toilets in the Art House Cafe are linked to the outside public toilets, so work will need to be undertaken to de-commission the outside toilets and separate them from those inside the cafe. He asked whether the Parish Council would consider contributing to the funding to assist the Town Council in these projects.

The Clerk reported that there was £81k within the Persimmon S106 Agreement from the Former George ward site for Arts Contribution, and suggested this funding be used for the refit of the underpass.

The Working Party re-convened.

- 417/15 **Potential Available Funding:**
a) **Summary of Potential Community Benefit Funding Available for 2015/16 and Future Years:** The Working Party noted this summary. The Clerk reported that she had discussed the use of the S106 funding from

East of Melksham area with Sarah Holloway, S106 Officer at Wiltshire Council and had been advised that the S106 money from the East of Melksham Development could not be spent in Berryfield as this was geographically too far away. However, it could be spent on Public Open Space and Play Areas in Bowerhill. Additionally it could be spent on providing bins and dog fouling signage at the new path behind Forest and Sandridge School, but not for any costs incurred in emptying the bins.

It was noted that the S106 funding from the Retail Area on Cranesbill Road was now in Wiltshire Council's account and the deadline for spending this money within the Community is 2020. The foundations for the re-development of the Former Forest and Sandridge School site are now in; there S106 funding for this site could be available in January 2016.

b) Community Governance Review: Effect on Available Funding: The Working Party reviewed the Summary of potential Community Benefit funding in the light of the CGR decisions made the previous week.

The Clerk advised that Sarah Holloway had confirmed that spending of S106 money was about whether the project was located near the development and not about which Parish boundary it fell under. This was to clarify that S106 funding from the East of Melksham could still fund appropriate Melksham Without Parish projects, even after the transfer of houses out of the Parish boundary.

However, there would be a significant impact on the future funding to come from Sandridge Solar Farm as the calculation is based on the number of houses in a parish within a 2.75km radius of the Solar Farm. This would increase in years to come if approval was given for a further 450 houses to the East of Spa Road.

418/15 **Policy for Future Community Benefit Funding:** The Clerk requested that the Working Party consider a steer over what in principle they would like spend any available money on, how the Council would spend any funds and the criteria they wished to use to identify possible projects, in order to help inform the budget. She reported that she had asked the Parish Caretaker to carry out inspections on the 3 Wiltshire Council run play areas in the Parish to inform the Council about their condition prior to considering whether to take these on from Wiltshire Council. The Parish Caretaker advised that it would add 1 1/4hrs to his day per play area should the Parish Council take over these play areas. However, there were now areas of the Parish that he did not spend so much time on, such as the turning area at the former Forest and Sandridge School and the bench at Burnt Cottages in Beanacre.

It was noted that bus shelters, benches and play equipment owned by Wiltshire Council will be removed if they require repair and will not be replaced. Shaw and Beanacre both now have well equipped and well maintained play areas; it was considered unfair that the children of Berryfield and Bowerhill should miss out due

to the fact that play areas will not be repaired and updated in the future by Wiltshire Council.

419/15

Possible Projects for Funding in 2016/17 Budget:

The Working Party considered areas and assets that they wished to consider as future potential projects. ***Recommended:***

Priority Items to be costed for the Budget:

- To take on the maintenance of the 3 Wiltshire Council Play Areas in the Parish.
- To consider contributing to the running of a public toilet in Melksham.
- To provide a bin and “no dog fouling” signage on footpath behind the new Forest & Sandridge School, including the emptying of bins on a regular basis.
- Swing replacement in Beanacre Play Area.
- Installation of 2 basket ball hoops in the Parish.
- Gulley clearance.

Potential Items to be costed for the Budget:

- To take on the maintenance of Public Open Space from Wiltshire Council.
- To consider contributing to improvements to Shaw Playing Field and Play Area being undertaken by CAWS – possible match funding.

Potential Items for Future Consideration:

- To take on bus shelters from Wiltshire Council on an “as and when required” basis
- To take on seats & benches from Wiltshire Council on an “as and when required” basis.
- To support future bus services.
- Lorry Park and facilities for HGV drivers.

Items for Consideration via CIL funding:

- Provision of lighting on footpath behind the new Forest & Sandridge School.

Items for funding via Precept:

- Shortfall costs between running of Bowerhill Sports Field and Pavilion and income received.

Items not for Consideration:

- To provide enhanced play equipment for the East of Melksham development.
- To provide Fitness Trail on open space next to new Forest & Sandridge School.
- To provide allotments in the East of Melksham Development.
- To contribute to the provision of a multi-use, traffic free path from Melksham to the bell Inn, Lacock – Wilts and Berks Canal.
- Refurbishment of the Melksham Underpass (Art Project)
- Increase of available funds for Grant Aid

420/15 **Objectives for Action Plan 2016/17: Recommended:** *This item be deferred to the Finance Committee Budget meeting on 11th January 2016.*

Meeting closed at 9.58pm

Chairman, 14th December, 2015