

**WEST JOINT COMMITTEE**

26 June 2008

*Held at Studley Village Hall**Meeting commenced: 6.00 pm Meeting ended: 9.25 pm*

Present: Councillor Sir William Lawrence Bt (Chairman) S Adams, G Atkinson, P Barnes, P Beaman, L Bowring, T Dixon, N Knapman, H McCarthy, R Hobbs, V Hobbs, J Horner, K James, S Juned, L Marshall, E Payne, D Pemberton, B Slaughter, S Thirlwell, L Topham, M Weddell and H Wright

**1. Appointment of Chair**

Two nominations were received for the appointment of Chair of the Committee and, following a show of hands, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor W Lawrence be appointed Chair of the Committee for the Council Year 2008/09.

*Councillor Lawrence thereupon took the Chair.*

**2. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

Two nominations were received for the appointment of Vice-Chair of the Committee and, following a show of hands, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor G Atkinson be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the Council Year 2008/09.

**3. Disclosure of Interests**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Adams	Grant Applications: Act.com and Party in the Park Alcester Town Plan, as member of the Town Council	Personal
Atkinson	Grant Application: Earlswood Tennis Club	Personal
Dixon	Grant Application: Orchestra of the Swan	Personal
Knapman	Alcester Town Plan, as member of the Town Council	Personal
Marshall	Grant Application: Henley in Arden Guild Trust Hall	Personal and prejudicial, as a trustee
McCarthy	Studley Youth Club	Personal
Payne	Grant Applications: Act.com and Party in the Park	Personal and prejudicial
Slaughter	Grant Application: Rotary Club, Stratford-upon-Avon	Personal

Thirwell	Grant Application: Henley in Arden Guild Trust Hall	Personal and prejudicial, as a trustee
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#### **4. Terms of Reference and Standing Orders**

The joint report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, Warwickshire County Council and the Monitoring Officer and Solicitor to the Council, Stratford on Avon District Council was considered.

A question was raised in relation to the taking of a Committee recorded vote and it was clarified that there was no provision for this under the present Standing Orders. However, the intention was to review the Standing Orders after 12 month's operation and this could be an issue that the Officers could be asked to consider.

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the Terms of Reference and Standing Orders be noted.

#### **5. Names of the Joint Committees**

Members were asked to consider the name that should be given to this new Joint Committee.

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the name of the Committee be West Joint Committee

#### **6. Public Question Time**

At the invitation of the Chair, those members of the public present were invited, to address the Committee in respect of their revenue or capital grant applications. In accordance with Minute 10 below, the Committee and public were informed of the current status of the grants scheme and were advised unless the application was considered to be time critical then the preferred option would be for the Committee to defer the applications to their next meeting (18 September 2008).

Accordingly, the following addressed the Committee on their grant application and were asked to indicate if their application was time critical:

Mike Gerard – The Greig Hall  
Douglas Bridgewater – Henley in Arden Guildhall Trust  
Macer Nash – Bidford on Avon Cricket Club  
Trevor Crisp – Young Enterprise Scheme  
Nancy Singleton – ACT.com  
Trish Sawko – Party in the Park  
Brian Stembridge – Tanworth in Arden Village Hall  
Jean Keogh – Earlswood Village Hall Trust  
Judy Wilde – Henley in Arden Tennis Club

Notice of one question had been received:

Elisabeth Uggerløse, Clerk to the Parish Council asked:

"Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council understands that the decision made by County Council's Cabinet on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June, is to continue the of work on service improvements and efficiencies through exploring the benefits of closer working arrangements with Hereford and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service. This work will recommence once a joint member / officer review group has been established, and that the Leader of County Council has stated that this does NOT include looking at Fire Station closures.

The Parish Council has spoken to the Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Hobbs, and received an assurance that, subject to the merger being agreed and going ahead, there will be NO CLOSURES in Warwickshire. The Parish Council would like to express its appreciation to Cllr. Hobbs for replying to its query.

Can the Committee confirm the Parish Council's understanding of this important matter is correct?"

The Chair provided the joint response of the District and County Councils:

"At the Cabinet meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008, Cabinet agreed that work would re-commence on the Options Appraisal. When introducing the paper the Leader of the County Council confirmed that this element of work will focus on two of the three options under consideration. These cover greater collaboration and the possibility of a combination scheme involving Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority (WFRA) and Hereford and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Authority (HWFRA). The third option was a standalone option, the ramifications of which are appreciated by WCC members.

At the same meeting Councillor Hobbs was asked to confirm that there will never be fire station closures in Warwickshire. In response he confirmed that the closure of fire stations was not being considered at this time. However, he could not state that there has never been any consideration of fire station closures in the future. Councillor Hobbs has been consistent in this message, as endorsed by various press reports across the County.

