

Melchet Park & Plaitford Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 16th May 2010

Present

K Curtis (Chairman)
Cllr G Bailey (TVBC)
6 Members of the Parish

J Wright (Clerk)
Cllr RJ Perry (HCC)
1 Stranger

Police Sergeant C Plascott

Apologies

No apologies were received.

The minutes of the May 2010 meeting had been agreed and signed at an earlier Parish Council meeting.

Report by Cllr Bailey (TVBC)

Having planned for the necessary redundancies a year ago two thirds have already been achieved through natural wastage: thus the financial implications are manageable. Economies are being made by sharing some back-office activities with Winchester City Council and this has enabled car-parking charges to remain unchanged. The Household Recycling Centre at Bunny Lane should soon be re-opened following its improvements. The revised Core Strategy is expected to be ready for consultation in the near future.

Report by HCC Councillor Roy Perry

A new consultation exercise on Minerals & Waste is about to be launched but the nearest site to Plaitford is at Squabb Wood where land-raising is being considered. Any sensing of the foul odour in the vicinity of Squabb Wood should be reported immediately to Viridor and to Cllr Perry since at the moment the source has not been identified. The permitted gravel extraction from Roke Manor will start as and when the aggregate is required.

Wellow and Awbridge schools are to amalgamate. Mountbatten School has already been granted "academy" status and Romsey School is in negotiations. The "Child and Schools" budget reduction is challenging since most of the budget is ring-fenced hence all the economies have to come from a relatively small section.

HCC is expecting an extra £2m for pot-hole repairs. It was commented that the junction of Purley Way with the A36 needs serious attention but this was thought to be the responsibility of the Highways Agency.

Community Policing Issues – Sgt Plascott

The reduced Police budget is not expected to result in any cuts at sergeant and constable level. There have been some changes to the ways of working which should make the units more efficient. It was emphasised that whilst strong links have been developed with Southampton this will not result in resources being redeployed from rural areas to assist with Friday and Saturday night problems in the urban areas. Dealing with arrested suspects has been changed so that the arresting officer is much sooner back on the beat.

Cllr Porter expressed his interest in Farm Watch but having neither email nor a mobile phone communications may be problematic.

Links are being maintained with the Community Policing Team across the border in Landford.

Village Hall Progress – Mr G Cuell

Planning consent was delayed by three months by the Environmental officer who finally approved the plans as originally submitted!

A structural engineer and the architect are currently working on the Building Regulations phase which is expected to cost about £6k. Once approval has been granted by Building Control quotations will be sought, the Business Plan updated and then the Committee will be in a position to apply for grants.

It was originally hoped that the building work would be completed in time for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee but as it is necessary to keep the Hall operational throughout it is likely that the work will not start before Spring 2012.

The Village Hall Committee is to set up a website to keep everyone informed of progress.

The Parish Clerk offered to investigate if there was any way to avoid paying VAT on the project.

There being no other business the meeting closed at approximately 8.30 p.m.