

MINUTES of the Annual Council of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 23rd May 2011 at Crown Chambers, Melksham at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. Mike Mills (Chair); Cllrs. Alan Baines; Elizabeth Bean; Rolf Brindle; Gregory Coombes; John Glover, Don Millard; Pat Nicol; Steve Petty ; Mike Sankey and Richard Wood.

Apologies: Cllrs. Maurice Hubert and Steve Petty.

1/11 **Appointment of Chair, 2011/12** Cllr. Mills, the Chairman for 2010/11 welcomed all councillors to the Meeting and then vacated the Chair. Cllr. Wood took the Chair for this item. Cllr. Nicol proposed, seconded by Cllr. Coombes that Cllr. Mills continue as Chairman for 2010/11. There were no other nominations

Resolved: *The Council unanimously resolved that Cllr. Mike Mills be Council Chair for 2011/12*

2/11 **Declaration of Acceptance of Office:** Cllr. Mike Mills then took the Chair. He reported that he wished to remain as Chair to see the Bowerhill Sports Field being signed over to the Parish Council; hopefully in the next few months. He signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3/11 **Election of Vice- Chair:** The Chair asked the Vice Chairman, for 2010/11, Cllr. Wood if he would be willing to stand again. Cllr. Wood affirmed he would be willing to stand again, to also witness the handover of the Sports Field.

Resolved: *The Council unanimously agreed that Cllr. Richard Wood be Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2011/12.*

4/11 a) **Adoption of Standing Orders 2011/12.** **Resolved:** *The Council formally adopt the Council Standing Orders for 2011/12 without any changes.*

b) **New Edition of Council Standing Orders:** It was noted that NALC had produced a new Edition of Council Standing Orders. **Resolved:** *The Council purchase one hard copy at a cost of £25.*

5/11 **Code of Practice for Local Councils in handling complaints:** **Resolved:** *The Council resolve to be guided by the NALC Legal Topic Note (Nov 2008) on complaints and to adopt the Complaints Procedure shown as an Appendix to the Topic Note as appropriate.*

6/11 **Appointment of Committees:** **Resolved:** *(Chair and Vice-Chair to be ex-officio members of all committees) The following Committees be appointed:*
Finance Committee: Chair, Vice-Chair; Cllrs. Alan Baines; Rolf Brindle, John Glover and Pat Nicol.

Planning and Policy Committee: Chair, Vice-Chair; Cllrs. Alan Baines; Rolf Brindle; Gregory Coombes; John Glove; Mike Sankey and Don Millard.

Staffing and Resources Committee: Chair; Vice-Chair; Cllr. Alan Baines, Cllr. Elizabeth Bean and Cllr. Mike Sankey.

Community Action Committee: Chair; Vice-Chair, Cllr. Paul Clark (Beanacre Action Group); Cllr. Stephen Petty (Berryfield and Semington Road Action Group); Mike Sankey (Bowerhill Residents Action Group); Cllr. Rolf Brindle (The Spa Action Group) and Cllr. Gregory Coombes (Shaw and Whitley).

Allotments Committee: Chair, Vice-Chair; Cllrs. Rolf Brindle, John Glover and Pat Nicol.

7/11

Appointment of Representatives: The Clerk reported that Cllr. Petty was finding it difficult to attend CAYPIG meetings and so could not represent the Council on this group. It was noted that there was now only CAYPIG to discuss youth issues. Cllr. Petty was happy to be a Council representative on the Wilts. and Berks. Canal Partnership Group along with Rolf as he was already involved as Chair of the Waterways Group. These changes were agreed. Cllr. Glover emphasised he was standing down as the representative on Emergency Planning Services as it was becoming complex and needed officer representation. It was agreed to write to Wiltshire Council to ask for details of the Parish Council role in this service. There was discussion re whether there needed to be a representative on the Melksham Community Area Partnership. It was agreed to find out from the Co-Ordinator, Miriam Zaccarelli whether a rep was required and if meetings were held for Council representatives. Cllr. Wood reported that the Melksham Area Sports Facilities Group was moribund. It was noted that no rep. had ever been invited to the Wiltshire Access Group and so this would be removed from the list.

