

Unconfirmed minutes, subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the South Mid Sussex County Local Committee

### **South Mid Sussex County Local Committee**

6 September 2016 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7pm, Oakmeeds Community College, Station Road, Burgess Hill

Present: Mr Barrett-Miles (Burgess Hill Town), Mr Griffiths (Chairman), (Hurstpierpoint and Bolney) Mrs Jones (Burgess Hill East) and Mr Petch (Hassocks and Victoria).

In attendance: Rachel Allan (Democratic Services Officer), Nick Burrell (Senior Advisor), Deborah Myers (Director of Education), Richard Speller (Highways Area Manager) and Gulu Sibanda (Principal Community Officer).

### **Welcome**

26. The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and explained the remit of the South Mid Sussex County Local Committee and introduced the Committee and officers.

27. The Chairman asked the member for Hassocks and Victoria to draw the audience's attention to the 'Safer in our hands' campaign in response to plans by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's office to look at taking over West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. He advised that West Sussex County Council (WSCC) believed that West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service should remain under the control of the County Council where it sat at the heart of the authority's Communities and Public Protection Directorate, fully integrated with all services.

### **Declarations of Interest**

28. No declarations of interest were declared.

### **Minutes**

29. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 May 2016 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

### **Urgent Matters**

30. There were no urgent matters.

### **Talk With Us Community Forum**

31. The Chairman invited questions and comments from members of the public.

32. Over sixty people in the audience had attended in order to raise their

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concerns with members of the Committee about the provision of Woodlands Meed College. The Chairman declared his previous interest in Woodlands Meed and background to this declaration.

33. The Chairman introduced Deborah Myers, the new Director of Education & Skills to the public in attendance prior to inviting questions.

34. Deborah Myers introduced herself to the committee and public attendees and explained that she was representing West Sussex CC as the new Director of Education & Skills having been in the role for four days. She explained she had wanted to attend the meeting as she was aware of the issues and concerns of parents and the community and whilst was unable to add anything in addition to what was in the public domain, was keen to listen first hand to comments and concerns to enable her to take these back to county council officers so that full and considered responses could be prepared to address the issues raised.

35. The following issues were raised:

- Concern that there was no facility for young people over the age of 14 at the Woodlands Meed School site.
- Question regarding why the college had lost the land that had been promised to Woodlands Meed, as it had now had been leased to Burgess Hill Academy.
- Concern over the quality of facilities at Woodlands Meed School.
- Questions concerning whether and when the County Council would provide a facility to Woodlands Meed for over 14s, as promised.
- How the monies for a new school for Woodlands Meed could be sought, and what parents, governors and friends of the school could do to help.
- If funding was made available, where would a new school be placed as the other land had now been leased. Also, how much funding could Woodlands Meed expect to receive and by when.
- Concern on the emotional and educational effect that disruption has had on the children that attended Woodlands Meed.
- The Headteacher of the school pressed the urgency of this issue, and parents questioned who would be driving through any planned works.
- Member of the audience felt that Oakmeeds College had been prioritised ahead of Woodlands Meed.
- When the agreement with Oakmeeds College was signed, a member of the audience asked why the land in question wasn't taken out of the agreement.
- If arrangements had being made to use the original land for Woodlands Meed, would monies need to be paid to Oakmeeds College in order to get the land back.
- Why the car park at Oakmeeds College could not be used instead for expansion plans.
- Whether Section 106 monies could be used to fund changes to Woodlands Meed.
- An invitation was given to members and officers to meet with parents, governors and the school to listen to the concerns of parents and children at Woodlands Meed. A request was made to organise a suitable date within 10 working days.

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34. Members of the Committee explained that they understood that this was a funding issue, and would be working with colleagues to understand when and how money would be made available for the school. A meeting had already taken place to discuss improvements to the College site. The Chairman explained that once he was able to confirm that land had been identified for the school he would inform Woodlands Meed. Members confirmed that they would continue to lobby the Cabinet Member and MP to resolve this issue.

35. Members of the Committee advised that officers were currently looking at Section 106 funding for the whole of West Sussex to ensure that monies were not lost that could be used for the South Mid Sussex area. The Committee encouraged those who were concerned about Woodlands Meed to write to their MP about this issue to help lobby for funding.

36. A member of the public asked what could be done to solve unregulated parking on Chanctonbury Road. The Highways Area Manager advised that this scheme should be delivered in 2016/17.

37. A member of Clayton Parish Council expressed concern that there was only one TRO for the South Mid Sussex area, and reminded the Committee about the traffic issues on Clayton Hill and Underhill Lane.

38. The Chairman confirmed that two written questions had been received as follows:

- Manor Road Parking: The Chairman advised that Manor Road would be discussed as part of Item 8, Traffic Regulation Orders.
- Wivelsfield Station: There was a concern raised in relation to accessibility at this station, specifically the London bound platform. The Democratic Services officer agreed to provide a response on this matter.

