

MINUTES of a Meeting of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 17th October 2011 at Crown Chambers, Melksham at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. Mike Mills (Chairman), Cllr Richard Wood (Vice Chair), Cllrs. Alan Baines; Rolf Brindle; Gregory Coombes; Paul Clark; John Glover; Maurice Hubert; Don Millard and Mike Sankey (from 8pm).

Apologies: Cllrs. Elizabeth Bean, Steve Petty and Pat Nicol

257/11 **Declarations of Interest:** The Chairman declared an interest in BRAG (Bowerhill Residents Action Group) as Chairman of that group and in the item relating to Sainsburys as his grandson works there. Cllr Glover declared an interest in the items relating to Wiltshire Council employees as his daughter is an employed by Wiltshire Council and in the item to the land behind Wellington Drive as a resident. The Clerk declared an interest in the invoice for Amy Evans for work done on the Parish Plans as Amy was a friend of her son.

When the justification statement for the Green application for the land between Wellington Drive and Falcon Way was discussed, Cllr Glover sought clarification as whether he should declare an interest as a resident of Wellington Drive. The Clerk advised that as the locality for the new Green application included all of the Bowerhill residential area it may not be necessary for Cllr. Glover to declare an interest, but she would check this matter out

Resolved: *The Council seek clarification as to whether Cllr Glover should declare an interest in the new Green application for the land between Wellington Drive and Falcon Way.*

The Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow for a period of public participation.

258/11 **Public Participation:**

a) Report from Wiltshire Councillor, Roy While

- (i) *Wiltshire Council Senior Management Restructure:* Cllr While reported that on the 6th October a new Senior Management structure was announced which deleted the post of Chief Executive and reduced the number of corporate directors from three to four. The announcement had dominated the local press headlines over the last week or so. Cllr While commented that every London Borough had an elected Mayor, and little was heard of their Chief Executives. Looking forward, the key post for Wiltshire Council was the Corporate Directors. Nicola Gregson, Head of Commissioning for older people who was attending the meeting tonight, was one of the Corporate Directors.

Cllr Mills asked if the Chief Executive would be receiving a big payout as he had a two year contract with Wiltshire Council. Cllr While explained that any redundancy payment would be in line with statutory requirements.

Cllr Coombes felt that the restructuring should have been completed as part of the Election process.

- (ii) *Next Cabinet Meeting, 18th October:* Of interest on the agenda for tomorrow's Cabinet Meeting was the appointment of an external auditor, South West Audit Partnership. Car parking charges would also be discussed.

- (iii) *Melksham House Purchase:* Cllr While confirmed that Wiltshire Council were now the owners of Melksham House, and that contracts were exchanged on 3rd October.

Cllr Baines asked if the reports in the press that the £250,000 purchase price of Melksham House were true. Cllr While confirmed that this was the case as Cooper Tires sold the property for the price they initially paid for it, as a gesture of goodwill to the people of Melksham.

- (iv) *(SCOB) Shadow Campus Operations Board:* The third meeting of the SCOB was being planned. He had taken up the issue of Mike Sankey not being able to vote at meetings with Stuart Wheeler, the Cabinet Member for Campus Development and culture. He had also spoken with Mike Sankey direct. As Chairman of the Campus Operations Board he always ran meetings by consensus so there was rarely any need to vote. Any controversial issue would be referred on to the Area Board.

The Chairman reported that at the last Area Board meeting on 20th September he had raised the concerns of the Parish Council that Cllr Mike Sankey had a non voting role on the SCOB but nobody had backed him up.

Campus Consultation: Talks had commenced with the current users of the facilities at Melksham House. A workshop to examine equality and travel issues was being arranged by Brian Warwick. There are also plans to resuscitate the leisure working group, by Steve Clarke. A session had been planned to seek the youth view with Wiltshire Council's Youth Service arranging a session with the Canberra Youth Centre. Steve Clarke, the Headteacher at Melksham Oak Community School is surveying pupils for their views.

There will be a dedicated website for the Campus project, through the Melksham Community Area Partnership with its own blog section.

The projected timescales for the Campus project were as follows

Project Timescales:	Early 2012	Design
	June/July 2012	Planning
	September	Planning Consent
	End of 2012	Let Tender
	2013	Build
	2014	Completion

The Clerk queried the remit of the "Leisure Working Party", which was confirmed by Cllr While as dealing with "open space". The Clerk explained that in the absence of any other group, the Parish Council was running a successful Joint Sports Forum primarily for the users of Bowerhill Playing Field. There needed to be a way to incorporate this Forum with the new Leisure Working Party, rather than have two groups going in different directions. Cllr While agreed to take this up and discuss further with the Clerk.

- (v) *Cost of new car parking facilities at George Ward School site:* Cllr Wood asked about the recent media reports that £370,000 had been spent on improving car parking facilities at the George Ward site for the temporary use of Wiltshire Council workers as to whether the decision had been voted on or whether it was an Officer decision. Cllr While confirmed that it had been a Cabinet decision, but would have been wrapped up in project costs, not identified as a separate cost item.

Several Councillors asked how Wiltshire Council could justify spending that amount of money for temporary accommodation and questioned why the lighting and improvements were deemed necessary now but not when the site was used as a school, and also for Parish Council meetings. Other Wiltshire Council workers did not have access to free parking or a free shuttle bus. The Council agreed that the decision to improve the facilities for a small section of the Wiltshire Council workforce, but not others in the past, did not sit easy.

Cllr While explained that the building held a lot more staff than it did when it was used as a school, and that the improvements were brought about as a Health & Safety requirement. Cllr While confirmed that he would investigate the numbers of staff now using the building and report back to the Council.

Cllr. Coombes expressed thanks to Cllr Roy While for coming to the Council Meetings so regularly and again expressed concern that Wiltshire Cllr. Mark Griffiths had not yet attended a Parish Council Meeting since being elected in May 2009.

b) Nicola Gregson, Head of Commissioning – OP/PSI (Older People & Adults with Physical Impairments):

The Chairman welcomed Nicola Gregson who had come to the meeting to explain the recent changes in care for Older People.

- (i) *New Service Provider:* Nicola Gregson explained that as a result of extensive consultation over the last two years, a newly commissioned service for Care of Older People had recently been introduced. Enara Complete Care had been awarded the contract for the next five years, with the option to extend to seven years if it goes well. In future Wiltshire Council would purchase all services from Complete Care, for both older people at home and those in sheltered accommodation. Any Selwood Housing staff will go over to Complete Care. Nicola Gregson reiterated that no change to service will be made without someone coming out to talk to the older person first, under their “Help to Live at Home” service.

The Chairman asked if there would be a return of wardens to sheltered accommodation, for example at Kestrel Court in Bowerhill where the warden was lost some time ago.

Nicola Gregson explained that Complete Care would be visiting older people and asking them about their requirements. If a large group of residents

requested a warden then it was likely that they would get one, especially if Complete Care staff are already visiting with domiciliary assistance.

Cllr Glover welcomed the changes that were being implemented but was concerned on the effect it was having on Social Services staff that were placed under a new scheme two years ago, and another major change now.

Nicola Gregson explained that the change two years ago was following a review of how occupational therapists and social workers operated; with the emphasis on making sure that the person answering the 'phone as a first point of call was able to help. This was an internal change, whereas the new scheme being implemented with Complete Care is an external change, with the way the care is commissioned being the change. Cllr Glover queried the changes made for community care assistants and Nicola Gregson agreed that there were a small number, approximately 100 staff, who were affected and they are moving over to Complete Care.

- (ii) *New Emergency Response System:* In the past any calls instigated by an alarm such as the lifeline system would send a call to a UK wide call centre. Under the new response system, calls will be put through to Wiltshire Medical Services based in Chippenham who will respond with the relevant personnel i.e. Doctor, nurse etc. This is a 24 hour service.

Cllr Millard queried how efficient the lifeline alarm systems were; as if people fell they would not be able to reach an alarm button. Nicola Gregson explained that the lifeline alarm could be worn around the neck or wrist, and would activate automatically if someone fell over; the user must press the button before lying down as otherwise will be triggered accidentally.

- (iii) *New tender for equipment for use in the home:* Nicola Gregson is currently working on a project to evaluate and award a contract for the supply of equipment to assist older people manage in the home. This will be up and running for the beginning of November.

Nicola Gregson explained that all of the three projects she had outlined were being run in conjunction with the NHS. Following consultation with older people it was clear that they do not want to go into Care Homes and so the services had been designed to provide more help and reassurance to enable older people to stay in their home as long as possible.

Cllr Millard explained that requests for a visit to discuss Direct Payments had resulted in delays; some people had been waiting over two months.

