

## Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

### *Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015*

#### **Present**

K Curtis (Chairman)

JPA Robson

Councillor N Adams-King (TVBC)

S Bowles

CS Stacey

N Curtis

#### **52/15 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs AW Porter, G Bailey (TVBC) and RJ Perry (HCC).

*53/15 The minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015 meeting were agreed and signed.*

#### **54/15 Interests**

No interests were declared.

#### **55/15 Clerk's Report**

The Parish Council's bank (Unity Trust) had changed its supplier for cheque processing, payments etc to NatWest and the issuing of a new cheque book has resulted in a gap in cheque numbers. The sort code has also changed, although the account number remains the same.

#### **56/15 Members' Reports**

- a) Cllr Adams-King (TVBC) informed the meeting that the Blackwater Ward had been allocated £3k to be spent as the two TVBC councillors saw fit, subject to match funding by the applicant of 50% of any grant awarded.
- b) Robson reported that she and the Clerk had attended a Planning Update at TVBC. The Head of Planning made it clear that the main changes were intended to speed up the planning process and result in more permissions (aesthetics clearly don't count any more – Clerk). He also stressed the importance of seeking pre-application advice to avoid problems later. Enforcement still has the term “expedient” and the process is not intended to be used simply to regularise development which would be approved anyway. The Enforcement team always attempt to resolve matters by negotiation. The Planning Development Manager showed some interesting cartoons illustrating what is now possible under Permitted Development: these include the conversion of redundant barns to dwellings and single storey extensions up to 8m high to a detached house. A useful sheet showing who's who was also provided.
- c) Cllr Stacey reported that the Landford footpath onto Plaitford Common was in a poor condition.

#### **57/15 New Forest Local Plan Review**

Cllr Robson suggested that this Council should request that the pylons across Plaitford Common should be considered for replacing by underground cables in the next project to bury power lines.

#### **58/15 Parish Council Vacancy**

It was agreed that ideally the vacancy would be filled by someone from the Melchet Park area. It was proposed that a PC noticeboard should be erected in that area emphasising that it was part of this parish. It was agreed that the ideal location was alongside the lake. The Clerk was asked to explore this suggestion.

#### **59/15 Finance**

- a) The Parish Council had no comment to make regarding the level of HCC's element of the Council Tax.
- b) The Financial regulations were reviewed.

- i) It was agreed that paragraph 2.5 should be deleted as being irrelevant to a small parish.
- ii) Paragraph 7.1 should be modified to bring it into line with current legislation.
- c) It was agreed that at least £100 should be in next year's budget as a contribution to a parish party to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- d) The Budget Control Report was received.
- e) Income of £1500.00 from TVBC (precept) was noted.
- f) D/D of £35.00 to Information Commissioner's Office (Data Protection) was noted.
- g) Cheque number 251 for £252.61 to J Wright (Clerk's salary) was approved and signed.

*Meeting closed at 9.05 pm*

### **Date of Next Meeting**

16<sup>th</sup> November 2015