

## Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

### *Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015*

#### **Present**

K Curtis (Chairman)

N Curtis

AW Porter

JPA Robson

CS Stacey

BW Trimmer (guest)

S Bowles, who left with his father before the business of the meeting began

#### **00/15 Tribute to Mr Jim Bowles**

Before the meeting the Parish Council held a small ceremony to thank Mr Jim Bowles for the enormous contribution he had made to the wellbeing of this parish over so very many decades. He first attended meetings of the Parish Council as a 15-year-old boy going on his bicycle, and later taking his father on his motor-bike. He had served on the Parish Council for over 60 years, 14 of those in the capacity as Chairman. In addition to his service to the Parish Council he had been an active member of the group which raised the necessary funds to buy the village school building and convert it to the village hall, and he had served on the Village Hall Committee for over 40 years. Jim's knowledge of the history of the area and of its residents has been invaluable to those following in his footsteps.

#### **01/15 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Bowles and RJ Perry (HCC).

*02/15 The minutes of the November 2014 meeting were agreed and signed.*

#### **03/15 Interests**

No interests were declared.

#### **04/15 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that owing to a clash of dates the Parish Council could not have the use of the hall on the 18th May for the Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should be moved forward to the March meeting ( 16th) and that the AGM of the Parish Council would be held on the 18th May at New Forest Post Production Studio.

#### **06/15 Consultations**

- a) The proposed changes to the regulations governing Parish Polls was considered and it was agreed that the proposed changes were necessary. It was questioned if such polls were of any value, especially in consideration of the probable cost (could be as much as £1000 for Plaitford) since the results were not binding.
- b) NALC had asked if parish and town councils should have to hold a referendum if they wished to increase their precept: should not apply if the cost of the referendum is comparable to the proposed increase. Yes, the government is being centralist over this.

#### **07/15 Staffing**

It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr K Curtis that the Clerk's salary should be increased in line with the nationally agreed scale (approximately £40 per year for the present incumbent): this was resolved.

**08/15 Finance**

- a) The Budget Control Report was received.
- b) The payment of £61.80 by D/D to HMRC (PAYE) was noted.
- c) Cheques numbered 172 and 173 were approved and signed: £54.11 to J Wright (expenses + reimbursement) and £247.20 to J Wright (salary).
- d) The budget for 2015-16 was considered. It was recognised that the contingency figure could not cover all possible eventualities but that the carry forward figure was adequate to cope in all but the most unlikely situations, which had never yet happened since the creation of the Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr K Curtis and seconded by Cllr Porter that the precept should remain at £3000.00 for 2015-16.

**09/15 AOB**

- a) Cllr Porter asked that when Church Lane is closed a sign saying "Road closed at ford" should be placed at the A36 end of Giles Lane, not immediately at the ford where there is no means of turning round.
- b) Mr Trimmer asked that the Parish Council should request that the street lights by The Shoe should be on a timer or dimmer so that they were not fully lit all night.

*Meeting closed at 9.30 pm*

**Date of Next Meeting**

March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm