

Melchet Park & Plaitford Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 14th May 2012

Present

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| K Curtis (Chairman) | J Wright (Clerk) | |
| Cllr RJ Perry (HCC) | Cllr G Bailey (TVBC) | Cllr A Gentle (TVBC) |
| Police Sergeant C Plascott | PC V Gook | PCSO K Paice |
| 6 Members of the Parish | 1 Stranger | |

Apologies

No apologies were received.

The minutes of the May 2011 meeting had been agreed and signed at an earlier Parish Council meeting.

Report by HCC Councillor Roy Perry

Hampshire is the third largest county in the country with a population of 1.5m and a budget of £1.7b, approximately half of which is spent on education and children. The Council Tax has been frozen for the third successive year and is the lowest in the South East Region. The Council has shed 1400 staff and cut 3100m off its budget. However, it is facing demographic pressures from an aging population (and extra 100 people over 80 each year) and an increase in the birth rate resulting in a need for more places in primary schools.

The provision for the elderly is moving towards provision of “Extra Care Homes” and away from simple residential care homes. If TVBC vacates Dutton’s Road then HCC is considering using the site for such a home, which consists of independent accommodation but with support on-site.

Mountbatten Secondary School (now an academy) is in the top 5 in the county, with Romsey (also an academy) now 16th in the county. Awbridge School achieved 78% in the Key Stage 2 level 4 benchmark and although Wellow School only achieved 61% this year its results vary very significantly year to year.

The subsidised bus service between Nomansland and Romsey is being re-negotiated but at the moment it seems likely to be maintained. If anyone wishes to comment on this the closing date is 11th June.

Pot-holes should be actively reported via the website.

Report by Cllr Bailey (TVBC)

This has been an uneventful year in Test Valley.

The Council Tax has again been held constant.

The Councillors have not seen any details of the proposed move of Officers from Duttons Road to Andover and the Magistrates Court. However, both councillors noted the concerns of the parishioners.

TVBC is again operating a “free insulation scheme” this year and it should be noted that a “material only” option is available for those who wish to do the work themselves.

The Community Car Scheme (Wellow Help Group) which operates from Wellow is fully funded by TVBC and is available to Plaitford residents.

Community Policing Issues – Sgt Plascott and PC Gook

PCSO Paice has joined the Community Beat and will ultimately cover the Abbotswood Area.

Farm Watch seems to be working well at the moment. Anybody who wishes to be notified directly regarding suspicious persons and vehicles should send their email address to Sgt Plascott.

Beat Surgeries are being continued but at a reduced level since although they provide a police presence they are not well used.

The Country Watch Scheme is following up the theft of birds from Plaitford.

It is noted that when a vehicle is stopped the trailer is very often found to be defective.

Village Hall Progress – Mr G Cuell

The plans have now been put out to tender and so far two quotations have been received.

There is an intention to set up a website with the building plans and also the business plan.

The search for funding sources has begun and the Committee recognises that it will be necessary to run some fund-raising activities.

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