Resolved: The following Council representatives be appointed for 2010/11:

a) Organisations

Area 32 Transport Committee	Alan Baines and John Glover
Bowerhill Hall Management Trust	Mike Mills. Rolf Brindle
Bowerhill Villager	Vacancy
Emergency Planning Services	Don Millard
Melksham Joint Health Forum	Paul Clark & Elizabeth Bean
Melksham Hospital & Community	Gregory Coombes
Melksham Charities	John Glover, Mike Sankey
Melksham Area Board	Mike Mills and Richard Wood
Melksham Area Community Partnership	Not filled
Melksham Area Community Safety Group	Mike Mills
Melksham Area Sports Facilities Group	Richard Wood
Melksham Area Waterways Group	Rolf Brindle, John Glover
Melksham Railway Development Group	J.Glover, A. Baines, R. Brindle
Melksham CAYPIG & Youth Services	Steve Petty, Pat Nicol. E Bean
Melksham Rural Policing Team	Mike Mills & Elizabeth Bean
Community Speedwatch -Bowerhill	John Glover
Community Speedwatch - Shaw and Whitley	Elizabeth Bean
Community Speedwatch - Woodrow	Alan Baines
Pavilion Club, Bowerhill	Mike Mills
Wiltshire Council Pensions	Gregory Coombes
Rachel Fowler Trust	Richard Wood
Shaw Hall Management Committee	Elizabeth Bean
Whitley Reading Rooms	Vacancy
Wilts. Association Local Councils	Gregory Coombes
Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership	Rolf Brindle

b) Tree-planting Representatives: Tree-planting representatives for the parish be as follows: Cllrs. Rolf Brindle, Paul Clark; John Glover and Mike Sankey

c) Footpath Representatives: Footpath representatives for the parish be as follows:
Beanacre - Paul Clark
Berryfield – Richard Wood
Bowerhill – John Glover
Sandridge – Alan Baines and Don Millard
Shaw and Whitley – Elizabeth Bean

d) Health and Safety Representative: Cllr. Mike Sankey

Flooding Issues: It was noted that Cllr. Alan Baines had attended the Operation Flood Working Group North, as requested to represent the parish on flooding issues. He agreed to continue in this role

e) Flooding Representative: Cllr. Alan Baines

8/11 **Dates of Meeting for 2011/12: Resolved:** The following Meeting dates be agreed for 2011/12:

Full Council Meetings: 2011: 20th June; 25th July; 12th September; 17th October; 5th December. 2012: 23rd January, 20th February; 19th March (Annual Parish Meeting) 16th April and 21st May (Annual Council)

Finance Committees: 2011: 6th June(Grants); 7th November (Budget)

Staffing Committees: 2011: 4th July; 2011; 2012 - 9th January

Planning Committees: 2011: – 6th June: 15th August; 3rd October; 7th November. 2012: 9th January; 6th February; 2nd April; 30th April

9/11 **Declarations of Interest:** The Chairman, Cllr Mike Mills declared an interest in items relating to BRAG as the Chairman of Bowerhill Residents Action Group. Cllr. Glover declared an interest in items 14(iii) the goalpost behind Wellington Drive and 17(a) the new Green behind Wellington Drive as a resident of Wellington Drive. Cllr Coombes declared an interest in 10(a) Insurance Annual Review as his son works for Aviva.

10/11 **Finance:**

a) Statement of Accounts and Financial Report 31st March 2011:

Teresa Strange reported that the Shaw Hill Playing Field and Village Hall Committee had advised a valuation figure for Shaw Hall of £143,850. The revised Asset total was £1,169,751. **Resolved:** The Council formally approve the Statement of Accounts and Financial Report for 31st March 2011.

b) Appointment of Internal Auditor: It was noted that 16th June had been reserved as the date for the Internal Audit. **Resolved:** Mrs Diana Lindsay be appointed as Internal Auditor for Melksham Without Parish Council for 2011/12.

c) External Audit dates: The Council noted that the important dates for 2010/11 accounts were:

Statutory deadline for approval of Council's Annual Return	30 th June 2011
Date by which Annual Return should be submitted for External Audit	4 th July 2011
Appointed date for exercise of Electors' rights	25 th July 2011

c) University of Gloucester Summer Symposium 6th-7th July: The Clerk requested permission for Teresa Strange and herself to attend the two day Summer Seminar at a cost of £325 plus accommodation costs. This was agreed.

