

WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES OF THE WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2012 AT ASSEMBLY ROOM - DEVIZES TOWN HALL, DEVIZES, SN10 1BN.

Present:

Cllr Junab Ali, Cllr Andrew Bennett, Cllr Richard Britton (Chairman), Cllr Chris Caswill, Cllr Brian Ford (Vice Chairman), Malcolm Grubb, Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr Keith Humphries, Cllr Peter Hutton, Amanda Newbery, Cllr Stephen Petty (Substitute), Cllr Pip Ridout and Cllr Bob Wright

Also Present:

Angus Macpherson – Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Commissioner, Kieran Kilgallen, Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and John Quinton, Head of Democratic Services, Wiltshire Council

1 Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first formal meeting of the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel. At the Chairman's request everyone introduced themselves.

Apologies were received from Cllr Brian Dalton.

Cllr Dalton was substituted by Cllr Stephen Petty.

2 Public Participation

There were no questions or statements.

It was noted that the deadline for submitting questions was too soon after the agenda was published and that should this be changed to three days within the Terms of Reference. The Chairman confirmed he would deal with requests for questions that had been received after the deadline very sympathetically.

3 Minutes and matters arising

Decision

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced there would be a press photo of the Panel with the Commissioner at 12.00 pm.

6 To welcome the new Police and Crime Commissioner

The new Commissioner, Angus Macpherson introduced himself and expressed his wish for a long and fruitful relationship with the Panel. He referred the Panel to his pre-election paper which would form the basis for his plan and confirmed that he saw his role as not just about policing but running through the whole justice system.

He detailed his initial focus, taking into account he was only three working days in the role, as being:-

- Recruitment of a Chief Constable
- Setting up a robust complaints process, to include the recruitment of an independent person
- Consultations, including key partners, discussing public consultation and the statutory requirement for consultation with victims
- Attending Area Boards and localities – how to achieve this

He explained that his website had been up and running almost immediately after his election thanks to the work of his office and on which his diary would be available to view, and he would also have a facebook page.

In response to questions he confirmed that at present there was no Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, however expressions of interest had been received from a number of bodies wishing to represent them. He would bring a paper back to the Panel summarising the proposal for the complaints process and he confirmed his commitment to the voluntary sector.

Draft PCC / PCP Protocol

The Commissioner raised his concern over the draft protocol going beyond the statutory understanding of the relationship and explained as it was a document

for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner he felt that officers should finalise the content.

A suggestion from Kieran Kilgallen, Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner proposed that the document be split into two sections, one for the legislation and the other for the qualitative process.

Decision

The Panel agreed that officers should redraft the protocol and that it should differentiate between the statutory processes and the relationship issues with the revised draft being available for the next Panel meeting.

Workplans

The Commissioner confirmed that his office was now in possession of key dates and asked that officers review these and re-circulate the forward workplan.

The Panel discussed whether there was a need to rotate venues throughout the area.

Decision

The Panel agreed:-

- **That officers review and align the workplans of the PCC and the PCP.**
- **To keep with the current schedule of venues as seen in the agenda and review at a later meeting.**

Any other business with the Commissioner

The Commissioner asked the Panel to consider holding the confirmatory hearing for the Chief Constable as soon as possible after notification of the proposed appointment to avoid candidates applying elsewhere

It was proposed that officers working on dates for the hearing to be within 5 days of the interview date

Decision

The Panel agreed for officers to schedule the confirmatory hearing within 5 days of the interview date.

7 Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure

John Quinton, Head of Democratic Services at Wiltshire Council introduced the item and explained that changes had been made to accommodate new regulations that had come into force and the confirmation of the fourth Swindon Borough Council member.

Clarity was sought on who appointed the Chairman in section 1 of the Rules of Procedure on and it was recommended the words “by the panel” be inserted in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2.

It was recommended that paragraph 3.5 of the Panel Arrangements be amended to include the words “at least”.

Decision

The Panel approved the Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure subject to the amendments below:-

- **In the Panel Arrangements, paragraph 3.5 be amended to read:**

“The Panel shall also include at least two independent members co-opted by the Panel.”

- **In the Rules of Procedure, paragraph 1.1 be amended to read:**

“The chairman of the Police and Crime Panel will be appointed by the panel in June of each year or at the first meeting of the panel following the annual appointment of members to the panel by constituent councils. The chairman will be drawn from the councillors sitting on the panel.”

- **In the Rules of Procedure, paragraph 1.2 be amended to read:**

“The vice-chairman will be appointed by the panel in June of each year or at the first meeting of the panel following the annual appointment of members to the constituent councils and will be drawn from amongst the councillors sitting on the panel.”

8 Complaints Process

John Quinton, Head of Democratic Services at Wiltshire Council introduced the report and explained that only a particular category of complaints came to the panel. He referred to paragraph 4 which detailed the change in regulations which allowed the function to be delegated.

Concern was raised over retaining the overall responsibility and the need to have regular update reports was highlighted. It was suggested that the panel reserve the right to review it in light of experience.

Decision

The Panel agreed:-

- a. To delegate to the Monitoring Officer of Wiltshire Council the Panel's responsibilities for handling and recording complaints as laid out in the report.**
- b. To establish a Complaints Sub-Committee to informally resolve those complaints referred to it by the Monitoring Officer after consultation with the chairman and vice-chairman of the Panel.**
- c. To note that a detailed complaints process will be reported to the next meeting of the Panel for approval**
- d. To reserve the right to review recommendations a and b above in light of experience**

9 Forward Work Plan

It was noted that the draft Police and Crime Plan should be added to the January items.

The Panel noted the report.

10 Future meeting dates

The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be on 4 January 2013 at the Wessex Room, Devizes Corn Exchange.

Future meeting dates are to be circulated as soon as possible after agreement.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

(Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 12.01 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kirsty Butcher, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 713948, e-mail kirsty.butcher@wiltshire.gov.uk

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