

Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 15th September 2014

Present

K Curtis (Chairman)
AW Porter

S Bowles
JPA Robson

N Curtis
CS Stacey

41/14 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor RJ Perry (HCC) and Cllr BW Trimmer; Cllr S Bowles had sent apologies for his anticipated late arrival.

42/14 The minutes of the 7th July 2014 meeting were approved for signing.

43/14 Interests

No interests were declared.

44/14 PCSO J Cole

The Police had received complaints during the last fortnight regarding people attending the auction parking inconsiderately on the track leading to properties on the northern part of Plaitford Common: a driveway had been blocked and the farmer couldn't get his tractor and trailer off the A36 to his farm. PCSO Cole agreed to speak to the people running the auction and would also visit later in the evening to see if the problem was being addressed.

45/14 Clerk's Report

The Parish Councillor Recruitment Project was discussed but this Council did not see a need to be involved because: there is no difficulty in filling vacancies; the Council has a reasonable spread of ages and is not single sex; the members have varied educational backgrounds and bring a very wide range of skills and areas of expertise.

46/14 Cllr S Bowles arrived.

47/14 Members' Reports

Cllr Stacey reported that the National Trust had finally replaced the walkway over the boggy section of Plaitford Common: it was now possible to access the Common from the entrance opposite The Sanctuary.

48/14 Consultation

Communities & Local Government Committee regarding litter and Fly-tipping

a) The Clerk was instructed to respond with the following points:

- Litter is getting worse and is very bad in the parish. It consists mainly of food and drink containers.
- Fly-tipping is better than it was and does not often occur, but land-owners have made it more difficult for fly-tippers to access their favourite sites.
- Local councils should provide more litter bins.
- Utility and highways contractors should remove their signs, barriers etc at the end of the job and not toss them in the verges/ditches.

b) There is no point in adding to the legislation since what currently exists cannot be enforced.

49/14 Flowers Lane

- a) Following exchanges of emails between the Clerk and various people at HCC it was apparent that the only assistance HCC could offer to limit the damage being done by large tractors and HGVs was to provide a “soft verges” warning sign. The Council agreed that the Clerk should be instructed to ask for such a sign.
- b) It was suggested that an occasional trimming of the verge would make it more apparent that there were ditches between the road and the hedges.

50/14 Finance

- a) The Annual Return has been received from the external auditors with no matters raised: this was formally noted by the Parish Council.
- b) The Budget Control Report was received.
- c) Direct debit to Information Commissioner’s Office of £35.00 (Data Protection) was noted.
- d) Cheque number 169 for £247.20 to J Wright (Clerk’s salary) was approved and signed.

51/14 AOB

- a) A resident and a councillor both raised their concerns regarding the noise level from the New Forest Folk Festival this year. One of the organisers explained that in the previous year they had received complaints from some attendees that the sound was not reaching all areas of the arena. The sound setup had been changed for this year but it was apparent that the changes had over-compensated: it was promised that the noise level would be less in 2015.
- b) Cllr Porter asked that the Council requests that the hedge opposite the Church is cut back: it presents a danger to traffic since there is no visibility round the corner and it extends into the roadway.
- c) The Clerk was asked to raise appropriately the matter of a tree across Landford Footpath 15A.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Date of Next Meeting

17th November 2014.

Date sent

Councillors 22-09-2014

Everyone else 22-09-2014