

## Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

### *Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014*

#### **Present**

K Curtis (Chairman)  
AW Porter  
BW Trimmer

S Bowles  
JPA Robson

N Curtis  
CS Stacey

#### **1/14 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr RJ Perry.

*2/14 The minutes of the November 2013 meeting were agreed and signed.*

#### **3/14 Interests**

Cllr Stacey commented that although he was a neighbour of Forest Acre he was so far distant that the Local Planning Authority had not deemed it necessary to inform him of the application.

#### **4/14 Matters Arising**

Following the insistence by the Highways Authority that the addition of a parish name plate to the existing 40mph repeater sign post would cost "at least" £5000 it was agreed that this would not be pursued further.

#### **5/14 Clerk's Report**

- a) Mr G Cuell, the parish historian, is considering if there is sufficient information to justify a display of World War I and II information relating to the parish. He was therefore enquiring if anyone knew where the old Parish Council Minutes had been placed for safe-keeping: Cllr N Curtis offered to look in his loft.
- b) i) The Clerk and two residents had met with a representative (Mr M Webster) from the Highways Agency regarding two issues with the A36 in Plaitford.
  - ii) The HA representative agreed that the available pavement was very narrow, especially considering that it was supposed to also be shared with cyclists. He noted that if the pavement was sided out it would become 50% wider and he agreed to raise this matter with the contractors.
  - iii) The A36 at either side of the pedestrian crossing near The Shoe Inn had been surface treated with a high friction surface. In this case the surface had been laid in strips which had the effect of adding a "rumble" surface as well. The matter was further compounded by the underlying surface showing signs of failure and the resultant breaking up of the high friction surface, adding to the vibrations generated by vehicles, especially speeding HGVs passing over it.
  - iv) It was agreed that the excessive speed of vehicles did not fall within the remit of the HA. Hampshire Police have agreed to do speed analysis in the vicinity of The Shoe to confirm or otherwise if the speed limit is being exceeded.
  - v) The Clerk gained the impression that it would be difficult to make the HA do anything about the vibration, however, the two residents were asked to put their case together with as much detail and information as possible and send it to Mr Webster.
  - vi) It was also noted that between The Shoe and post box the garden hedges seriously over-hung the pavement and again effectively pushed pedestrians and cyclist to the very edge of the pavement. The Clerk was instructed to write to the owners.

## 6/14 Members' Reports

Cllr Stacey reported that he had been approached to enquire if the leaning limb of the red oak at the end of his drive should be removed, with the intention of giving the rest of the tree a better chance of survival. It was recalled that the tree had been planted many years ago by the Parish Council on National Trust land and that the NT had taken over responsibility for the tree. The Clerk agreed to contact the NT to ask them to view the tree and to send us a copy of the current findings.

## 7/14 Consultations

- a) VAT and Village Halls: it was noted that the VAT status of a village hall depended on its ownership and that having charitable status also came with advantages. It was agreed that the PC would not respond.
- b) Hampshire County Council's draft Statement of Community and Involvement (Minerals and Waste): It was agreed that the distance for neighbour notification was far too small in rural areas, since such a development could result in many HGVs travelling past dwellings on narrow roads but which were outside the consultation circle. It was also considered that if one's contributions to the consultation were ignored one should be told why.
- c) TVBC Open Space Projects: Plaitford is outside the TV development areas so development which might attract the Community Infrastructure Levy was improbable. In addition the PC does not own any land on which to carry out a project. It therefore did not seem worthwhile to define a project (which would in all probability never be funded). It was agreed that the response to the consultation should be that if there was ever any appropriate development then this PC wished to transfer its share of the CIL to either Sherfield English or Wellow Parish Councils since residents of this parish use their open space provision.

## 8/14 Care of Jubilee Tree

The sweet chestnut tree has been replaced by Landford Trees but with the hint that it had not been well-cared for. The tree should have a circle of 1m clear of grass, it should be watered as necessary to keep the roots moist, and it should be surrounded by some mulch – *not* grass-cuttings. It was suggested that perhaps the Village Hall Committee might be willing to take on the responsibility of caring for the tree as they were trying to improve the garden part of the grounds.

## 9/14 Finance

- a) The Budget Control report was received.
- b) Cheque no. 154 for £247.20 to J Wright (Clerk's salary) was approved and signed.
- c) It was noted that the precept request has been submitted and the parish element of the Council Tax on a Band D property would be reduced by about £1.50 for the year 2014-15.

## 10/14 Planning Applications

Forest Acre, Salisbury Road (TVBC ref: 13/02572) was considered. It was agreed that the response should be "Support" since the proposals would significantly improve the appearance of the dwelling. The addition of the dormer windows will add interest to the currently very plain expanse of roof.

## 11/14 AOB

Cllr Stacey observed that the pavement by Wellow Car Sales was breaking up and two ruts had formed, probably due to car transporters still parking on the pavement to unload.

*Meeting closed at 8.55pm.*

## Date of Next Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> March 2014.