Resolved: *The Council book two places at the Summer Seminar for 6th-7th July at a cost of £325 plus accommodation costs*

d) Council Receipts: *The Council noted the following Council receipts:*

BACS Wiltshire Council: 50% of 2011/12 Precept	£	52,000.00
BACS Wiltshire Council: Melksham Area Board grant for large Screen in Crown Chambers for viewing plans	£	467.00
500319 Shaw Hall Committee: Grants and donations for extension to Basketball Project comprising of: Community Foundation Grassroots grant £1,500, Shaw Hall Committee £1,450, Melksham Almshouses Public & Eleemosynary Charities £1,000, Rotary Club £500	£	4,450.00
500320/21/22/23 Allotment Rents 2011/12	£	325.00

e) Accounts for payment: *The following accounts were checked and approved for payment:*

3850	Broker Network Ltd: Aviva Parish Insurance through Came & Company. 1/6/11 – 31/5/12.	£	2,264.39
3851	Whatley & Co. (Pewsey) Ltd: To lay new water supply at new Berryfields allotment site £795 + VAT	£	954.00
3852	Complete Weed Control: Weed spraying at Shaw, Whitley Beanacre, Bowerhill, Berryfield £780.30 + VAT	£	936.36
3853	TOTAL Equipment Ltd: 1/3 contribution for Buildings Insurance at Crown Chambers	£	692.34
3854	Wansbroughs: Legal fees for lease renewal – Shaw Hall & Playing Field £450 + Index Map search £5 + VAT	£	545.00
3855	Condor Office Solutions: Photocopying 24/1/11-21/4/11 £132.89 + VAT	£	159.47
3856	The Consortium: Stationery £100.42 + VAT	£	120.53
3857	British Telecom: Internet for Crown Chambers 1/5/11 - 31/7/11 £95.94 + VAT	£	115.12

3858	Post Office Ltd: Postage Stamps	£	100.00
3859	Paul Filkins: Beanacre grass cutting – 2 cuts in April	£	85.00
3860	Countrywide Farmers: Maintenance mtrls £19.96 + VAT	£	22.96
3861	Buildbase: Maintenance materials £3.62 + VAT	£	4.34
3862	Mrs Mary Jarvis: May salary	£	
3863	Mrs Teresa Strange: May salary + additional hours + expenses (cleaning materials) £7.53 + VAT + mileage £25.36 (Allotments training course)	£	
3864	Mrs Margaret Mylchreest: May salary	£	
3865	Mr Terry Cole: 64 hrs w/e 9/4/11 –30/4/11 + Travel Allowance + Mileage £59.20 + Expenses (Petrol for lawnmower £4.17) + VAT	£	
3866	Mrs Gill Butler: Casual assistance 21/4/11 – 19/5/11 (20hrs)	£	
3867	Mr Barry Mylchreest: Allotment Warden 17/2/11 – 7/4/11 + Expenses (recorded delivery £5.90) + Mileage £10	£	
3868	Mrs Elaine Cranton: April office cleaning (8hrs)	£	
3869	Inland Revenue: Tax & NI for Employer/ee less SSP Recovered for M. Jarvis (-£40.80)	£	662.03
3870	Wiltshire Council – Wiltshire Pension Fund: Employer/ee Superannuation for M. Jarvis/T. Strange	£	608.14

11/11 **Council Insurance – Quotations:** It was noted that in 2010/11 the Council had accepted a quotation from Aviva conditional on having the Policy with the company for three years 2010 – 2013. **Resolved:** *The Council continue the Council Policy with Aviva, at a cost of £2,264.39.*

12/11 **Council Insurance Review:** The Council reviewed Council Insurance for 2011/12. It was noted that Councillors’ Group Legal Protection for 13 councillors added during last year was now on the policy. Under the new Council Insurers, street furniture was all risk and not impact only. The excess was £250. Cllrs Pat Nicol and Gregory Coombes expressed concern about the relatively low award figure of £10,000 given for assault on staff for theft. It was agreed to query this with Aviva. It was also agreed to find out if a) Wiltshire Council insured bus timetables and b) if Wiltshire Council had insured the new wooden footpath signs at Bowerhill.
Resolved: *The following changes be made to the Insurance Policy.
Check that bus timetables at Beaufort Close and Semington Road had been installed and add these to the list.
Add notice board near Kennet & Avon Canal, Bowerhill and new picnic tables (subject to a letter from BRAG to pass on ownership of these items to the Parish Council)*

13/11 **Statutory Holidays 2011: Resolved:** *The two Council Statutory holidays be on 31st May and 30th August 2011.*

14/11 **Wiltshire Council Grants Event:** The Chairman reported that Wiltshire Council had contacted him to say they wished to make a short film of the community enjoying the new picnic benches for publicity. It had been agreed that this would be done on Tuesday 14th June at 11.00 a.m and councillors and staff were invited to come.

