

# **Melchet Park & Plaitford Annual Parish Meeting**

*Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

## **Present**

K Curtis (Chairman)                      J Wright (Parish Clerk)              Cllr G Bailey (TVBC)              Cllr RJ Perry (HCC)  
Catherine Supple (National Trust)      7 Members of the Parish              1 Stranger

## **Apologies**

No apologies had been received.

*The minutes of the March 2015 meeting had been agreed and signed at an earlier Parish Council meeting.*

## **Report by Cllr Perry (HCC)**

The Revenue budget for 2016/17 is 1.9bn. The government has cut the funding by £39m and expects authorities to increase the Council Tax by 3.99% each year. Even with this increase HCC still has the the lowest council tax of any county council.

Each member of HCC has a small fund from which s/he can award grants, usually of the order of a few £100's.

In league table terms the local schools are doing better than the national average. The small schools are concerned by the proposed obligatory conversion to academies.

An extra £12m is allocated each year to invest in roads. Potholes etc should be reported via the website. The website also shows the locations of road works etc.

Devolution proposals are on hold since after the initial submission by Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, the two unitary authorities (Portsmouth and Southampton) plus 5 southern District Councils have submitted an alternative bid for a Solent Combined Authority. This has been countered by a bid from the rest of Hampshire plus the IofW to form a "Heart of Hampshire" Authority. The matter of elected mayors is also causing concern. HCC will undertake a full public consultation on the various options.

## **Report by Cllr Bailey (TVBC)**

Although TVBC Local Plan has been approved by the Inspectorate and by TVBC it has not been issued because it is being challenged by a developer with an interest in a site at Nursling & Rownhams. The borough now has sufficient housing parameters to stave off unwanted development.

TVBC has been unable to absorb the reduction in the government grant and has had to increase the Council Tax. There is money available in the Councillor Grant Scheme for projects within the Blackwater ward.

Wellow has commenced a Neighbourhood Plan, Awbridge and Sherfield English have decided not do one.

The Boundary Commission is reviewing boundaries with the aim of reducing the total number of councillors: it is thought that the Blackwater ward may keep its two councillors but that other parishes will be added.

## **Report by Catherine Supple (National Trust)**

She explained that as an Area Ranger she organised volunteers to plant trees etc and to do ecological surveys. It is the National Trust's intention to open up some of the glades in Clayford Wood this year.

Alabama Rot was rumoured to exist on Plaitford Common but examination of the dog involved showed it was not infected.

Cllr Bailey expressed his objection to section 106 money being used by the National Trust on the Foxbury project, which was not open to the public, when there were many access routes onto Wellow and Plaitford Commons which needed repair.

*There being no other business the meeting closed at approximately 7.45 p.m.*