

Melchet Park & Plaitford Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 19th May 2014

Present

K Curtis (Chairman)

J Wright (Clerk)

7 Members of the Parish

1 Stranger

PCSO J Cole

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr S Paige, Mrs J Paige, Cllr G Bailey (TVBC), Cllr RJ Perry (HCC), Police Inspector J Wilson and PC V Gook.

The minutes of the May 2013 meeting had been agreed and signed at an earlier Parish Council meeting.

Report by Cllr Bailey (TVBC)

Cllr Bailey had sent a report which was read to the meeting by the Clerk.

The new Council Office at the old Magistrates Court in Romsey has been running successfully. It is intended to bring in the Romsey Citizens Advice Bureau and Test Valley Community Services to create a one stop community hub. When all the work is complete it is forecast to save the Council £111,500 per annum.

The Test Valley Borough Plan has been worked on extensively over the year and it is hoped that this can be forwarded to the inspectors by the middle of this year. The Blackwater Ward has no areas outside the village boundaries marked for development - they are all designated as countryside. Several landowners within the Wellow area did put forward land for development but none of it has not included in the plan.

The Council was able, in line with Hampshire County Council, to keep the council tax at the same level as 2012. This involved some shared service arrangements with Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council. For example these include Shared Revenues and Benefits, Internal Audit Service, Payroll and Transactional HR Services and IT Services. The Council is also exploring other areas where cost cutting by cooperation can be achieved without loss of service to the residents.

By now you will be aware that the resurfacing of the A36 will commence very shortly. This will result in some inconvenience, however all traffic will benefit from the pot holes being dealt with and those residents who suffer from vibration should notice a big improvement.

I was informed earlier this year that this work would not commence until next year at the earliest due to cost restraints. However, our MP Caroline Nokes did take this to the highest level and the early start is mainly due to her involvement.

Community Policing Issues – PCSO Cole

Hampshire Constabulary will have to take further cost-cutting steps. The Forensic Team will only attend cases of serious crime or where it seems likely that evidence could be collected. It has been decided that the current number of Police buildings (approximately 155 in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight) will be reduced to 15 over the next two years. The building in Romsey will remain for Police use because it was gifted and cannot be used for any other purpose. In response to a question PCSO Cole informed the meeting that the regular meetings of the police teams take place in other buildings, e.g. Fire Stations.

The number of inspectors covering the whole of Test Valley is to be reduced from 3 to 1.

Much of the crime in the rural area of Test Valley is committed by criminals from outside the immediate area. The investigation of fuel theft from the “Fawley pipeline” is continuing. Tourist car-parks are a favourite location for theft of handbags etc. from cars. It was suggested that a tracking device would be a good investment for high values items such as quad-bikes.

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Parking Arrangements for the Weekly Auction – Mrs C Shutler

Mrs Shutler raised the difficulties which are sometimes faced by residents due to the inconsiderate parking of those attending the Auction. Mr Proctor (Village Hall Treasurer) agreed to email the contact details of the main organisers of the Auction to PCSO Cole with regard to parking on the track on the Common to the north of the A36. He also stated that he will speak to the organisers tomorrow since the track will be used by farm vehicles involved in silage-making and they need a 3m wide track. It was suggested that a sign “Please leave us access” might be a solution.

Mr Proctor reported that he had written to the owner of the land to the south of the A36 asking if permission could be granted for 15 cars to be parked there but as yet had not had a response.

It was agreed that an amicable solution to the parking problem needed to be found since the Auction provided both a social gathering for regular attendees and a significant income stream for the Village Hall.

Street Lights by The Shoe PH

Residents who lived nearby asked the Clerk to write to thank the Highways Agency for switching off most of the lights during the early hours.

There being no other business the meeting closed at approximately 8.00 p.m.