It was resolved that the Council adjourn for a period of public participation

15/11 **Public Participation(1):** Wiltshire Cllr. Roy While reported as follows:
1. *New Picnic Benches, Bowerhill:* These were excellent. Gompels had indicated they would be willing to fund an event held there.
2. *Area Board Grants:* In future more weight would be given to awarding grants to community groups rather than parish councils. There were many voluntary groups in Bowerhill and they needed to be encouraged to apply to the Area Board for grants.
3. *Community Area Partnership:* There was now a Steering group for the Partnership. He understood Brian Warwick and Sarah Cardy attended for Melksham Town.
4. *New Development Plan Document 2026:* This was an important new document for the Melksham Without parish. The first draft was due out in the next few days and involved both Hampton Business Park and the Bowerhill Industrial Estate.

Cllr. Glover interjected that he understood Wiltshire Council had plans to site a Waste Transfer and Treatment Station at Hampton Park. If so Council officers needed to be told about the prevailing wind direction towards Bowerhill. This was noted.

Cllr While then continued his Report:-

5. *Emergency Planning Services:* Wiltshire Council at present was encouraging parish councils to participate, but several had raised concerns.
6. *Area Shadow Operations Board:* A Shadow Operations Board was being appointed. At present there were 7 members, with one vacancy left for either a town or parish council representative. It would be formally approved at a Cabinet Meeting at end July.
Chair – Audit Committee: Wiltshire Council was considering a paper on the future of the Audit Commission. 13 local authorities had formed a Western Audit Partnership. Deciding who represented the Council on the partnership had stirred up a hornet's nest as members were voting according to political affiliations.
7. *Planning Matters:* MW10/03571 Plans for the new fish and chip shop at Bowerhill had finally been approved, after 3 amendments. The application MW11/01190 for Boomerang was being called in to committee. He was awaiting a report from Environmental Health on this.

Cllr. Glover emphasised that although the Boomerang applicant had claimed there was adequate parking, this was incorrect. It had also been claimed that public transport could be used to serve the new facilities. This too was incorrect as the last bus was at 11.45pm to Devizes. There were no late buses from Bowerhill to Melksham and this needed to be taken on board.

Cllr. While confirmed he had made sure these points had been noted.

Cllr. Coombes asked Cllr While if he would find out the cost of the Inquiry involving Cllr. Mark Griffiths.

The Council re-convened.

- 16/11 **Vote of Thanks to Cllr. While:** Cllr. Coombes proposed a Vote of Thanks on the Council's behalf to Cllr. Roy While for attending parish council meetings so regularly. This was unanimously supported.
- 17/11 **Minutes, Planning Committee Meeting, 9th May:** *Resolved: The Minutes of this Meeting be approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.*
- 18/11 Arising from Min. 602/10 (d) **Campus and Poll:** It was noted that the Town Poll was taking place on Tuesday 31st May in the Assembly Hall from 4.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. Cllr. Baines reported that there would be six desks for electors. A letter was received from a parish resident to inform that a number of residents attended the Public Meeting on 3rd May and were considering asking for a Parish poll. How much would this cost and was the Parish Council willing to give full support to the motion being proposed for the town poll? It was agreed to reply to emphasise that, a poll was considered unnecessary for the parish because, unlike the Town Council, the Parish Council had been continually making representations to Wiltshire Council against the single site option out of town. The Parish Council had argued for other viable Campus options to be considered, and fully supported a split site option to enable the library and youth facilities to remain in the town.
Resolved: The Council reply to the resident as detailed above.
- 19/11 Arising from Min. 602/10 (e) **Local Centre Land, Bowerhill:** Persimmon Homes had put forward possible dates for a Meeting. It was agreed to request that the Council meet developers at Crown Chambers on 7th June at 2.30 p.m. The Chairman reported that he would try to get either Dale Robinson or Paul Stokes to attend on behalf of residents.
Resolved: The Council reply to request a Meeting on 7th June at 2.30 p.m.
- 20/11 Arising from Min. 602/10 9(e) **Public Open Space adjacent Hornchurch Road:** It was noted that this land had been transferred to Wiltshire Council for adoption on 31st March when the commuted sums were paid over.
- 21/11 Arising from Min. 602/10 (f) **New Hall, Berryfield:** The Clerk reported that Mike Kilmister had informed that permission was now being granted for a new permanent hall at Berryfield. This news was welcomed.
- 22/11 **Planning Applications:** The council considered the following planning applications and there were no objections:

