

# SE.1

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT THE CIVIC HALL,  
WANTAGE ON TUESDAY,  
13TH JUNE, 2006 AT 7.00PM**

**Open to the Public, including the Press**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Councillor Elsa Boyce, Terry Cox (Chairman), Richard Farrell (Vice-Chair), Elsa Boyce, Terry Fraser, Eddy Goldsmith, Jenny Hannaby, Joyce Hutchinson, Margaret Turner and Derek Verdin

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Steve Culliford, Lorna Edwards and Toby Warren

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Nil

SE.1 ELECTION OF A CHAIR

*RESOLVED*

*that Councillor Terry Cox be elected Chairman of the South East Area Committee for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.*

SE.2 ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR

*RESOLVED*

*that Councillor Richard Farrell be elected Vice-Chair of the South East Area Committee for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.*

SE.3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jim Moley, David Phillips, Ginnie Stock, Richard Stone and Pam Westwood.

SE.4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 March 2006 were adopted and signed as a correct record, subject to resolution (c) in minute SE.21 'Community Grants' being amended in the 'Grant' column to read '£500 subject to a grant being awarded by either East or West Challow or Childrey Parish Council...'

SE.5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Derek Verdin declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 9 'Community Grants' regarding the grant application from the Wantage, Grove and District Twinning Association as he was its Secretary (minute SE.9 refers). Councillor Jenny Hannaby declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the same item regarding an application from the same Twinning Association as she was Vice-Chairman of its German Group. Councillor Hannaby also declared a personal interest in the application from the Camel Pre-School as she was a Governor of Stockham Primary School where the Pre-School premises were based. Councillor Hannaby also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from the Wantage Nursing Home Charitable Trust as she was a Trustee. Councillor Joyce Hutchinson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from the Camel Pre-

School as she was Chairman of the Joint Steering Group managing the project. Councillor Margaret Turner declared a personal interest in two applications in Harwell as she was the Ward Member: the Harwell Parochial Charities and the property called The Dell. Finally, Councillor Terry Fraser declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from the Hendreds Twinning Group as he was a Committee Member.

SE.6 URGENT BUSINESS AND CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman agreed to accept one item as a matter of urgent business: a grant application from the Wantage Nursing Home Charitable Trust. The reason this was urgent was because the Trust wished to proceed with the building scheme as soon as possible. This item was considered as part of item 9 'Community Grants'.

SE.7 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

None

SE.8 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

None

SE.9 COMMUNITY GRANTS

(Councillor Derek Verdin and Councillor Jenny Hannaby both declared personal and prejudicial interests in the application for a grant from the Wantage, Grove and District Twinning Association and in accordance with Standing Order 34, they left the meeting during its consideration. Councillor Hannaby also declared a personal interest in the application from the Camel Pre-School and in accordance with Standing Order 34, she remained in the meeting during its consideration. Councillor Hannaby also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from the Wantage Nursing Home Charitable Trust and left the meeting during its consideration. Councillor Joyce Hutchinson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from the Camel Pre-School and left the meeting during its consideration. Councillor Margaret Turner declared personal interests in an application from the Harwell Parochial Charities and from the owners of a property called The Dell in Harwell. She remained in the meeting during their consideration. Finally, Councillor Terry Fraser declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from the Hendreds Twinning Group and left the meeting during its consideration.)

The Committee received and considered report 17/06 of the Strategic Director, which set out details of six applications for community grants. The budget available to the Committee in 2006/07 was £29,273.88.

The report set out detail of two twinning partnership grants payable under service level agreements. Both Wantage, Grove and District Twinning Association and the Hendreds Twinning Group had to provide sufficient information to allow the grants to be paid. It was noted that sufficient further information had now been provided and therefore the Committee considered that the grants could be paid as set out in the report. Members asked that a list of service level agreements affecting the South East Area Committee's budget should be submitted to the next meeting. It was noted that the only agreements committing sums from the Committee's budget were these two twinning partnerships.

The Committee then considered the community grants applications. The urgent item, a grant application from the Wantage Nursing Home Charitable Trust, was also considered. Members were aware of the need to bear in mind the limited budget resources to allocate to grant

applicants. Although Members wished to allocate higher grant awards, the budget for the year would not allow it.

Members considered that the Committee's stance regarding applications from owners of historic buildings, adopted last year, should be continued for a further year due to the limited budget available. The Committee would consider support for the preservation of listed historic buildings that were privately owned (outside the areas of the Wantage and Grove Joint Environmental Trusts) where the building had an element of community use. Applications from owners of private buildings would be rejected if there was no community use of that building. It was noted that one other Area Committee had adopted this stance. As a result of this decision to continue the practice adopted last year, three applications for works to historic buildings were refused.

