

## Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

### *Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022*

#### **Present**

K Curtis (Chairman)  
N Curtis

S Bowles  
AW Porter

PJ Cross  
CS Stacey

#### **07/22 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr N Adams-King (TVBC, HCC) and G Bailey (TVBC).

**08/22** *The minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 meeting were agreed and signed.*

#### **09/22 Interests**

No interests were declared.

#### **10/22 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **11/22 Clerk's Report**

- a) A complaint had been received regarding the audio bird scarer located in the field off Compton's Drive. This is an Agenda item.
- b) It was agreed that the Parish Council should organise the purchase of Jubilee mugs on behalf of residents. The arrangements for the previous Jubilee had worked well and should be implemented again. It was agreed that the new logo for the Jubilee did not appeal and that a traditional style of mug was preferred. The Clerk agreed to provide a flyer for distribution to residents.

#### **12/22 Members' Reports**

Cllrs N Curtis and K Curtis had made no progress with the provision of an additional sign by Botley's Ford, but they had observed that the current sign did not deter motorists "following their satnav". It was therefore questioned if anything would have the desired effect. These councillors agreed to give it a bit more thought and Cllr K Curtis agreed to try to find a photograph of a vehicle stuck in the ford.

#### **13/22 Bird Scarer**

It was noted that the scarer had been in use since last summer and that the frequency of operation was now half-hourly. It was recognised that the market gardener needed to try to protect the crop from bird damage. However, a series of loud bangs every half hour starting around 6.30 am every day and continuing until dusk is very intrusive to those living nearby, and can be heard some considerable distance away. Cllr Porter offered to speak with the owner of the field to see if they could start a bit later or indeed if they were still effective.

#### **14/22 Tree Plaque for Jubilee**

After a brief discussion focussing on health and safety issues it was agreed that it would be better if the PCC paid for the plaque itself. As an aside it was observed by those who frequently drive along Church Lane that the horizontal gap between the top of the hedge and the yew tree enabled traffic coming from the Manor Farm direction to be seen "round the corner". Cllr Cross was asked to try to ensure that the location of the proposed tree did not obliterate this view.

### **15/22 Consultations**

The draft Local Plan 2040 and associated documents was discussed at length. The Parish Council's main concern was that the parish had been moved from "countryside" to Tier 4 in the Settlement Hierarchy. The detailed response is given in the Appendix to these Minutes.

### **16/22 Finance**

- a) The Budget Report was received.
- b) Cllr K Curtis proposed and Cllr Porter seconded that the Clerk's salary should be increased by 20p per hour in line with the nationally agreed scale: this was resolved.
- c) The following BACS payments were agreed: £305.50 to J Wright (Clerk's salary including back pay); £83.19 to J Wright (reimbursement + expenses).
- d) It was agreed that following the introduction of BACS payments it made sense to try to complete any the outstanding transactions before the end of the financial year.

*Meeting closed at 9.15 pm*

### **Date of Next Meeting**

16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.00 pm Annual Parish Meeting

16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.30 pm AGM of the Parish Council