MW/11/00937 Mr Langsford, 25 Bader Park, Bowerhill SN12 6UF.
Proposed rear extension

MW/11/01521 Mr Dodd, 23 Sunderland Close, Bowerhill, SN12 6TZ.
Proposed single storey front lounge extension.
- 23/11 **Minutes, Council Meeting 18th April:** *Resolved: The Minutes of this Meeting be formally approved by the Council and signed by the Chair as a correct record with the following amendments:*

Min 569/10 (d) Line 3 Delete "X72", to read "72 bus service".
Min.583/10, Line 3 Delete "no person from"
Min.586/10 (e) Line 6 Delete "Melksham", insert "Marlborough"

- 24/11 Arising from Min. 569/10 (a) **Fence, 19 Shaw Hill:** The Clerk reported that the Area Highway Engineer has asked the resident to remove the fence.
- 25/11 Arising from Min. 575/10 **Lights Switch-off Project:** Reply received from the Police to inform that they would not be commenting on proposals from individual parish councils. Lights did not necessarily deter crime. The Chairman informed that the Area Board would be sending a final list of recommendations through to the Police. Cllr. Glover emphasised that all lights used to be switched off in residential estates from 12 midnight to 5 p.m. It was agreed to ask if lights on new developments would be fitted with the time-switch as standard.
Resolved: *The Parish Council forward their list of proposed lights for switch-off to Wiltshire Council and the Area Board.*
- 26/11 Arising from Min. 579/10 **New Hall, Lease, Shaw:** The Clerk reported that the final Lease had now been received from the Solicitor.
- 27/11 Arising from Min. 579/10 **New basketball Court, Shaw:** Teresa Strange reported that CJ Morgan would be installing the court base in the week beginning 6th June. The new multi game posts would be installed towards the end of June by Parkdale. Both companies had sent in copies of their public liability certificates and Parkdale had also provided risk assessments. Details of the forthcoming work had been put in the Connect magazine.

Cllr Bean is co-ordinating a launch event for the court and a provisional date of Saturday 30th July was agreed.

The Council needed to decide on the line markings for the court. It was agreed to have colour line markings for 5 aside football, netball and basketball. Cllr. Bean asked if there would be hardcore under the tarmac. Teresa affirmed there would be a sub-base of hard-core and the Caretaker would be overseeing the work. The Play Area would be closed while work was going on and the Parish Caretaker would be repairing the swings and filling the gaps in the safety surfacing at the same time.
Resolved: *The Council ask CJ Morgan to install colour line markings for football, netball and basketball.*
- 28/11 Arising from Min. 581/10 **Goalpost behind Wellington Drive:** A site meeting with Wiltshire Council Officer Norman Burgess had been arranged for Tuesday 24th May at 3.30 p.m. Cllr. Bean reported that old goalposts had been removed from Shaw Playing Field Cllr. Brindle asked if they would be suitable to install at Hornchurch Road.
Resolved: *The Council ask the Caretaker if he would examine the old posts to see if they could be used again.*
- 29/11 Arising from Min. 586/10 **Bus Service Changes:** A copy letter was received from Whitley resident Terry Chivers which protested to Wiltshire Council about the lack of consultation about bus service changes. He questioned whether councillors ever used

the bus service. Cllr. Baines emphasised that the proposed changes only affected Sunday bus services and there had been consultation with the Parish Council and parish transport representatives through the Area 32 Committee. The Sunday 272 service after 6.30 p.m. had been reduced to 2 services because it was not being used. It was proposed to reduce bus frequency on the Zig-Zag but a reasonable service still remained. It was noted that some parish councillors and staff did use buses regularly.

Resolved: *The council reply to Mr Chivers as detailed above.*

30/11 Arising from Min.588/10 **New Allotment Agreement:** The Clerk presented the final version of the proposed Allotment Agreement for the new Berryfield Allotments which had been prepared by the Allotment Committee. Cllr. Glover emphasised that agreements for both allotment sites should be the same and he asked if parking for the new allotments would also be open to tenants of the existing allotments. It was noted that while tenants for the existing allotments did have problems with parking, the car parking facility within the new allotment site was primarily intended for the new site, as tenants were to be given access via a key to the main gate. It was noted that the new Allotment Agreement prohibited having cockerels on the allotments and growing GM crops. There was debate as to whether cockerels and GM Crops should be prohibited at both sites. It was agreed that both sites should prohibit growth of GM Crops. It was also agreed to monitor parking at both sites.