Turning to the application from the Wantage Nursing Home Charitable Trust, Members asked whether a grant made by the Committee would be returned if the project failed and the bank called in the loan. It was agreed that, although Members were minded to award a grant of £5,000, this should be deferred pending the receipt of legal advice on a possible grant condition about how the grant could be returned in the event that the project failed.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) *that it be noted that the Committee's Community Grants budget for 2006/07 is £29,273.88;*
- (b) *that it be noted that £4,446 has been allocated from the budget at the Committee meeting held on 14 March 2006 towards additional parish cleansing and the Wantage Summer Festival 2006, leaving a budget of £24,827.88 remaining;*
- (c) *that payments of the following grants under Service Level Agreements be agreed as follows (by five votes to nil with one abstention):*
  - *Wantage, Grove and District Twinning Association £2,000*
  - *Hendreds Twinning Group £500*
- (d) *that the following community grant applications be approved:*

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Grant</u>
<i>Ardington and Lockinge Parish Council</i>	<i>Provision of fencing, a path and safety surfacing at the new play area</i>	<i>£2,000 (by 8 votes to nil) Social agenda and Town and Village Priority</i>
<i>Camel Pre-School, Wantage</i>	<i>Refurbishment of facilities</i>	<i>£2,500 (by 7 votes to nil with one abstention) Social agenda and Access priority</i>
<i>Harwell Parochial Charities re Frances Geering Almshouses</i>	<i>Restoration of brickwork on front elevation of the Almshouses</i>	<i>£500, subject to a reasonable grant from the Parish Council (by 7 votes to nil with one abstention) Social agenda and Town and Village Priority</i>

- (e) *that the following application be approved in principle, subject to the receipt of legal advice:*

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Reason</u>
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# SE.4

<i>Wantage Nursing Home Charitable Trust</i>	<i>Purchase of land to build a new nursing home</i>	<i>The Committee is minded to award a grant of £5,000, subject to the receipt of legal advice on how the Council can add a condition to return the grant if the scheme should fail (by 8 votes to nil) Social agenda and Town and Village Priority</i>
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(f) *that the Committee will consider support for the preservation of listed historic buildings that are privately owned (outside the areas of the Wantage and Grove Joint Environmental Trusts) where the building has an element of community use. For the 2006/07 financial year, applications from owners of private buildings will be rejected if there is no community use of that building;*

(g) *that, as a result of the decision in (c) above, the following applications be refused:*

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Reason</u>
<i>Mr Axel-Berg re Sparsholt Court, West Hendred</i>	<i>Re-building part of garden wall and re-pointing the remainder</i>	<i>There is no community use of this building</i>
<i>Mr and Mrs Jenkinson re The Dell, Harwell</i>	<i>Replacing thatch on rear and west elevations and re-ridging</i>	<i>There is no community use of this building</i>
<i>Mr Brock re Winding Way Cottage, Blewbury</i>	<i>Replacing the thatched ridge</i>	<i>There is no community use of this building</i>

(h) *that a list of service level agreements affecting the South East Area Committee's budget should be submitted to the next meeting.*

## SE.10 PROSPECTUS TO TARGET GRANTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOUTH EAST AREA

The Committee received and considered report 18/06 of the Strategic Director regarding a draft prospectus to enable the Committee to target its grants. The prospectus was designed to make potential applicants more aware of the Committee's priorities. It was designed to fit in with the Vale Community Strategy, the priorities of which were drafted following an extensive community consultation.

Members supported the production of this prospectus, believing that it summarised the Committee's priorities. Members asked that it be amended to include the decision made earlier in the meeting that the Committee would consider support for the preservation of listed historic buildings that were privately owned (outside the areas of the Wantage and Grove Joint Environmental Trusts) where the building had an element of community use. Applications from owners of private buildings would be rejected if there was no community use of that building. Also, Members asked that the second bullet point under the heading 'Environment' should be amended to read 'additional street cleansing by the parish councils in the South East of the Vale, with the exception of Wantage and Grove'. Members understood that Wantage and Grove had different arrangements with the Council.

It was intended to publicise the prospectus and undertake a survey at the year end, asking for views from those groups which did not apply for grants during the year. The outcome of this survey could be used to update the prospectus for the following year. This way, the Area Committee could demonstrate its community leadership role by supporting projects that

promoted community self-help and were consistent with the Vale Community Strategy's priorities. The prospectus would be able to guide applicants and the Committee also but it was recognised that each application would be determined on its own merits. The Committee would be free to support an application for a project not within the prospectus if it wished.

It was noted that the Chair of the Executive had asked for all four Area Committee prospectuses to be submitted to the Executive to ensure consistency. The Committee disagreed that the four Area Committee prospectuses should be the same. Members considered that the Executive should be informed that the Committee had adopted its prospectus, which it believed best suited the priorities of the South East Area. If the Executive believed that the Committee had missed anything, then the Committee would welcome any recommendation from the Executive for the prospectus to be further amended.