Nicola Gregson explained that the Direct Payment system was only available to those who live in their own homes, and not for people in sheltered accommodation. There was a backlog of requests, and the Independent Living Centre, based in Semington, had been assisting with visits to try and cut the waiting time.

Nicola Gregson invited Councillors to contact her directly with any concerns or specific issues that they may have in the future. The Chairman thanked Nicola for coming to the meeting.

The Council reconvened and Nicola Gregson left the meeting.

- 259/11 **Minutes, Planning Committee 3rd October:** Resolved: *The Minutes of this Meeting be approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.*
- 260/11 Arising from Min. 252/11 **Draft Parish Plans:** The Clerk confirmed that all the amendments received to date had been updated on the Parish Plans by Amy Evans. It was agreed that the Parish Plans would be reviewed at a special Planning Committee on Monday 7th November.
- 261/11 Arising from Min. 253/11 **Shadow Community Operations Board (SCOB):** *(See also Min. 258/11 (iv))* The Chairman reported that he had hoped for support from the other parish councils at the last Area Board meeting when he raised the issue of Cllr Sankey not having a vote on the SCOB. Councillors felt that the other parishes were not fully aware of the situation. They also referred to Cllr While's comments that Cllr Sankey was not fussed about having a vote. The Parish Council, however, were concerned about the principle of and felt it amounted to discrimination against the rural parishes.
Resolved: *The Council write to all rural Parish Councils in the Melksham Area Board and explain the anomaly that Cllr Sankey was the only member on the Shadow Community Operations Board unable to vote. The Council would also draw attention to the recent Wiltshire Council magazine article that implied full Area Board support at the March Meeting for siting the Melksham Campus in the centre of town, which was a long way from what happened at the Meeting.*
- 262/11 **Planning Applications:**
W/11/02312 George Ward School, Shurnhold, Melksham. 270 dwellings including playing fields, car park and changing facilities
- The Council considered this planning application. It was noted that this was a renewal application for W 07/ 02086 which had been granted on appeal and as there were no changes within the renewal application, it would be given permission. Councillors emphasised concerns re the erosion of the rural buffer, the detrimental effect on Shaw House which was a Listed Building, and the loss of recreational space. It was noted that only 50% of the site was brown field, the rest was recreational land which should not be developed. Cllr. Glover requested clarification as to whether the re-located recreational land to be provided at Woolmore Farm was inclusive of or in addition to recreational land already allocated there. Councillors also questioned whether the Rugby Club would still be moving their base to the building in the north field. It was agreed to make enquiries about this.
Resolved: *The Council reiterate their comments made for the original planning application on 12th October 2007 and emphasise the points made above.*
- 263/11 **Planning Correspondence:**
a) **Changes to Planning Processes:** The Council noted the reply from Duncan Hames, MP.

- b) **Sainsburys development at Melksham:** The Council noted a reply from the Senior Planning Officer. The Clerk reported that Sainsburys had replied saying that they were looking into making the gabions look “greener”; which the Council welcomed.

Draft National Planning Policy Framework consultation: The Council considered the Policy Framework Summary paper. It was noted that the closing date for comments was that day 17th October. There was concern that the planning system was being blamed for all planning delays, but some were due to land hoarding by developers. The paper contained some contradictions. While appearing to support affordable housing, it facilitated more market housing which was often too expensive for local people to buy. It opened the way for more development in rural areas providing the design was “good”. However design was a subjective science, open to many differing interpretations. It also allowed for changes in the countryside if they made the land look better. Countryside land should be used for farming. There was concern that rural buffer protection seemed to be confined to officially designated “Green Belt”. In Wiltshire there was very little, if any Green Belt, but the rural land around market towns and villages still needed to be protected, to prevent urban spread and coalescence between villages. The criteria re flooding was poorly defined. It was unclear what was meant by “high risk”. The lack of detail gave a loophole for development in areas where flooding had not occurred for a few years but where there was still a risk. There was reference to the need for control of lighting and noise pollution but local councils were never given these details upon which to comment. While lip service was paid to sustainable transport, new cycleways were considered a low priority by some local authorities and thus were never built. Clarity was needed on how the Government was defining “local Government”. Did this mean Wiltshire Council? The idea of the local community making decisions was supported but the role of town and parish councils as part of this was unclear.

