

Melchet Park & Plaitford Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 15th May 2018

Present

K Curtis (Chairman) J Wright (Parish Clerk) Cllr N Adams-King (TVBC) Cllr RJ Perry (HCC)
5 Members of the Parish

Apologies

Apologies were received from the Police, Cllr G Bailey (TVBC) and C Sweetman.

The minutes of the May 2017 meeting had been agreed and signed at an earlier Parish Council meeting.

Report by Cllr Perry (HCC)

The population of Hampshire is estimated at 1.3M; it is the third most populous county. Only 15% of the county is urban. The Revenue budget for 2018/19 is £2.0bn. This includes: £860m for Education; £628m for Social Care and Other Services for Children and Adults; £53m for Public Health; £143m for Highways, Transport, Economic Development and Waste Disposal. With such a high proportion being spent on Education and Social Care a disproportionate amount of savings has to come from Highways, Transport, Economic Development and Waste Disposal. It is estimated that for 2018/19 adult social care will need an additional £23 million but the 3% adult social care precept from the Council Tax will only raise an extra £ 17m.

There are 5300 miles of road under the care of HCC. It invests £10M each year for planned road maintenance; there is an additional £2.9M government grant for flood resilience and pothole repairs. A resident asked if many people reporting the same pothole increased the likelihood of it being fixed but it was explained that the software didn't allow for this. The Clerk observed that stating the dimensions of the hole in cm seemed quite effective in producing a response.

The Clerk reported that she had found it impossible to find someone to be a Parish Lengthsman for the parish as they either lost interest when they saw the contract or they were only interested if the work was several man-days at a time. She outlined the scheme used by Wiltshire Council which was far more successful from a parish's view and probably didn't cost any more. The Parish Steward scheme in Wiltshire is operated by the county; it provides the equipment, training etc and employs the workforce; each parish is allocated a day for their tasks which the parish has prioritised; in some cases not all the tasks are completed in the day but if another parish does not fill its day then the Steward continues with his unfinished list from elsewhere. Cllr Perry asked that the Clerk should send him an email describing the Wiltshire scheme.

Hampshire residents recycle 41% of their household waste. That which is not recycled fuels an energy recovery facility and only 5% of waste is now sent to landfill. The incineration process does not generate complaints.

Whilst HCC is funding some broadband it seems that the more isolated properties which are a long way from the street cabinet are being left behind.

Devolution proposals are on hold.

Report by Cllr Adams-King (TVBC)

TVBC is continuing to invest in property but is staying focussed on the local area.

A survey has been carried out to identify what Residents would like to see in the Romsey of the future. Persuading the developer to complete the old brewery site in Romsey is proving difficult.

The NFNPA is expecting to provide sites for all the housing it needs without going outside its area.

There is sufficient potential for housing around Andover to meet all of TV needs but this may make the borough very unbalanced between north and south.

The Clerk asked Cllr Adams-King to ensure that in view of the very tight response time for Permission in Principle applications (just two weeks) parish councils were notified very promptly by a separate email.

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