

Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

Minutes of the AGM held at Plaitford Village Hall on 14th May 2012

Present

K Curtis (Chairman)
N Curtis
BW Trimmer

JA Bowles
AW Porter

S Bowles
CS Stacey

25/12 Apologies

No apologies were received.

26/12 Election of Chairman and Acceptance of Office

Cllr S Bowles proposed and Cllr N Curtis seconded that Cllr K Curtis should be elected Chairman: this was unanimously resolved and the signing of the Acceptance of Office was witnessed by the Clerk.

27/12 Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr JA Bowles and seconded by Cllr Porter that Cllr Trimmer should be elected as Vice-Chairman: this was unanimously resolved.

28/12 *The minutes of the March 2012 full council meeting and the 10th May 2012 planning meeting were agreed and signed.*

29/12 Interests

No interests were declared.

30/12 Village Hall Update

The Council was informed that tenders for the building programme had been sought and so far two had been received.

31/12 Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that the making of the moulds for the concrete plinths was well advanced but the plaques had not yet arrived.

32/12 Consultations

- a) Following discussions at the preceding Annual Parish Meeting it was agreed that concern should be expressed at the proposed move of many of the TVBC officers from Duttons Road in Romsey to Andover. This will: reduce employment opportunities in Romsey with its knock-on effect for the prosperity of the area and vitality of the town centre; limit the opportunities for people to engage face-to-face with staff, which is particularly important for the elderly who can't cope with e-communications and find the telephone difficult as hearing loss sets in; the proposed location has very limited parking, again important for elderly users, and more generally for a centre serving a rural area. The Parish Council couldn't understand why it would not be more cost-effective for the Council Offices to remain in their current location and the spare space to be rented out.
- b) The current Concessionary Travel Scheme is unfair: everyone contributes to the funding but only those with access to a bus service receive anything in return. Provision beyond the statutory requirement should focus on addressing this imbalance.
- c) The Parish Council wish to record their approval that the Formal Review of the Test Valley Access Plan still recognises that much of Test valley is rural and badly served by public transport so that for many

residents a car is the only means of accessing town centres. It is therefore essential if Romsey is to remain as a vibrant town centre that car-parking must be both accessible and affordable.

- d) The Early Day Motion to give Town and Parish Councils the right of appeal against planning decisions to which they had objected was considered. It was agreed that anything which gave balance in the planning laws should be supported. The current laws are too biased in favour of the applicant.

33/12 Finance

- a) It was proposed by Cllr S Bowles and seconded by Cllr K Curtis that the 2012-12 Accounts should be approved and signed off and that Section 1 of the Annual Return was also approved: this was resolved.
- b) Each item of the Annual Governance Statement (external Audit document) was considered in turn and a response made. It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr JA Bowles that the Chairman should sign Sections 2.
- c) The end-of-year Budget Control report had been received and approved.
- d) The current Budget Control Report was received.
- e) Income of: £1500.00 from TVBC (precept) and £47.85 from HMRC (VAT refund) were noted.
- f) Cheques already signed (112 and 113): £36.00 to Getmapping (mapping software) and £146.00 to HALC (subscription) were approved.
- g) Cheques numbered 114 to 118 were approved and signed: £256.00 to Broker Network Ltd (insurance); £48.00 to Hamilton Associates (internal audit); £9.79 to J Wright (Clerk's expenses and reimbursement); £238.63 to J Wright (Clerk's salary); £59.60 to Post Office (Clerk's PAYE).

34/12 AOB

The Chairman asked that the Clerk should circulate the user name and password of the mapping software to all the councillors.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Date of Next Meeting

16th July 2012