

Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 7th July 2014

Present

K Curtis (Chairman)
JPA Robson

N Curtis
CS Stacey

AW Porter

32/14 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr BW Trimmer.

33/14 *The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting and the AGM of the Parish Council meeting on the 19th May 2014 were agreed and signed.*

34/14 Interests

No interests were declared.

35/14 PC Vernon Gook

PC Gook reported that the main crimes in this area at the moment were non-dwelling burglaries.

36/14 Clerk's Report

The requirement for two signatures on cheques has been removed, but as alternative "robust" arrangements are required the Parish Council decided that it would keep the two signatures rule.

37/14 Highways

- a) The Council had received a request for passing places along Flowers Lane. Discussion with the residents identified two problems: a lack of passing places and the enormous size of the lorries serving the poultry unit at Gardener's Farm.
- b) It was agreed that the lack of passing places appeared to be intractable since there was no publically owned land available and hedges and ditches would have to be destroyed/re-aligned.
- c) It was stated that the lorries were so wide relative to the lane that they were pushing the narrow verges into the ditches, which are then blocked causing the road to flood. Where there was no verge/ditch the hedges were being damaged as was the road surface since the vehicles were as wide, or wider, than the strip of tarmac. The road surface was also being damaged by the weight of the vehicles some of which were 8-wheeled articulated lorries.
- d) The height of the lorries is also too much for this little lane since they smash branches off the over-hanging trees and have damaged telephone wires. In winter the lorries have sometimes ended up in the ditch and it is not unknown for some poultry crates to be knocked off.
- e) It was suggested that if the owners were Faccenda Group Ltd then they may be willing to help by using smaller vehicles. The residents agreed to find the contact details and the Clerk would write to the manager in the first instance.

38/14 Consultations

Management of Paths by the HCC Access Team was discussed and it was agreed that current maintenance arrangements were unsuitable for rural paths. The Clerk was asked to respond that dealing with large fallen trees was the main issue, not grass-cutting with a ride-on mower.

39/14 Finance

- a) It was proposed by Cllr K Curtis and seconded by Cllr Robson that the Parish Council should make a donation of £100.00 to the Village Hall Refurbishment Fund: this was resolved.
- b) The Budget Control report was received.
- c) Income of £33.91 from HMRC (VAT refund) was noted.
- d) Cheques numbered 165 to 168 were approved and signed: £36.00 to CPRE (membership); £100.00 to Plaitford Village Hall (donation); £51.09 to J Wright (expenses + re-imbursement); £247.20 to J Wright (Clerk's salary).
- e) It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr N Curtis that since the Parish Council always subscribes to CPRE then in future the subscriptions should be paid by direct debit: this was resolved.
- f) It was noted that a D/D to HMRC for £61.80 would be claimed on the 10th of July (PAYE).

40/14 AOB

It was requested that the Clerk should ask for the worst of the holes in Sherfield English Road within Wiltshire to be filled.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Date of Next Meeting

15th September 2014