The Chairman referred to the lack of planning control over mobile phone masts. Not long ago, an application had been received for a mast in the Brabazon Way area. When residents had objected they had been told that masts up to a certain height could be put anywhere, regardless of objections. More protection too was needed for green open space. Defra was trying to make it more difficult for local communities to register open space as new Greens by charging them £1,000 to make an application. The Government could not on the one hand appear to encourage more green space, while on the other hand make it harder for green open space to be protected.

Cllr. Coombes emphasised that local councils had failed the nation in being so slow to support development. Some had a NIMBY attitude. It was a tragedy that people born into a community could not stay there because of the lack of affordable housing.

Cllr. Glover reminded the Council that in the past West Wiltshire District Council had prevented parish councils from nominating people for new local housing.

Resolved: *The Council submit a response to the Draft National Planning Policy Framework consultation, based on the comments above.*

Cllr Mike Sankey joined the meeting at 8pm

- 264/11 **Minutes, Council Meeting 12th September: Resolved:** *The Minutes of this Meeting be approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.*
- 265/11 Arising from Min. 219/11 **Planning Correspondence i) Local Centre Land, Bowerhill:** The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by some Bowerhill residents that were against any plans of a skateboard park being sited at the Local Centre Land. The Chairman read an extract from the “Bowerhill Villager” article written by the Council asking for local teenagers to give their views on what sort of equipment they would like to see in the area; which clearly indicated that a skate board would not be suitable due to the noise and its close proximity to a residential area. The Chairman commented that he had explained to the residents that the proposal was for a multi use games area like the one installed at Shaw Playing field over the summer. It was noted that there were already plans to develop the skate board park in King George V Park in the town.
Resolved: *The Council include an article in the next Bowerhill Villager, and Council Newsletter in the Melksham Independent News, explaining that a skateboard park was not under consideration for the Local Centre Land.*
- 266/11 Arising from Min. 227/11 **Town Council Boundary Review request:** The Council noted a reply from the Town Council. **Resolved:** *The Council reply to clarify their position that they see no point in meeting at this early stage as Wiltshire Council have confirmed that they would not be reviewed until after 2013, with changes not coming into effect until 2017.*
- 267/11 Arising from Min. 230/11 **Mains Drainage for Sandridge:** The Clerk reported that Wessex Water had accepted the Council’s request for a Needs Assessment although they had commented that the scheme may not be viable as there were lots of residents who had stated that they have no problems. They will go ahead with the consultation now. Cllr Millard commented that he had expressed his concerns to residents, particularly those in new houses with new septic tanks, that although they do not have issues now, they may well experience problems in the future. The current needs assessment to be carried out was a once in a lifetime opportunity to address the situation and it was short-sighted not to take up the opportunity of mains drainage now.
- 268/11 Arising from Min. 231/11 **NHS Staffing Numbers:** The Council noted a reply from the Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust that they do not have the information requested. Councillors were amazed that this was the latest response after six letters requesting the information had gone backwards and forwards between two parties. The Council agreed the response was unsatisfactory.
Resolved: *The Council reply to express disappointment with this reply.*
- 269/11 Arising from Min. 233/11 **Land behind Wellington Drive – application for Village Green status:** The Clerk confirmed that the application had gone to Michael Williams, JCP Solicitors for checking before sending on to Wiltshire Council. Michael Williams had explained that as he was checking the application he would be unable to sign the affidavit as he was no longer independent in the matter.
Resolved: *The Council use a local Solicitor to sign the affidavit.*

270/11 Arising from Min. 234/11 v) **PIGS Schemes at Bowerhill b) Footpath behind Locking Close:** The Chairman reported that contractor Mr Ayliffe would commence work next week, aiming to finish by the end of October/beginning of November. The project would be funded by 25% BRAG (Bowerhill Residents Action Group) who had a sponsor; 25% Melksham Without Parish Council and the remaining 50% by Wiltshire Council with a PIG (Pathway Improvement Grant).

271/11 Arising from Min. 245/11 vi) **Melksham Town Guide:** The Clerk reported that the Guide would have 24 pages of advertisements and 24 pages for the Town and Parish Council. The Town Council were keen to change the look of the Guide which concentrated on the history of Melksham in the past. They wished to include details of what was happening now, as well as in the past and were looking for input from the surrounding villages. The Town Council were also looking for details of any buildings in the Parish that would be suitable for a blue plaque as had had famous residents in the past. Councillors suggested Ronnie Biggs who had completed his National Service at RAF Bowerhill and Barbara Woodhouse who had resided at Sandridge Tower.

