

Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 16th January 2012

Present

K Curtis (Chairman)
N Curtis

JA Bowles
AW Porter

S Bowles
CS Stacey

1/12 Apologies

No apologies were received.

2/12 The minutes of the November 2011 Full Council Meeting and the December 2011 Planning Meeting were agreed and signed.

3/12 Mr L Bufton of the National Grid

The insulators on the overhead power line are to be replaced between 10th September and 26th October 2012. It is expected that there will be two weeks' work in Plaitford. Mr Bufton was advised that in September the easement up the "race-course" on Plaitford Common is usually firm enough to take any equipment without any special precautions. He was also advised that although the mire seems firm under the surface there are very deep holes here and there and the occasional pony has been lost in the mire.

4/12 Interests

Cllrs JA Bowles and S Bowles declared an interest in item 12/12 a).

5/12 Matters Arising

The Shoe is licensed until midnight so any request for the street lights to be turned off should be between 1.00 am and 6.00 am.

6/12 PC V Gook

Reported that an attempt had been made to remove the lightning conductor from St Peter's Church, and that the speed enforcement along Whinwhistle Road involved mainly local motorists.

7/12 Clerk's Report

The new Standards Regime is far from clear at the moment with several terms not being adequately defined. It seems likely that the TVBC will take the lead in producing a document which can be used throughout the borough.

8/12 Consultations

- a) TVBC Proposed Changes to the Local Information Required for Planning Applications: it is to be commended that more information on the practicality of non-mains sewerage should be provided as part of the initial application.
- b) TVBC Designation DPD: it was noted that Plaitford is deemed to be in the countryside.
- c) TVBC Core Strategy: it was agreed that the issue of the unsuitability of rural roads for HGVs and a general increase in the traffic movements should have greater prominence in the policies; it was agreed that the Section 62 of the 1995 Environment Act should be specifically mentioned in the policy relating to Protecting the Landscape Character.

9/12 Plaitford Village Hall

The plans have not yet been finally approved by Building Control.

10/12 Jubilee Tree Planting

- a) Plaitford History Society has asked that the Parish Council accepts the offer of an oak tree by HCC.
- b) It was suggested that the tree planting (or maybe just the plaque ceremony) should be on the 10th June 2012 and that residents of Sherfield English Road and Partridge Hill should be invited. The possibility of also planting a sweet chestnut was discussed.

11/12 Finance

- a) The Budget Control Report was received.
- b) Cheques numbered 104 and 105 were approved and signed: £238.43 to J Wright (Clerk's salary) and £19.59 to J Wright (Clerk's expenses).
- c) Cllr S Bowles proposed and Cllr K Curtis seconded that Cllrs Porter and Stacey should be added to the signatories mandate for the bank: this was resolved.

12/12 Planning Applications

- a) Wingates, Sherfield English Lane – erection of barn for the storage of agricultural vehicles at ground floor and materials storage at first floor (TVBC ref: 11/01291). It was agreed that the response should be “No objection”. Cllrs JA Bowles and S Bowles declared a prejudicial interest in this item.
- b) Heatherlands, Salisbury Road – various modifications (NFNPA ref: 12/97088).
 - i) The Parish Council is aware of Policy DP11 and the normally permitted limit on the increase in floor area. However, in this instance the matter is complicated by the permission already granted to Planning Application 09/94737 which remains valid until February 2013. This latter application also gave an increase in floor area above the currently permitted level.
 - ii) Application 09/94737 was compared with the current application and the Parish Council is of the opinion that artistically and architecturally the proposed dwelling is far superior to that which gained consent in 2009.
 - iii) The Parish Council also discussed the underlying rationale for Policy DP11 but was strongly of the view that the location and grounds of Heatherlands would always ensure that it was never at the “lower end of the market”, there was therefore no justification to constrain the increase in size to 30%.
 - iv) Within the National Park there are so few dwellings in Plaitford that it can hardly qualify as even a “rural settlement” and thus the Parish Council is of the view that the appropriateness of a building to its location and its overall aesthetic should take precedence over Policies more applicable to built-up areas.
 - v) On this basis the Council recommended “Permission”.

13/12 AOB

Cllr JA Bowles noted that the hedge on the left-hand side of Sherfield English Road just to the north of Flowers Lane was in need of trimming.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Date of Next Meeting

19th March 2012