

## Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

### *Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

#### **Present**

K Curtis (Chairman)  
N Curtis

JA Bowles  
WA Porter

S Bowles  
CS Stacey

#### **27/11 Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**28/11** *The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council AGM, both held in May 2011 were agreed and signed.*

#### **29/11 Interests**

No interests were declared at the start of the meeting. Cllr Porter later declared an interest in item 36/11 b) which was a late agenda item.

#### **30/11 Community Police Matters**

PC Gook addressed the meeting giving a resumé of the current situation regarding Travellers, speed enforcement activity in the area and the need to uniquely mark garden equipment etc since many stolen items cannot be traced back to their rightful owners.

#### **31/11 Co-option of Additional Councillor**

It was proposed by Cllr Porter and seconded by Cllr S Bowles that if Mr Trimmer was willing he should be co-opted onto the Parish Council: this was resolved.

#### **32/11 Matters Arising**

The Clerk had obtained approximate costs for a “No Through Road” sign for Compton’s Drive. It was proposed by Cllr K Curtis and seconded by Cllr J Bowles that the cheapest supplier should be used: this was resolved.

#### **33/11 Clerk’s Report**

- a) The Clerk informed the meeting that she had been informed that Hampshire Constabulary had chosen not to apply Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to the eviction of travellers from Ringwood Recreation Ground because it was their “policy not to do so”. Ringwood Town Council is concerned that Hampshire Constabulary appears to have a policy which negates an Act of Parliament. The cost to the residents of Ringwood for this visitation is estimated to be between £5k and £10k, some of which is directly attributable to the Police choosing not to act immediately. The Parish Council agreed that it wished to express its concern that a Police Force could choose to ignore an Act of Parliament.
- b) The Clerk reported that the Information Commissioner had now stated that if Parish Councillors held any personal details on their computers about their constituents then they should register (£35 pa) with the Information Commissioner. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to protest. It was also agreed that if this requirement was not negated then the members of this Parish Council would not conduct any such Parish Council business by email.

#### **34/11 Consultations**

It was agreed that the NFNPA Supplementary Planning Document on Horse-related Developments was now quite sensible and the Clerk should respond accordingly.

### 35/11 Finance

- a) The Clerk informed the meeting that the tax-free limit for a mileage allowance had been increased to 45p and that she would be claiming this in future (her contract permits 68p per mile).
- b) The Budget Control Report was received.
- c) Income of £44.80 from HMRC (VAT refund) was noted.
- d) Cheque numbers 89-91 had already been signed: £238.63 to J Wright (Clerk's salary deferred from May); £59.60 to Post Office (Clerk's PAYE); £34.00 to CPRE (subscription + donation as agreed at the March 2011 meeting).
- e) Cheque number 93 and 95 were agreed and signed: £238.63 to J Wright (Clerk's salary); £30.00 to HALC (Cllr training).
- f) The Clerk reported that she had meet with the Treasurer and the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee to explore ways in which the Parish Council might legitimately assist the Village Hall Committee to avoid VAT on the proposed building work. One risk to the Council was that its audit fees for the year would be much greater than normal, but an actual figure is not known since the current audit regime is likely to have been replaced by then.

### 36/11 Planning Applications

- a) West Wellow Car Sales, Salisbury Road – CLEU - (TVBC ref: 11/01441) – Support – “The Parish Council is not in a position to comment on the precise areas of the various activities on this site and their historic duration. However, there has been a garage/car sales type of operation at this location for as long as anyone can remember.”
- b) Melchet Court Farm – new dairy – (TVBC ref: 11/01520) – Support – “The Parish Council fully supports this application. This is a rural parish and the farming community should be given all possible support. Significantly reducing the time the cows have to stand in a yard waiting to be milked will be beneficial to their welfare and will give them a longer period of time in the field (which is where cows should be) between milking. This should improve both the health of the animals and the quality of their milk. The current dairy building is very old and maintaining the necessary degree of hygiene must be quite difficult: a new, modern, purpose built structure would therefore ease the workload for the staff. The proposed location is clearly visible from the public footpath (Compton's Drive) and in its current state it is an eyesore. To have all the clutter replaced by a new agricultural building would be a very significant aesthetic gain. A well-designed and appropriately sized dairy parlour will considerably reduce the staff- time required for milking and should therefore facilitate keeping the farm tidier.”  
Cllr Porter declared a non-prejudicial interest in this application as he owns the adjacent farm.

### 37/11 AOB

- a) It had been observed that some motorcyclists used the red-hatched areas on the A36 as if it was their private race-track.
- b) It was noted that the hedges at either side of Sherfield English Road between Pound Lane and Church Lane were in need of pruning. The Clerk was asked to contact the respective owners.
- c) Although three of the pot-holes in Sherfield English Lane have been filled all the rest have been left: the Clerk was asked to request that the others should also be dealt with.
- d) The county sign by The Shoe was removed several years ago by council workmen but it has never been replaced: the Clerk was asked to query this.

*Meeting closed at 9.45 pm*

### Date of Next Meeting

19<sup>th</sup> September 2011