272/11 **Finance:**

- (i) **Grant Aid – Melksham in Bloom:** The Council noted a reply from the Town Council that they would not be supplying any additional information to support their grant application.
- (ii) **Implications of increase of National Minimum Wage:** Teresa Strange reported that the minimum wage increased from £5.93 to £6.08 per hour on 1st October 2011. This only affected one member of staff. It was noted that due to the other staff not receiving a pay increase for the last two years the differential between hourly rates was being eroded. It was agreed that this would be reviewed by the Staffing Committee which would be brought forward to enable any recommendations to be incorporated into the draft Budget for 2012/13.
Resolved: (i) The new minimum hourly rate be implemented from 1st October for the staff member affected.
(ii) Staffing Committee to be held on Monday 7th November with the Finance Committee (Budget) meeting now to be held on Monday 14th November.
- (iii) **Changes to Pensions Law:** Teresa Strange reported that from 2012, changes to pension law would affect all employers specifically that employers must automatically enrol certain workers into a pension scheme. *Resolved: The Council review their Pension Policy to take into account the legal changes.*
- (iv) **Receipts:**
 - a. **BRAG contribution to PIGS picnic area project:** The Chairman reported that BRAG had paid the Council their 25% contribution towards the picnic area project £352.86.
 - b. **Landfill Community Trust grant for Basketball Court, Shaw:** Teresa Strange reported that Community First had written to confirm that they were happy with all the supporting documentation provided as evidence of the project and were releasing the grant of £4,883.70 for BACS payment that week.
 - c. The Council noted that the following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Briansfield Allotment Rents 2011/12 (500331)	£	12.50
M Mylchreest – to purchase office stationery (500331)	£	7.63

Briansfield Allotment Rents 2011/12 (500332)	£	37.50
Briansfield Allotment Rents 2011/12 (500333)	£	6.25
BRAG 25% contribution to PIGS scheme (500333)	£	352.86
Briansfield Allotment Rents 2011/12 (500334)	£	25.00
Briansfield Allotment Rents 2011/12 (500335)	£	18.75
50% of Precept (2 nd of 2 instalments)	£	52,000.00

(v) **Accounts for payment: Resolved:** *The following accounts be checked and approved for payment:*

3987	John Collins & Partners LLP: Legal fees for Transfer of Asset – Bowerhill Sports Field £1,750 + VAT	£	2,100.00
3988	Valuation Office Agency: Valuation of Pavilion building, Bowerhill Sports Field, 50% share with Wiltshire Council £850 + VAT	£	1,020.00
3989	Atkinson Bookbinders Ltd: Binding 3 sets of Minutes	£	180.00
3990	Playsafety Ltd: Annual Inspection of Shaw & Beanacre Play areas £147 + VAT	£	176.40
3991	Condor Office Solutions Ltd: Photocopying 13/07/11 - 11/10/11 £132.62 + VAT	£	159.14
3992	British Telecom: Crown Chambers Telephone Rental 01/10/11 – 31/12/11 Calls 07/07/11 – 06/10/11 £101.32 + VAT	£	121.58
3993	P S Filkins: Beanacre grasscutting 2 x Sept cuts	£	90.00
3994	Miss Amy Evans: To draft amendments to Parish Plans	£	79.63
3995	WALC: New Councillor Training (Cllr Hubert 8/10/11) £55 + VAT	£	66.00
3996	The Consortium: Stationery £51.14 + VAT	£	61.39
3997	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Ltd: Annual Subscription	£	25.00
3998	Countrywide Farmers Plc: Maintenance Materials £6.06 + VAT	£	7.28

Salaries:

3999	Mrs Mary Jarvis: October salary + additional hours	£	
4000	Mrs Margaret Mylchreest: October salary + expenses Stationery (£2.50) Registered post (£5.45) Dustpan (80p) + VAT	£	

4001	Mrs Teresa Strange: October salary + expenses (2 x Registered post (£11.28)	£	
4002	Mr Terry Cole: w/e 27/08/11 – 17/09/11 + travel allowance + mileage (£51.20)	£	
4003	Mrs Gill Butler: Casual assistance 15/9/11 – 13/10/11	£	
4004	Mrs Elaine Cranton: September office cleaning	£	
	Total Salaries:	£	
4005	Inland Revenue: PAYE Tax/NI for Employer/ee	£	
4006	Wiltshire Council – Wiltshire Pension Fund: Superannuation for Employer/ee (Jarvis/Strange)	£	
4007	Wiltshire Council: Banksman for deliveries of planings to create car park at Briansfield Allotments	£	99.28