*RESOLVED*

- (a) that the South East Area Committee's prospectus for community grants in 2006/07 be approved, as appended to these minutes; and*
- (b) that the plan for creating awareness of the prospectus and monitoring its value, as set out in report 18/06, be approved.*

SE.11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 12 September 2006 at 7pm. Members noted that Chief Inspector David Purnell of Thames Valley Police wished to attend the next meeting to give a presentation on the Neighbourhood Policing Plans. Members agreed to allow this subject to it being limited to a short presentation.

**Exempt Information Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972**

None

The meeting rose at 8.17 pm

### **The South East Area Prospectus 2006/07**

The Council's South East Area Committee supports residents to develop projects which improve their community. The area covered is Wantage, Grove, Childrey, the Challows, Letcombe Bassett & Letcombe Regis, Goosey, Denchworth, Charney Bassett, Lyford, the Hanneys, Ardington, Lockinge, the Hendreds, Steventon, Milton, Harwell, Chilton, Upton and Blewbury.

The elected district councillors, who make up the membership of the South East Area Committee, have a limited budget which can be used to give small grants towards the cost of starting community projects. In the financial year 2005/06 the South East Area Committee gave grants to seventeen different projects. The grants helped with arts, sports and young peoples' activities. Grants also helped to improve community buildings, conserve historic buildings and maintain important trees.

The Committee's budget for the financial year 2006/07 is nearly £30,000. The table on the following page provides information about the kind of local community led projects that the Committee would like to support in 2006/07. The table is organised to fit with the strands (or themes) of the Vale Community Strategy. The Vale Community Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will work together to improve the quality of life of everyone who lives in, works in or visits the Vale. The table shows how the South East Area Committee plans to contribute to the Vale Community Strategy. Councillors consider that quality of life in the South East of the Vale will improve if there are more of the kinds of community projects that are listed in the table.

The South East Area Committee recognises that there are other kinds of community projects which may not be mentioned in the table. The Committee is more than willing to consider these projects, as all projects are determined according to their individual merits. However given the Committee's limited budget, it would like to focus its grant giving on projects that it feels will make an important contribution to community life.

If you are a member of a community group in the South East of the Vale who is interested in applying for a grant towards the cost of starting a priority project visit the Council's website: [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/CommunityDevelopment/GrantsAndFunding](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/CommunityDevelopment/GrantsAndFunding) or telephone the Community Strategy Officer (Direct Dial 01235 547626).

VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS OR THEMES	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRIORITIES IN THE SOUTH EAST AREA IN 2006/07</b></p> <p>The South East Area Committee aims particularly to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</p>
<b>Recreation, Culture and Leisure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arts festivals, sports activities and other events which are interesting and affordable. These can be for all ages but projects that provide young people with something to do in the evenings, weekends and holidays are of particular interest.</li> </ul>
<b>Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community transport schemes, maps and guides to encourage cycling and walking.</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pro-active housing advice for 'hard to reach' groups (young, disabled, ethnic minorities)</li> </ul>
<b>Access to Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local service directories or websites; voluntary sector advice 'road shows' visiting village halls.</li> </ul>
<b>Safe and Supportive Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects that develop peoples' energy and creativity to reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour.</li> <li>Projects that help to reassure people that the Vale is a relatively safe place so that they do not live in fear of crime.</li> </ul>
<b>Town and Village Vitality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects that encourage more people to visit, and shop in, Wantage town centre.</li> <li>Projects that encourage economic and social activity in the towns &amp; village in the South East of the Vale.</li> <li>Projects to improve community centres and village halls.</li> <li>Parish action plans in villages that do not already have them.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects that discourage the dropping of litter.</li> <li>Additional street cleansing by the parish councils in the South East of the Vale (with the exception of Wantage &amp; Grove which have different cleansing arrangements).</li> <li>Projects that encourage more re-cycling.</li> <li>Projects that help to improve the appearance of Wantage and Grove (These should also be supported by the Wantage or Grove Joint Environmental Trusts.).</li> <li>Projects that help to improve the appearance of the villages in the South East of the Vale.</li> <li>The Committee will consider support for the preservation of listed historic buildings that are privately owned (outside the areas covered by the Wantage &amp; Grove Joint Environmental Trusts.) where the building has an element of community use.</li> <li>The Committee will consider support for the maintenance of trees that are privately owned, if the trees are the subject of a tree preservation order.</li> </ul>
<b>Education and Lifelong Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects that promote learning opportunities (particularly ICT) for people of all ages.</li> <li>Projects that use local school facilities to provide wider community benefits.</li> <li>Projects that support young parents and help to give children a good start in life.</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects that encourage people of all ages to exercise more.</li> <li>Projects that support the wellbeing of elderly people.</li> </ul>