

Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at Plaitford Village Hall on 15th July 2013

Present

K Curtis (Chairman)
AW Porter

S Bowles
CS Stacey

N Curtis

30/13 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Trimmer

31/13 *The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the AGM of the Parish Council were agreed and signed.*

32/13 Interests

No interests were declared.

33/13 Matters Arising

- a) The Clerk reported that Landford Trees had agreed to replace the sweet chestnut and suggested that it may not have had sufficient water.
- b) It was agreed that the young oak tree probably needed watering during this very hot weather. Cllr Stacey agreed to undertake this task.

34/13 Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing further to report.

35/13 Members' Reports

- a) Cllr K Curtis reported that he had attended an interesting walk along the River Blackwater with representatives from the NPA, with special emphasis on the control of Himalayan balsam. However he was of the opinion that neither the mapping (which required specialised equipment to generate O.S. grid references rather than the reference system used by satnavs on mobile phones) nor the eradication by pulling the weed at variously chosen locations (instead of starting at the sources of the Blackwater and its tributaries and then working downstream) would be successful. The Parish Council agreed that removing the Himalayan balsam in Wellow was a waste of time since there was a very extensive area on one of the tributaries in Plaitford which was not being cleared.
- b) Members briefly discussed the very interesting walk across Plaitford Common which had been led by two National Trust Rangers who had explained the various techniques for managing the Common and the rationale behind them.

36/13 Vote for Candidate for the NE Quadrant Representative on the NPA

Having listened to Bill Andrews and considered the information provided by Sally Arnold Cllr Stacey proposed and Cllr K Curtis seconded that this Parish Council should vote for William Andrews: this was resolved.

37/13 Casual Vacancy

This was discussed.

38/13 Finance

- a) The Budget Control Report was received.
- b) Cllr N Curtis proposed and Cllr Bowles seconded that the Council should again join the CPRE at £29.00: this was resolved.
- c) Cheques numbered 145 and 146 had already been signed: £8.13 to S Pearce (stationery for the Village Fête) and £100.00 to Plaitford Village Hall (donation to the Village Fête agreed at the previous meeting) - these were approved.
- d) Cheques numbered 147 and 148 were agreed and signed: £244.74 to J Wright (Clerk's salary); £29.00 to CPRE (membership).

39/13 Planning Applications

- a) Manor Farm, Church Lane - installation of internal lighting (TVBC ref: 13/01317/LBWS): "Support".
- b) Manor Farm, Church Lane - installation of under-floor heating, changes to fireplace and provision of flue liners, removal of brick trough and tap and installation of land-drain (TVBC ref: 13/01316/LBWS): "Support".
- c) Manor Farm, Church Lane - installation of a land drain (TVBC ref: 13/01315): "Support".

30/13 AOB

- a) Cllr Porter reported that following several thefts gates had been installed at various points on the tracks through Melchet Park. It was agreed that anything which reduced casual users of these tracks (some have no Public Rights of Way and the rest are PRoW on foot only) should improve the security of properties generally.
- b) It was noted that the Village Fête had been a great success and the Parish Council wished to thank Sarah Pearce for her determination and hard work in ensuring that everything went so very well.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Date of Next Meeting

16th September 2013