When discussing this matter with the representatives of Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council, Councillor Hobbs endeavored to explain that consideration will be given to collaborative arrangements and the possible combination of the two fire authorities. The closure of fire stations, either as a consequence of closer collaboration or combination or the standalone option, will not feature in the review.

Meetings are being arranged to discuss the implications of closer working or combination with local fire and rescue crews and elected representatives. The timescales for these meetings are to be confirmed."

## **7. State of the District Report**

The Committee considered the report of the Leader of the Council on the State of the District.

Members received a short presentation that provided comparative demographic and economic data on a ward basis within the Joint Committee's area. In

relation to social deprivation, Members noted that there was a disparity between the information and the way it was considered as part of the consideration in relation to grant applications. This would be something that would be considered during deliberations on agreeing a new joint grants system. Also, Members were keen to see a report being brought forward to a future meeting on Alcester and Studley as improvement areas.

**RESOLVED:**

That the 'State of the District' report be noted.

**8. Alcester Town Plan**

The Committee considered the report presenting the Alcester Town Plan as adopted by Alcester Town Council on 5 February 2008. In bringing forward the plan, officers were fully supportive of the plan and the action points contained within it. The Plan supplemented the policy framework already provided by the Vision for Alcester document.

Whilst there was no formal mechanism currently in place for the County Council to approve the Plan, all Members on the Joint Committee were keen to show their support and accordingly asked for the officer's recommendation to be amended.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Alcester Town Plan be adopted as a local information source to offer advice to the relevant departments of both the District and County Councils;
- (2) That the Town Plan be adopted as a material consideration in processing planning applications, in accordance with Policy COM.1 of the Local Plan Review; and,
- (3) That the Town Plan steering group, Town Council and the residents of Alcester, Kinwarton and Arrow with Weethley parishes be commended for preparing their Town Plan and that they are encouraged to implement and review their Action Plan.

**9. Funding Criteria**

The Joint Committee considered a report advising on the need to review the current arrangements to provide for a new combined District and County grants scheme. A working group comprising Members from across the three Joint Committees would undertake this work.

Members expressed their view that careful consideration should be given to consideration of applications from 'private members club' in that they did not wish to see local organisations, such as cricket clubs and football clubs, which were providing benefit to the community, being excluded from receiving grant payments.

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposals for operating a combined grant scheme be approved and that the Chair and the Vice-Chair, together with Councillor Daren

Pemberton represent the Joint Committee on a working party to be held on the 1 July 2008 at 2.45 pm.

## 10. Grants funding

The Committee considered applications for revenue and capital grants in the light of

- the District and County Councils agreed Scheme,
- the priorities established by the District Council's Corporate Aims, and
- available budgets.

The Committee had been addressed by:

The options available to the Committee with regard to the applications included offering a grant of the amount requested, offering a different amount or refusing the application.

### RESOLVED:

That the Joint Committee determined these applications as follows.

<b>Decision No. and Portfolio Holder</b>	Subject matter and decision		<b>Overview/ Scrutiny Committee to consider any call-in</b>
<b>1/2008</b>	<b>Revenue Grants</b>		<b>OSC B</b>
	<b>Applicant:</b> Project:  Total Cost: Grant Requested: Grant Approved: Reason For decision:	<b>Summer Activity Voucher Scheme</b> Annual free activity vouchers to young people whose families are in receipt of means-tested benefits. £20,000  £1,700  <b>£1,700</b>  The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme, the District Council's Corporate Aims and for the criteria for a County Council grant.	

<p><b>789</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant:</b> Project:</p> <p>Total Cost: Grant Requested: Grant Approved: Reason for decision:</p>	<p><b>Alcester &amp; Arden Folk Festival</b> To stage the 2008 event and to help, for example to pay for artists, venues advertising and marketing. £12,500</p> <p>£3,000</p> <p><b>£3,000</b></p> <p>The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme, the District Council's Corporate Aims and for the criteria for a County Council grant.</p>	
<p><b>823</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant:</b> Project:</p> <p>Total Cost: Grant Requested: Grant Approved: Reason for decision:</p>	<p><b>Art.com</b> Support of a three year healthy eating project encompassing nutrition and food safety skills. £4,400</p> <p>£1,540</p> <p><b>£1,540</b></p> <p>The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme, the District Council's Corporate Aims and for the criteria for a County Council grant.</p>	
<p><b>830</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant:</b> Project:</p> <p>Total Cost: Grant Requested: Grant Approved: Reason for decision:</p>	<p><b>Earlswood Village Hall</b> Refurbish committee rooms, stage, entrance halls and redecoration of main hall. £4,260</p> <p>£2,135</p> <p><b>£1,000</b></p> <p>The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme, the District Council's Corporate Aims and for the criteria for a County Council grant.</p>	
<p><b>842</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant:</b> Project:</p> <p>Total Cost: Grant Requested: Grant Approved: Reason for decision:</p>	<p><b>Party in the Park *</b> Community day organised by local people. £5,984</p> <p>£3,000</p> <p><b>£2094</b></p> <p>The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme, the District Council's Corporate Aims</p>	