Resolved: *(i)The New Allotments Agreement be formally approved.*

(ii) The existing Allotments Agreement to be reviewed at a future Allotment Committee meeting to ensure consistency with the Agreement for the new site.

31/11 Arising from Min. 589/10 **Allotment Track Obstruction:** *As this item needed to be discussed in committee it was agreed to move it to the end of the Agenda.*

32/11 **Minutes, Sports Forum, 4th May:** **Resolved:** *The Minutes of this Meeting be formally approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.*

33/11 Arising from Min. 593/10 b **Sports Field -Heads of Terms for new Legal Agreement:** The Clerk presented a draft Heads of Terms letter for approval, with amendments shown in bold type. She reported that she was awaiting confirmation from Wiltshire Officer Richard Mortimer re the sum to be passed over to the Parish Council for 1 year's maintenance.

Resolved: *The amended Heads of Terms be forwarded to Wiltshire Council.*

34/11 Arising from Min 596/10 **Visit to Malmesbury Pavilion:** It was agreed to seek a visit to the Malmesbury Pavilion on Monday 13th June at 8.00 p.m. and to go in individual cars.

The Chairman reported that either Janet Jory or Julie, from the Pavilion Youth Club would like to come. Cllrs.Mike Mills, Alan Baines, Rolf Brindle and Pat Nicol agreed to come from the Sports Field Working Party together with Teresa Strange and Mary Jarvis.

Resolved: *The Clerk let Mike Rogers know so that he could liaise with the Pavilion Secretary, Margaret Pictor.*

35/11 **Minutes, Office Working Party, 19th May:** **Resolved:** *The Minutes of this Meeting be formally approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.*

- 36/11 **Office Working Party Recommendation: Resolved:** *The recommendation, as detailed in Min. 610/10 be formally approved by the Council.*
- 37/11 **New Green behind Wellington Drive:** The Clerk presented the draft questionnaire for residents as received from the Open Spaces Society. It was agreed to follow the format of this questionnaire. There was discussion re the area to be proposed for a new Village Green. Cllr. Glover emphasised that the original area behind Wellington Drive had been about 12 acres. It was agreed to find out when the developments in the areas of Grasmere and Osprey had been built.
- 38/11 **Village Greens - Open Spaces Letter re Legal Changes:** The Council noted a letter of 6th May 2011 from the Open Spaces Society to inform that Government was proposing changes to the system of registering village greens within the new Localism Bill, which could weaken local authorities' statutory duties to protect footpaths and greens.
- 39/11 **Wiltshire Council & Area Board matters**
- a) **Code of Conduct- Standards Committee Assessment:** A Decision Notice re an alleged Code of Conduct Breach by Wiltshire Councillor Mark Griffiths was received. The Council noted that while Cllr. Griffiths' actions did amount to a technical breach of paragraph 13(1) and 13 (2) of the Code of Conduct, there had been no intent to gain advantage. It was also noted that where there was a prejudicial interest, a councillor was required to declare it and leave the room
 - b) **Melksham Campus costs:** The council noted that Cllr Jon Hubbard had requested details of publicised costs of the proposed Campus from Wiltshire Council, under the freedom of Information Act. Cllr. Baines emphasised that this request had been made as a result of information given by Cllr. Seed at the Public meeting held on 3rd May. At the Area Board Meeting held on 29th March, Lucy Murray Brown had stated that Wiltshire Council had all the funds to build the new Campus. However Cllr. Seed had stated at the 3rd May Meeting that unless the Library and Youth Centre in town was sold off, there would be insufficient funds to build a new Campus. The Clerk reported that an article in the last Melksham News explained that Cllr. Seed had made this statement as a result of new information from Cllr. Wheeler. Cllr Glover questioned why Wiltshire Council had dropped the option of a split site already if they were unsure about funding from selling other sites. Cllr Coombes felt Cllr. Seed should be invited to come to a Meeting to explain. Cllr. Clark felt Wiltshire Council's intention was to sell off the town properties in order to have extra funding for the Campus.

