

Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 21st November 2011

Present

K Curtis (Chairman)
CS Stacey

N Curtis
BW Trimmer

WA Porter

52/11 Apologies

No apologies were received.

53/11 The minutes of the September 2011 meeting were agreed and signed.

54/11 Interests

No interests were declared.

55/11 Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that HCC (Highways) had agreed to put the creation of a passing place by the ford in the 2012-13 budget.

56/11 PC V Gook

- a) Main target for thieves is diesel followed by heating oil and there have been instances of the tank being taken along with the contents. With the approach of Christmas it is likely that domestic burglary will increase.
- b) Speed camera work in the Lockerly area detected seven vehicles over the limit in about an hour.

57/11 Plaitford Village Hall

- a) Mr G Cuell reported that apart from a few trivial points Building Regulations have now been satisfied and letters should be sent out requesting tenders in the next week.
- b) The Village Hall Committee and Plaitford History Society intend to plant one or two trees to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.
- c) The History Society had noted that the red oak at the entrance to the Common on the north side of the A36 and which was planted at the Coronation of King George VI was in need of attention. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the History Society in requesting that the National Trust should proactively manage the tree to preserve its life.

58/11 Consultations

The members considered the proposed boundary change to the parliamentary constituency and wished to respond with the comment that there was no affinity towards Andover and that Romsey was our "local" town.

59/11 Finance

- a) The Budget Control report was received.
- b) Cheques numbered 100 – 103 were approved and signed: £60.00 to Audit Commission (external audit); £33.60 to 3M Signs (sign for Compton's Drive); £238.63 to J Wright (Clerk's salary); £59.60 to Post Office (Clerk's PAYE).
- c) The proposed budget was considered. No significant expenditure is planned for 2012-13 and it seemed reasonable that no increase in the precept was required. It was noted that there was approximately £4000 in reserve and it was considered that this would cover any contingency. Cllr K Curtis proposed and Cllr Trimmer seconded that the proposed budget should be accepted and the precept should remain at £3000 for a further year.

60/11 AOB

- a) It was noted that following the removal of the phone box from the entrance to the Common the turning was very difficult to find in the dark even for people very familiar with the area. It was suggested that there should be some marker which was visible in the dark, especially considering the increase in tourist accommodation at the end of the track.
- b) The eight street lights by The Shoe Inn were considered excessive and unnecessary during the night, contributing to light pollution and a waste of energy: the Clerk was asked to discuss the matter with the landlord of The Shoe with a view to getting them turned off during the night.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Date of Next Meeting

16th January 2011 tbc