

Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 19th March 2012

Present

K Curtis (Chairman)
AW Porter

S Bowles
CS Stacey

N Curtis
BW Trimmer

14/12 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr JA Bowles.

15/12 The minutes of the January 2012 meeting were agreed and signed.

16/12 Interests

No interests were declared.

17/12 Village Hall Update

The specification was now complete and had been sent to seven firms for tenders.

18/12 Plaque Unveiling and Party

Cllrs S Bowles and Stacey and the Clerk agreed to meeting with members of the History Society to agree how this should proceed. Cllr Trimmer offered to do the shopping and it was agreed that the publicity should be by leaflet drop and that each councillor would do some.

19/12 Members' Reports

Cllr Stacey reported on the meeting he had attended at Landford Parish Council which was addressed by Ms Julie Stubbs of the Land Advisory Service on the Blackwater project. This project appeared to have two aims: one was to create a map of what is currently present on the river and its tributaries and to attack the Himalayan Balsam, which is an annual and whose seeds drift down stream each year. It seemed that there was little funding available although the Land Advisory Service could help with organising and guiding volunteers. Ms Stubbs emphasised that the basic remit of the LAS was to give advice to landowners who requested it, although in this particular case the LAS might be slightly more pro-active. It was agreed that the Parish Council was supportive of this project.

20/12 Consultations

The proposed changes to National Park Governance were discussed.

1. The NPA should include some directly elected members.
2. There was no need for the Secretary of State to appoint parish members (just bureaucracy).
3. Enthusiasm and commitment to the aims of the Park should take precedence over political balance.
4. Parishes should be allowed to choose non-councillors for their seats.
5. A maximum length of service of eight years is too short and could result in losing people who are very valuable; there should be other ways to remove "dead wood".

21/12 Plaitford Common

The work on the Common had been noted and also that the machinery had done very little damage.

22/12 Finance

- a) The suggestion that the Parish Council should register for the Parish-Online mapping service was discussed. It was agreed that it would provide a very cost-effective source of map information, especially the address layer. It was agreed that the Parish Council should register.
- b) The Budget Control Report was received.
- c) The following cheques (106 - 111) were approved and signed: £81.00 to Plaitford Village Hall (room hire for 2012); £37.57 to TVBC (election re-charge); £50.53 to Landford Trees (Jubilee tree); £119.40 to Post Office Ltd (Clerk's PAYE); £238.63 to J Wright (Clerk's salary); £48.89 to J Wright (Clerk's reimbursement and expenses).

23/12 Planning Applications

Manor Farm Cottage, Church Lane (TVBC ref: 12/00571/LBWS) – change in the canopy over the kitchen door from flat-roofed lead to pitched roof with tiles. This change was supported: there was no aesthetic difference and tiles were unlikely to be stolen.

24/12 AOB

Concern was expressed that yet again the Highways Agency had not trimmed back the hedges, nor cleared out the ditches between roughly Village Hall and The Red Rover. The over-grown hedges made it very difficult for pedestrians or cyclists to walk along the footpath on the A36.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Date of Next Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting: 14th May at 7.00pm

AGM of Parish Council: 14th May at 7.30 pm