

Melchet Park & Plaitford Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 16th March 2015

Present

K Curtis (Chairman)

J Wright (Parish Clerk)

6 Members of the Parish

Cllr G Bailey (TVBC)

Cllr RJ Perry (HCC)

Apologies

The minutes of the May 2014 meeting had been agreed and signed at an earlier Parish Council meeting.

Report by Cllr Perry (HCC)

HCC is prioritising Adult Social Services and Children's Services. Both of these are putting great strain on the finances, but for the 6th year running the HCC element of the Council Tax will remain the same.

There is an increasing population of elderly people but who generally need little assistance up to the age of 80, but thereafter there is a noticeable increase in the level of support required.

Children Services is facing a growing demand partly due to more people coming from London and moving into Winchester with their young families, and partly because the "Baby P" case has resulted in more reports of possible child neglect by members of the public.

The cost to enhance a street cabinet to deliver broadband is approximately £30k but the problem with Open Reach appears to be largely a lack of trained manpower and physical resources rather than of funding.

Report by Cllr Bailey (TVBC)

The unemployment rate continues to be below average and the economy has improved over the last year.

The work on the Old Magistrates Court in Romsey is now complete. It houses Test Valley Community Services, Romsey Citizens' Advice Bureau, and HCC and TVBC Customer Services.

The Test Valley Borough Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State for approval following some changes requested by the inspector. No building sites within Awbridge, Wellow or Sherfield English have been included and all these areas remain as being in the open countryside. The Gypsy and Travellers DPD is currently out for consultation: it proposes 5 gypsy pitches at Scallows Lane, 4/5 at Bunny Lane and 3 Travelling Showmen's plots at Gardeners Lane.

The Council is again able, in line with Hampshire County Council, to keep the council tax at the same level as last year. This involves some shared service arrangements with Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council.

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