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to enable Cllr While to speak

- 40/11 **Public Participation (2)**
- Melksham Campus:** Cllr. While informed that Cllr. Seed had already met with representatives from the Parish Council informally to address earlier concerns. He emphasised that all members of the Area Board were equal and had the same influence. Any questions about the Campus needed to be addressed to the Board as a whole and not Cllr. Seed. He did not wish to go into detail re finance. Funding for the Campus would come from borrowing and the sale of any assets would go into a

funding pool for Campus projects and be re-allocated. If a single Campus was approved for Melksham, sufficient funds would be raised. There was still the outstanding issue of the George Ward site which was eventually intended for housing. Without the sale of this asset, the bills for the new school were not paid. He regretted that cross messages were being given re the project.

The Council re-convened

41/11

Wiltshire Council and Area Board matters cont.

- b) Melksham Campus costs cont. Resolved:** *The Council write to Wiltshire Council to a) to ask why information given by Wilts Council Officer Lucy Murray- Brown on 29th March conflicted with information given by Cllr. Seed on 3rd May b) to ask for urgent clarification on how the Campus would be funded so that the public were not misled.*
- c) Melksham Campus site:** The Council noted Correspondence between Cllr. Seed and Mr. Terry Chivers. It was noted that an advert in the Wiltshire Times indicated Wiltshire Council was searching for a central site in town. The Clerk asked if this was a result of pressure from the Chamber of Commerce. Cllr. Glover suggested that Wiltshire Council use the Running Track land. Cllr. Nicol emphasised the Canberra was less than 30 years old and the Library too was a relatively new building. Both had been restored at great cost. To close them was picking on the most vulnerable people in town because older people used the library and the young who could not speak up for themselves who used the Canberra. The Woolmore Farm site was isolated and not a good place for children to go to at night.

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders again to enable Cllr. While to speak

42/11

Public Participation (3)

Melksham campus site: Cllr. While emphasised he supported having a single site Campus, either as near as possible to the new school or at another site in the Town Centre. The idea of having a single site in the Town Centre had not come from Graham Ellis of the Chamber of Commerce. He had attended various meetings to discuss the option and had met the Deputy Leader of Wiltshire Council. He had proposed some form of library provision in the Town Centre to be run by volunteers and to be reviewed in one year's time. If people then did not wish it to continue due to a library being on the new site, then its time-frame would be short. The results of the review depended on what people wanted.

The Council re-convened. Cllr. While then left the Meeting.

43/11

Closure of Christie Miller Golf Course, Bowerhill: The Clerk reported that the decision to close the Golf Course had been taken in a Business Plan paper which went to Wiltshire Council Cabinet in February 2011. Councillors expressed concern that the Golf Course had been closed without any consultation with the Parish Council. Council Members had found out about this from the Melksham News. Cllr. Brindle expressed concern that alternative recreational space would not be provided. Cllr. Baines referred to the new Shadow Operations Board now being set up by the Area Board which he understood would decide on the various community sporting requirements at

Woolmore Farm. There was a finite amount available for community facilities due to the constraints of the Listed Building and wildlife, and a golf facility was in danger of never being replaced. Cllr. Sankey emphasised that to close the Golf Course was not cost-effective as the land would still need to be maintained, albeit without any revenue. The staff at the Christie Miller could be asked to take the bookings. The Chairman reported he had asked what would happen to the Golf Course at an earlier Board Meeting and had been assured that no sports facilities would close until the campus had been built. It was noted that the TrainFest organisers had been told recently that the Christie Miller Centre would shortly be closed. Teresa reported that the kitchens are already shut.

Resolved: *The Council write to Wiltshire Council and protest at the closure of the Golf Course without consultation.*

44/11

Highway Matters

- (i) **Safe Crossing over A365 Spa – Bowerhill:** Cllr Nicol expressed concern at how dangerous it was to cross over the A365 to Bowerhill, near The Spa roundabout. The two lanes of traffic coming up to the roundabout from the Devizes direction, combined with traffic moving very fast off the roundabout towards Devizes made it especially hazardous. She proposed the Council request a proper cycle/pedestrian crossing there. Cllr. Glover supported this request. He reminded the Council of the pending Boomerang application for a night-club at Bowerhill which would result in far more people crossing there late at night. Following a fatality, the Coroner had advised that the Shails Lane section of footpath to Bowerhill over the Semington-Melksham Diversion should be closed because there was no formal crossing from the Semington Road footpath. It was agreed to make the request for a safer crossing via an issue sheet to the Melksham Area Board

Resolved: *The Parish Council request a formal full safe crossing over A365.*

- (ii) **A3102 – Dangerous Bromham Lane junction:** The Council noted that this issue had now been closed without any action. Cllr. Baines reported that this matter had been discussed by the Area Board Highways Improvements Group but there was no record of any accidents. There was no appropriate highway sign to erect. Cllr. Millard protested that the junction was extremely dangerous and several vehicles had had near misses.

