Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at New Forest Post Production Studio on 16th November 2026

Present

K Curtis (Chairman)	PJ Cross	N Curtis
AW Porter	CS Stacey	
Councillor G Bailey (TVBC)		

45/26 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Bowles.

46/26 The minutes of the 30th September 2026 meeting were agreed for signing later.

47/26 Interests

No interests were declared

48/26 Planning Applications

a) **Bowes Farm, Pound Lane** (TVBC ref: 26/02134/FULLS) It was agreed that the response should be "Object": there was no justification for needing access for large agricultural machinery on such a small holding, it has not been needed in the past and there is already an access gate off the track.

b) **Evelyn Cottage, Salisbury Road** (NFNPA ref: 26/01152FULL) It was agreed that the response should be "Support but happy to accept the officer's decision".

Cllr Bailey left at this point.

49/26 Clerk's Report

a) Southern Water will be returning to the A27 to complete works from 11 Jan to 21stMay 2027 and traffic light control will be in place.

b) The Christmas Market in Romsey will be on the 21st November and the lights will be switched on at 5.00pm.

50/26 Members' Reports

a) The Chairman reported that he had attended the Wellow History Society's launch of their History of Wellow book.

b) Cllr Porter reported that the failing footbridge over the stream opposite his property still needs attention. He has reported it to HCC but they said it was in Wiltshire. He then reported it to WC who said the county boundary was in the middle of the stream. He is continuing to pursue this.

c) Cllr Porter reported that a significant amount of work is being done in Bolder Wood, it having been neglected for at least 50 years.

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51/26 Finance

a) The Budget Control Report had been delivered with the Agenda.

b) Income of £131.70 from J Wright (error correction) had been received.

c) To approve D/Ds etc already paid.

D/Ds etc. Already Paid			
Date Paid	**Recipient**	**Amount**	**Reason**
21-Sep-26	J Wright	£131.70	paid in error
28-Sep-26	J Wright	£368.54	September salary
20-Oct-26	HugoFox	£2.99	mailbox
20-Oct-26	Lloyds Bank	£4.25	Standing charge
23-Oct-26	HMRC	£175.00	PAYE
28-Oct-26	J Wright	£228.02	October salary

d) The quotation from Morton:Pattinson Ltd for work on the collapsing bank by the west gate into the Churchyard had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Stacey proposed and Cllr K Curtis seconded that it should be accepted: this was resolved.

e) The Budget for 2027-28 was considered. It was noted that the purchase of a new laptop and associated software would be a significant drain on reserves. After some debate it was agreed that the reserves should be re-established over several years but that the precept would have to be increased to achieve this. Cllr Stacey proposed and Cllr Cross seconded that the precept for 2027-28 should be set at £4600: this was resolved.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Date of Next Meeting

18th January 2027 in New Forest Post Production Studio at 7.30 pm

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