39. Resolved – that a letter be written from the South Mid Sussex County Local Committee to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills setting out the questions and concerns of parents, teachers and governors of Woodlands Meed School.

### **Progress Statement**

40. Richard Speller (Highways Area Manager) introduced a statement of progress following the May 2016 Committee meeting.

41. He advised the Committee that he would arrange to meet Clayton Parish Council about issues on Underhill Lane. He added that applications had been received for the community highways scheme and explained the ongoing process for this.

42. The Highways Area Manager advised that the speed indicator device had been moved around the South Mid Sussex area. He explained that data was now being collected, and as the County was an evidenced based organisation, data could be used in conjunction with anecdotal evidence.

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43. In relation to Section 106 monies, the Highways Area Manager advised that work was ongoing to identify section 106 monies. He added that the St Wilfrid's Bridge project was on hold at present, and he would update the Committee at a future meeting on this issue.

44. The Committee questioned whether a second speed indicator device could be purchased for the South Mid Sussex area. *Action: Democratic Services Officer to bring information on this to the next meeting.*

45. The Committee noted the progress statement.

### **Proposed Changes to County Local Committees**

46. Nick Burrell (Senior Advisor, Democratic Services) introduced a report that explained the proposed changes to County Local Committees. The Cabinet Member for Corporate Relations had agreed to deliver a Democratic Services savings target of £378,000 for 2016/18 as part of the Council's two-year savings programme. It had been proposed that savings of £165,400 came out of the County Local Committees budget over the next two years.

47. He advised the Committee that the proposals had been developed by an Executive Task and Finish Group and had been endorsed by Performance and Finance Select Committee. Further engagement had also been carried out with County Council members and town, parish, district and borough councils to help inform the county councils governance Committee's deliberations on 12 September before a decision was taken in at Full County Council in October 2016. He added that further discussions were required to be held concerning grant funding allocation, format for traffic regulation orders allocation and the format for infrastructure priorities allocation.

48. The current proposals, as part of the consultation, would mean that the South Mid Sussex area would also include Haywards Heath, Cuckfield & Lucastes, Ansty & Staplefield This would result in Mr Griffiths reducing from sitting on 2 to 1 Committees. However, after listening to feedback as part of the consultation, an alternative option had been developed, to also include Horsted Keynes and Lindfield urban/rural.

49. The Committee advised that neither proposal was not suitable for the South Mid Sussex area as it would mean that the geographical area would be too large and cover too many parishes, therefore the concept of local would be lost. Members added that having two large towns in one CLC area would lead to competition for funding within a meeting in public, and added that parishes valued the opportunity to raised issues at a local level.

50. The Committee noted the Report.

### **Prioritisation of Traffic Regulation Orders**

51. The Committee considered the Report by the Director of Highways and

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Transport and Head of Highways Operations that recommended that it agreed to progress the one highest scoring TRO priority from the list attached at Appendix A, subject to any adjustments made at the meeting and agreed to review any existing incomplete requests at the next round of CLC's.

52. The Highways Area Manager advised the Committee that in March 2016 a new process for the proposal and prioritisation of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) by County Local Committees (CLCs) had been implemented. The new process aimed to be clear, transparent and sustainable and aligned with County Council Policy and the future West Sussex operating model. The new process concerned non-complex TRO proposals. More complex TROs would be considered for progression as a highways improvement scheme and so fall outside the new process.

53. He advised the Committee on the TROs that were currently being progressed for the South Mid Sussex area, and that more information was required for current applications in order the Committee to make a decision, therefore he recommended that this item be deferred to the Committee's next meeting. This included discussions on Manor Road, as raised through Item 5.

54. Resolved – that the Committee agrees to defer the decision relating to Traffic Regulation Orders to its next meeting.

### **Community Initiative Funding**

55. The Committee welcomed representatives from The Shed, who explained the organisation and the work it did in the South Mid Sussex area and asked the Committee to support their Members Big Society Fund bid.

56. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy (copy appended to the signed minutes) which detailed applications for Community Initiative Funding.

57. It was confirmed that for the 2016/17 financial year, South Mid Sussex CLC had an allocation of £25,615.52, which included a rollover of £2,170.52 from 2015/16. £4,775.00 had been awarded including an urgent action in August, leaving a balance of £20,840.52 still to be allocated.

58. The Committee debated the respective merits of the projects for which funding was sought.

59. Resolved –

(a) That the following applications are approved: -

**1036/SMS-** Summerhaven, £905.00, to provide general and IT equipment, costs for the 1st Anniversary ceremony and towards hire of premises.

**1046/SMS-** St John the Evangelist, £1,905.00, to provide safety lighting for a public footpath.

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**Authority School Governors**

60. The Chairman confirmed that there were no nominations for members to consider, but drew the Committee's attention to the list of the current vacancies for Local Authority Governors in the CLC area.

**Date of Next Meeting**

61. The Chairman reported that the next meeting of the Committee was currently being rescheduled and a new date would be advised as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Chairman