		and for the criteria for a County Council grant	
<b>782</b>	<p><b>Applicant:</b></p> <p>Project:</p> <p>Total Cost: Grant</p> <p>Requested: Grant</p> <p>Approved:</p> <p>Reason for decision:</p>	<p><b>Young Enterprise South Warwickshire *</b></p> <p>Provide educational programmes in primary and secondary schools, for experience on how business works. £21,250</p> <p>£1,360</p> <p><b>Deferred until next meeting</b></p> <p>The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme, the District Council's Corporate Aims and for the criteria for a County Council grant.</p>	
<b>828</b>	<p><b>Applicant:</b></p> <p>Project:</p> <p>Total Cost: Grant</p> <p>Requested: Grant</p> <p>Approved:</p> <p>Reason for decision:</p>	<p><b>Orchestra of the Swan</b></p> <p>Enable a series of workshops and performances in the community venues. £23,760</p> <p>£1,870</p> <p><b>No Grant</b></p> <p>The Committee voted by 11 votes to 4, with 1 abstention, to refuse a grant application on the basis that the residents of the Joint Committee's area would not benefit from the work of this organisation.</p>	
<b>843</b>	<p>Applicant: Project:</p> <p>Total Cost: Grant</p> <p>Requested: Grant</p> <p>Approved:</p> <p>Reason for decision:</p>	<p><b>ILEAP</b></p> <p>Comprehensive programme of leisure activities for disabled and non-disabled people during the Summer Holidays. £23,151</p> <p>£850</p> <p><b>£850</b></p> <p>The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme, the District Council's Corporate Aims and for the criteria for a County Council grant</p>	
<b>2/2008</b>	<b>Capital Grants</b>		OSC B
<b>801</b>	<p><b>Applicant:</b></p> <p>Project:</p> <p>Total Cost:</p>	<p><b>Tanworth in Arden Village Hall Trust</b></p> <p>Provide better storage facilities to improve the hall's value for its users. £14,500</p>	

	Grant Requested: Grant Approved: Reason For decision:	£4,000 <b>£3,000</b> The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme, the District Council's Corporate Aims and for the criteria for a County Council grant.	
<b>806</b>	<b>Applicant:</b> Project:  <b>Total Cost:</b> Grant Requested: Grant Approved: Reason For decision:	<b>Henley in Arden Tennis Club</b> Upgrade of facilities including replacing dangerous floodlights and replacing slippery tarmac areas on courts.  £61,525 £15,000 <b>£15,000</b> The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme, the District Council's Corporate Aims and for the criteria for a County Council grant	
<b>811</b>	<b>Applicant:</b> Project:  <b>Total Cost:</b> Grant Requested: Grant Approved: Reason for decision:	<b>The Greig Hall *</b> Refurbishment of the internal facilities of the Hall. £649,000 £123,750 <b>No funding</b> The Joint Committee considered that the risk on this project was too high and they were concerned that the applicants had failed to secure alternative sources of funding.	
<b>818</b>	<b>Applicant:</b> Project:  <b>Total Cost:</b> Grant Requested: Grant Approved: Reason for decision:	<b>Henley in Arden Guild Hall Trust</b> Creation of a formal garden and open-air auditorium and improve accessibility. £50,000 £15,000 <b>£10,000</b> The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme, the District Council's Corporate Aims and for the criteria for a County Council grant	
<b>819</b>	Applicant: Project:	<b>Bidford on Avon Cricket Club</b> To provide a new artificial cricket	



	Total Cost: Grant Requested: Grant Approved: Reason for decision:	pitch surface. £1,422 £600 <b>£600</b> The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme, the District Council's Corporate Aims and for the criteria for a County Council grant	
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\* Note: in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public were excluded from the meeting during Members' questions on the information contained within the confidential papers as it was considered that there would likely be disclosure to them of exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the said Act (as amended). The public were readmitted to the meeting when consideration of the applications resumed.

#### **11. Dog Control Order**

Consideration was given to a proposal to introduce a Dog Control Order under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to replace the existing powers and to provide improved powers for enforcement against dog fouling across the whole of the Stratford District.

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the Joint Committee approves the adoption of a District wide Dog Order Control.

#### **12. Venues, dates and start times of future meetings**

##### **RESOLVED:**

That meetings of the Committee scheduled to be held during 2008/09 commence at 6.00pm, at venues around the district on the following dates:

17 July 2008  
18 September 2008  
11 December 2008  
12 March 2009

#### **13. Provisional Future Agenda Items**

The Committee requested that the following items be considered at future meetings of the Committee:

- Vision Group
- Deprivation mapping

CHAIRMAN

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