273/11 **Minutes, Website Working Party, 3rd October: Resolved:** *The Minutes of this Working Party be formally approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.*

274/11 **Website Working Party Recommendations: Resolved:** *The recommendations as detailed in Min. 256/11 be formally approved by the Council.*

275/11 Arising from Min. 256/11 **Website Contract Update:** Teresa Strange reported that the hosting of emails and the website had moved over to a new supplier, RM Software, over the weekend. Councillors were asked to reply to a test email to ensure the new system was working properly. The Council viewed the website www.melkshamwithout.co.uk that was now “live” and were pleased that the Council again had representation on the internet.

Content was now to be reviewed and updated before adding to the live website. It was agreed that Amy Evans, who had been employed on a casual basis to work on the parish plans, carry out some of the content updating, using material from the new parish plans. Councillors were requested to supply any photographic images that they had of places and items of interest around the parish.

276/11 **Allotments:**

- a) **Briansfield Allotments – Grasscutting quotations:** The Council reviewed quotations for grass cutting at Briansfield Allotments. **Resolved:** *The Council instruct Mr Robin Lydall to carry out the grasscutting in accordance with the schedule agreed, at a cost of £45 per cut.*
- b) **Best Allotment Competition:** The Council discussed holding a Best Allotment Competition next year. **Resolved:** *This item to be added to the Agenda of the next Allotment Committee meeting.*

- 277/11 **Wiltshire Council Campus and Area Board matters:**
- (i) **Report of Shadow Community Operations Board Meetings:** The Council noted the Minutes of the meetings held 19th July and 26th September. Cllr Sankey reported that he had not been made aware of the September meeting but that had now been addressed. *(See also Min. 258/11 (iv))*
 - (ii) **Campus costs and bank charges:** The Council noted a reply from Duncan Hames, MP
 - (iii) **Invitation to Special Meeting 3rd November to consider Community Plan:** The Chairman, Clerk and Assistant Financial Officer all confirmed that they would be attending the “Melksham Forward” event. The Clerk reported that other councillors would be welcome to attend as there were still some spaces. It was noted that the Community Plan would not now be approved at the Board Meeting on 5th December, as more time was needed for community consultation
 - (iv) **Melksham House User Update:** The Council noted a letter from Robin Townsend, Head of Service – Leisure, Wiltshire Council that had been provided for all users of Melksham House. *(See also Mins.258/11 (iii) & (iv))*
- 278/11 **ROSPA Annual Play Area Safety Report:** The Clerk reported that she had reviewed the Report with the Parish Caretaker and there were no high risk items highlighted. The Caretaker had many of the items in hand. The Clerk confirmed that she would prepare a report on the ROSPA report for the next Council meeting.
- 279/11 **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – Community Orchard:** The Council considered a resident’s suggestion of planting a Community Orchard of 60 fruit trees to commemorate the 60 year’s of the Queen’s reign. Cllr Hubert reported that Marco Pierre White had already announced that he was planting up to 60 pear trees and a wild flower meadow in the grounds of the Pear Tree Inn. Councillors expressed concerns about planting fruit trees as unless they were fenced and guarded they could provide ammunition for vandals. Problems could also arise over ownership and distribution of the fruit. The Council thought the idea of planting trees was worth pursuing, and agreed to provide a list of suggested sites in the parish. Initial ideas included Bowerhill Sports Field along the demarcation line of the planned spur road, to replace those lost when the Cereal Partners site was built and along Westinghouse Way. The Clerk suggested a sub-committee would be the best way forward for the project and the Council pursue grant funding to finance the project.
Resolved: *The Council reply to the resident that they were in favour of planting 60 trees to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, but not fruit trees in an orchard setting.*
- 280/11 **Highway Issues:**
- a) **Fatality on Sandridge Hill:** The Council were saddened by the news of a young man fatally injured on the A3102 whilst cycling to Melksham from Bromham. Cllr Millard commented that he had expressed many concerns in the past about the dangers on Sandridge Hill, although the accident was not at the Bromham Junction recently discussed. Cllr Millard reported that he raised concerns about this stretch of road to the Clerk of Works when the road was widened some years ago. **Resolved:** *The Council request a site meeting with Wiltshire Council at the site of the accident; Cllr Millard to attend.*

