

1. BACKGROUND

A report to councillors regarding the AGE UK Community Connector project as previously discussed.

2. SUMMARY

In mid 2025 a presentation was made through Southern Area Board regarding a community support project running in Melksham through AGE UK. Melksham Without Parish Council provided evidence of the success of the project, with several case studies demonstrating success for individuals with issues including loneliness, anxiety, struggling as carers, struggling with essential paperwork, inability to access transport, bereavement, potential homelessness and home safety.

The 'Community Connector' has been able to evidence matching services such as fire and rescue, citizens advice, transport services, homeless bureau etc, and assisting individuals through the process to address the issues they face. (Councillors can request copies of case studies from the Deputy Clerk).

As part of budget setting for 2026/27, Laverstock and Ford Parish Council committed £5000 to trial the project in our Parish. A further £3500 has been awarded by grant from Southern Area Board. The post at one day per week equates to a cost of £10,000 per annum.

AGE UK have been recruiting for the post and an individual will be starting imminently. As we are part way through the year, the funds in place will cover the remaining months of this financial year. The Deputy Clerk has also made an application for lottery funds which would allow us to expand the project if the application is successful.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That the Parish Council resolves to appoint AGE UK to provide a Community Connector in the parish, for the remainder of the 2026/27 financial year for a sum of £8,500.00.