

Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 17th November 2014

Present

K Curtis (Chairman)

S Bowles

N Curtis

AW Porter

JPA Robson

CS Stacey

Councillor G Bailey (TVBC)

52/14 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor RJ Perry (HCC).

53/14 *The minutes of the 15th September 2014 meeting were agreed and signed.*

54/14 Interests

No interests were declared.

55/14 Matters Arising

- a) The land-owner has cut back the hedge opposite Plaitford Church.
- b) The footway between The Shoe and the Village Hall has been cleared to full width by the Highways Agency.

56/14 Clerk's Report

- a) The Clerk gave a verbal report of the last meeting of Test Valley Parish & Town Council Association. There were some points of relevance to this parish.
- b) Test Valley Community Services is not part of TVBC although it receives a significant grant from TVBC. TVCS runs Dial-a-ride etc. and is looking for additional volunteer drivers. It also helps voluntary groups to get started.
- c) The nomination papers for the May elections are to be hand-delivered to TVBC offices in Andover, but not necessarily by the person being nominated.

57/14 Cllr G Bailey (TVBC)

- a) The Test Valley Plan (revised) is being considered by the Planning Inspectorate. Some landowners in Awbridge had offered land for development but none was included in the local plan as all the sites were in the countryside. It is anticipated that the contentious areas at the hearing would be where the new housing is to go: developers want other areas including, environmentalists object to areas already included. It is not expected that the Blackwater ward will be problematic since it is included with Andover where there is more than 5 years' supply of building land already identified.
- b) Fishlake Meadows in Romsey is to be turned into a nature reserve.
- c) The Test Valley office at the Old Magistrates' Court is being renovated.
- d) TVBC, in conjunction with other bodies, has started work on the Romsey canal to make it a pleasant place to visit and to encourage wildlife to the canal.
- e) Cllr Bailey still has some money left in his allocation of funds for community projects in the area.

58/14 Plaitford History Society

- a) Mr G Cuell stated that the Plaitford History Society no longer exists but that the historic data will be kept in the new Plaitford Community Archive which Mr Cuell and his wife will maintain.
- b) The Chairman thanked Mr Cuell and all the other members of the Plaitford History Society for the work they had done in gathering and collating the history of Melchet Park and Plaitford.

59/14 Consultations

- a) The draft response to the Review of the Test Valley Access Plan was considered appropriate. The recognition that in a rural area car-ownership is essential and that adequate and affordable parking should be available in Andover and Romsey was particularly appreciated.
- b) The draft response to Consultation: planning and travellers was considered by the Council. It was agreed that there should be greater emphasis on travellers being people who travelled and so not also needing “fixed” mobile homes. It was also agreed that LPAs should have powers to prevent the unauthorised occupation of a piece of land before it occurs. The rest of the responses were considered appropriate.
- c) There were no comments on the National Park Management Plan Update.

60/14 Finance

- a) The Budget Control report was received.
- b) Income of £1500 from TVBC (precept) was noted.
- c) Cheques numbered 170 and 171 were approved and signed: £75 to Plaitford Village Hall (room hire); £247.20 to J Wright (Clerk’s salary).

61/14 Planning Applications

Orchard Cottage, Salisbury Road (TVBC ref: 14/02634) – two-storey extension plus single –storey extension.
The Parish Council agreed to respond with “Support”.

62/14 AOB

- a) The Clerk was asked to write to the relevant landowners regarding the mud on the road between the exit from the fields owned by New Forest Leafy Salads and the ford.
- b) Cllr Robson asked if something could be done to fill the hole by the post-box at Plaitford Pound: Cllr Bowles offered to deal with it.
- c) Cllr Robson stated that she thought it was time that the Parish Council stopped discussing how Mr JA Bowles’ long service to the Parish Council should be marked and just do it. It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr N Curtis that a gift of an apple tree would be suitable: this was resolved.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Date of Next Meeting

19th January 2015