

SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Monday, 20 December 2010 commencing at 10.15 am and finishing at 12.15 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Lawrie Stratford – in the Chair

Councillor John Goddard
Councillor Patrick Greene
Councillor Stewart Lilly
Councillor Susanna Pressel
Councillor Nick Carter (In place of Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale)
Councillor Peter Jones (In place of Councillor Carol Viney)
Councillor Melinda Tilley (In place of Councillor Bill Service)
Councillor Nicholas P. Turner (In place of Councillor Alan Thompson)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Cabinet member for Safer & Stronger Communities

Officers:

Whole of meeting Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer, Director for Social & Community Services, Chief Fire Officer, Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Richard Webb,(Trading Standards); Belinda Dimmock-Smith, Sue Whitehead (Chief Executive's Office)

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and and schedule are attached to the signed Minutes.

101/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

The following apologies and temporary appointments were received:

| Apology | Temporary Appointment |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Councillor Carol Viney | Councillor Peter Jones |
| Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale | Councillor Nick Carter |

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Councillor Sajjad Hussain Malik | |
| Councillor Bill Service | Councillor Melinda Tilley |
| Councillor Alan Thompson | Councillor Nicholas Turner |

102/10 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

103/10 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE

(Agenda No. 4)

The following requests to address the meeting had been agreed.

Item 5. Service & Resource Planning – Bryony Newport, Botley resident
Geron Swann, OFVM film oxford, Centre for Digital Media

The Committee also received a written representation from The Theatre Chipping Norton in support of maintaining their grant and highlighting the work of the organisation.

104/10 SERVICE AND RESOURCE PLANNING 2011/12 - 2015/16

(Agenda No. 5)

The Committee considered a report (SSC5) containing the Business Strategies and savings proposed for their service areas.

During discussion there was overall support for the proposals put forward – locality and partnership working were seen as key to the future provision of services covered by this Committee's remit.

Community Safety (Community Safety, Fire and Rescue and Emergency Planning, Trading Standards, Safer Communities)

During discussion there was overall support for the proposals put forward. Discussion took place to reassure the future capability of the fire service. The potential of further and future partnership working arrangements were seen as critical in terms of Trading Standards and Safer Communities.

Social and Community Services (Library services, Museum services, Heritage and arts mgmt, History services, Victoria County History, Partnerships with arts orgs, The Mill and Cultural Development)

Briony Newport, a resident of Botley spoke against the proposal to close Botley Library. It would be difficult to get to other libraries by public transport and it was devastating news that it might close. She commented that the saving made was small in comparison to what was needed and the library served as a place of learning, community and solace. Local people valued the expert professional staff and the library was valued across all social groupings. Responding to a query from Councillor tilley as to whether the community could take it over Ms Newport replied that they did

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not yet know the costings; the Parish Council was to meet in January but that local people liked the library as it was.

Geron Swann, OFVM film oxford, spoke in support of the publically funded charity outlining the work that they had done. This included training 554 people and being involved in 17 productions.

During discussion there was overall support for the proposals put forward. There was much discussion regarding the future vision of a modernised library service – including a review of the mobile library services. A member raised concerns over the library proposals in terms of the continued free provision of internet services, rotation of books and loss of staff with professional library skills. A member suggested a working group review the longer term options for the Mill and Banbury Library and it was AGREED that this be picked up as part of the localities reviews.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing