

## CLERKS REPORT – JANUARY 2011

### Agenda Items

#### 5 f) Car Parking Strategy

##### *i) Decision of Wiltshire Council in regard to the Parking Strategy for Wiltshire*

The Parking Services Manager has written: 'Further to the Cabinet Report and decision of the 14<sup>th</sup> December in regard to the Parking Strategy for Wiltshire, it was agreed to implement charges for Band 4 car parks unless the Town or Parish Councils agree to a lease. The charges for Wiltshire under the strategy are set out below for your information. The specific minute states:

##### *(i) Approve the principle of the following opportunities:*

- Enable Band 3 towns to 'buy back' a small proportion of short-stay spaces from Wiltshire Council to offer as free parking spaces
- Enable Band 4 towns to take over the management of local public car parks and associated costs as an alternative to parking charges being set by Wiltshire Council

##### *(ix) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood and Planning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport, and with the advice of legal representation, to negotiate and agree the lease and legal agreement with relevant parish and town councils for implementation from 1 April 2011.*

As the Parking Services Manager responsible for the implementation of the leases or charges, I am now formally writing to you to ask you to confirm that it is your intent to enter a lease arrangement. In addition, I would appreciate it if you could let me have your comments on the 'Framework for a Lease' attached. I realise that you may have done this before but I am anxious that I should have your current thoughts. Additionally could you let me have your views on the term of the lease, renewal arrangements when that term expires and termination arrangements? I would appreciate your comments by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January so that I can start to formulate the lease and answer any questions you have on this matter.'

##### *ii) Consideration and discussion of Business Plan for Management and funding of Mere Car*

*Parks and Public Toilets* – Business Plan attached.

**6b) South Wiltshire Core Strategy Examination** – 'I write to you in relation to your representations submitted to the South Wiltshire Core Strategy. As you may be aware the Examination in to the soundness of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy was suspended in late July 2010 to allow the Council time to consider the implications of the Secretary of State's announcement of his intention to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies. Normally such a suspension would not last longer than 6 months in order to avoid uncertainty on the part of those who have submitted representations. Given that time has elapsed and further developments in the National Planning system have occurred, the Inspector considers that a Procedural Meeting should be held. Whilst there will be no formal agenda produced for the meeting it will be an opportunity to consider the recent implications of changes to National Policy and the direction South Wiltshire wish to take as a consequence of this. The meeting will be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011 within the Marlborough Room of the Red Lion Hotel, Milford Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2AN starting at 14.00. As a representor you are welcome to attend and take part in the discussions if you wish to do so. If this is the case, please would you let me know your intentions as soon as you are able so that I may ensure adequate arrangements are made for numbers attending.' Ian Kemp, Programme Officer, South Wiltshire Core Strategy Examination.

**7a) To approve Mere Parish Council's Draft Ice & Snow Clearance Programme** - attached

**10b) Invitation to attend a Wiltshire Council Budget Forum Meeting**

#### **Next year's budget - the challenges we face**

As you may be aware the council and other public sector organisations are facing tough financial challenges over the next four years. We know that some tough choices will need to be made by next April and we want to hear your views.

We have, therefore, scheduled four Budget Forums and I would like to invite you to attend one of these forums and hear your feedback and thoughts on the challenges, choices and options that the council and police face.

All our partner organisations, Area Board and Wiltshire Assembly members, and local residents are also invited to attend these forums that will focus exclusively on budget allocation and choices.

The forums will be held at;

<b>Chippenham Town Hall</b>	-	<b>Tuesday 11 January 2011</b>	<b>6 - 9pm</b>
<b>Devizes Corn Exchange</b>	-	<b>Thursday 13 January 2011</b>	<b>6 - 9pm</b>
<b>Salisbury City Hall</b>	-	<b>Tuesday 18 January 2011</b>	<b>6 - 9pm</b>
<b>Trowbridge County Hall</b>	-	<b>Wednesday 19 January 2011</b>	<b>6 - 9pm</b>

### **Setting the scene**

I thought it may be helpful to provide a brief summary of the council's current position.

We are currently working on a business plan to manage and plan for the challenges ahead.

Our plan focuses on;

- ☐ Making Savings
- ☐ Protecting the vulnerable in our communities
- ☐ Investing in our priority services, and,
- ☐ Helping communities to help themselves

We have known for some time that central government will reduce our grant funding by approximately 25% over the next 4 years and our plan sets out how we will manage this reduction. It also addresses other cost pressures we face as a result of changes such as the growth in ageing population, and, how we can make some investment and improvements in our priority services.

The Chancellor's announcement that the cuts would be 28.4% over the next 4 years meant our plan was in the right ball park. However, what we don't know is the amount that the funding will be cut in the first year.

This may mean the need to find additional savings by next April. It does not change the overall savings that we will need to find over the next four years, but it does mean that we may need to find savings earlier than we had anticipated and have planned for.

The announcement on the amount of grant funding the council will receive is now due on the 17 December, so we will know the impact of the cuts by the time we hold the budget forums.

What we do know is that tough decisions will need to be made and we want to hear your views and thoughts on the options for making savings and delivering some services differently.

I hope you are able to attend one of the forums and I look forward to seeing you.

Jane Scott,  
Leader, Wiltshire Council.

# Information Items

## Planning Application Decisions:

**Parish:** MERE  
**Application Number:** S / 2010 / 1515  
**Location:** BROOK COTTAGE SOUTHBROOK, MERE, WARMINSTER.  
**Proposal:** VARY CONDITION 2 OF S/2002/0876 (THE MATERIALS TO BE USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EXTERNAL SURFACES OF THE EXTENSION HEREBY PERMITTED SHALL MATCH  
**Agent:**  
**Case Officer:** Lucy Flindell  
**Category Of Application:** VARIATION CONDITION  
**Decision:** APPROVED **Date of Decision:** 02/12/2010

## Newsletters, Magazines & Periodicals

Affordable Rural Housing: A Practical Guide for Parish Council – produced by Wiltshire Rural Housing Association Ltd.