- b) **Protocol for assessing HGV and Satellite Navigation issues:** Cllr Baines explained that this was a re-issue of a protocol that had already been reviewed by the CATG (Community Area Transport Group). The Chairman commented that a lorry had been stuck at Falcon Way recently. The Councillors discussed options for signage banning lorries from the residential areas, but not restricting the deliveries for the Tesco Express and to resident's houses. Cllr Sankey explained that the best solution would be a maximum weight limit sign as this was pictorial and therefore understandable for non English speakers. The rules for the sign were that access would be allowed to lorries with no alternative route (e.g. Tesco deliveries), but not for others who most use the other way.

Resolved: *The Council request a maximum weight limit sign at the entrances to Falcon Way, Hornchurch Road and both entrances to Halifax Road.*

- c) **Traffic Lights, Shaw:** Cllr Baines reported that he and the Clerk had attended a recent site meeting when Engineers had re-aligned the shutters on the traffic lights. They were now been set and fixed and residents had passed on positive comments about the remedial work that had been carried out.

281/11 **General Correspondence for action:**

a) **WALC County Circulars for September and October:**

- (i) **Road Traffic Accident reports:** Teresa Strange reported that there was an article about a new website www.crashmap.co.uk which had a time limited free access for Parish Councils to search and access details about road traffic accidents 2005-2010. A report had been accessed on Sandridge Road. **Resolved:** *The Council access reports on the major roads in the Parish.*
- (ii) **Rural fund:** The Clerk suggested that the Rural Fund could be used to fund tree planting to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee (*See Min. 279/11*)
- (iii) **Running Track land:** Cllr Brindle recalled a Government document that had outlined a scheme where if no activity had taken place with Council owned land, it could be used for other purposes. Cllr Brindle explained that this was the case with the running track land, and that suggesting it be used for another purpose may spur Wiltshire Council into action.

- b) **WALC AGM Chippenham Town Hall, 28th October:** **Resolved:** *Cllr Coombes and the Clerk confirmed they would be attending.*

- c) **Annual Service of Remembrance, St Michaels Church, Sunday 13th November, 3pm:** **Resolved:** *The Chairman, Cllrs. Brindle, Glover and Baines confirmed they will be attending the Service to represent the Council.*

- d) **2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies:** The Chairman confirmed that there were plans for Melksham, Bradford on Avon and Trowbridge to form a new Trowbridge constituency. **Resolved:** *The Council had no comments to submit for the consultation.*

- e) **Street Watch Scheme:** Cllr Baines explained that the Street Watch scheme would be run along the lines of the Community Speed Watch scheme with trained volunteers patrolling their local streets in a semi-official capacity, but without

powers. **Resolved:** *Details of the Street Watch scheme to be included in the next Council newsletter.*

- f) **Letter from resident re. dangerous trees in open space adjacent to 605 Berryfield Lane:** **Resolved:** *The Council refer the letter to the Wiltshire Council Tree Officer.*
- g) **Map re: proposed new waterway boundaries.** **Resolved:** *The Council query why there is no coverage in the North Wiltshire area including the Wilts & Berks Canal and the Swindon area also surrounded by waterways.*
- h) **Traffic reports from Wiltshire Council:** Cllr Millard raised concerns about the local shops placing A-frames on the pavement in the Town Centre which cause a hazard to pedestrians. He had raised this issue with the Town Council several times but no action had been taken. **Resolved:** *The Council write to the Town Council with their concerns and copy the letter to the Highways Engineer at Wiltshire Council.*
- i) **Christmas Dinner:** **Resolved:** *The Council book the Greyhound at Bromham for their Christmas Dinner with the following priority for dates, dependent on availability. 1st) Mon 19th Dec, 2nd) Mon 12th Dec, 3rd) Wed 14th Dec.*

282/11 **General Correspondence for information:** The Council noted receipt of the following papers:

- a) AGM Community First – report from Cllr Bean.
- b) NHS Application for Pharmacy at Winsley – copy letters.
- c) Copies of Wiltshire Council leaflet – “Helping you drive in bad weather”
- d) Sewer ownership – copies of article re: changes with effect from 1st October 2011.

Meeting closed at 9.47 p.m.

Chairman, 5th December 2011