Resolved: *The Council express regret that this issue had been closed without any remedial action.*

- (iii) **Pavement widening outside Shaw School:** The Council noted a progress report from the Area Board to inform this issue would be raised at the next Highways Improvements meeting. The Clerk reported that Police Officer Barry Dalton had visited the site and had agreed the pavement was very narrow at certain points.

- (iv) **Completion of footway, Dunch Lane to Bath Road Shaw:** A copy letter from Mr Chivers to Wiltshire Council to draw attention to a missing section of footway along A365 Dunch Lane to Bath Road, Shaw was received.

***Resolved:** The Council reply to Mr Chivers to suggest he raise this formally as an issue with the Area Board so that it could be considered at a Highway Improvements Meeting.*

- (v) **Speeding, A365, Shaw Hill;** An email was received from a resident of Shaw Hill, to express concern re speeding on A365, especially down the hill from Shaw towards Atworth. Cllr. Baines emphasised that this was a matter for Community Speedwatch. A team for Shaw and Whitley was being trained. Traffic-calming was not used on A and B roads.

***Resolved:** The Council reply to inform this matter was being referred to Community Speedwatch.*

- (vi) **Salting of roads at Bowerhill during icy weather:** The Clerk reported receipt of an email from Wiltshire Council Highways Management to inform that Halifax Road and Pathfinder Way would be added to the list of roads to be salted for the next season. Cllr. Glover asked that Mitchell Drive be added as well. This was agreed.

***Resolved:** The Council reply to add Mitchell Drive as well.*

- (vii) **Sponsorship of Western Way Roundabout:** The Clerk reported that no planting could currently take place due to the lack of rain. In view of this, David Carson had asked if he could erect his signs before planting took place. It was agreed to permit this, subject to agreement from the Area Highways Engineer.

***Resolved:** The Council check with the Area Highways Engineer to see if the signs could be erected.*

45/11

Town Council request for Boundary Review: The Council noted that Melksham Town council had made a request to Wiltshire Council for the boundaries between the Town and the Parish to be reviewed. The request had been made in view of the recent expansion to the east of the town. Councillors expressed disappointment that the Town Council had not let the Parish Council know about this request. It was noted that if any revisions were approved by the Boundary Commission, these would be unlikely to come into effect until 2017. It was agreed to write to Melksham Town Council to express disappointment that they had not contacted the Parish Council about this issue, and had read about it in the Wiltshire Times. It was also agreed to write to Wiltshire Council to make clear that while the Parish Council had no objection to a sensible review of the Town/Parish boundary, the Parish Council's immediate plans relied on revenue from current electors. It would be premature to make any changes to boundaries until the planned development up to 2026 had been completed and the planned Melksham Eastern Bypass or Distributor Road could then form a defined boundary.

***Resolved:** The Council write to Melksham Town Council and Wiltshire Council as detailed above.*

46/11

General Correspondence for action:

- (i) **Overgrown Trees, Sunderland Close, Bowerhill:** The Council noted a letter from a resident re overgrown trees on his boundary. The Clerk reported that this matter had been passed on to Wiltshire Council who had made a visit and ascertained that the owner was responsible for pruning the

trees. As the owner was elderly, the Caretaker had visited him to offer advice and support.

47/11 **General Correspondence for information:** The council noted receipt of the following papers:

- (i) WALC County circular for May with enclosures.
- (ii) Planned changes to EU legislation re production of herbal medicines
- (iii) Superfast broadband – paper from Wiltshire Council re planned survey
- (iv) Swindon Borough Core Strategy – extension of consultation period.
- (v) Parish newsletter May 2011
- (vi) Protect Wiltshire Annual Report from CPRE
- (vii) Parish Steward report on work completed in Melksham Without
- (viii) Wiltshire Council roadworks report

48/11 **Mains Drainage, Sandridge Lane:** It was agreed that this would be an Agenda item at the next full Council Meeting.

49/11 **Berryfield Allotments:**

a) Berryfield Allotment Track: *This item was discussed in committee.*

Resolved: *The Council amend the letter to be sent from the Solicitor to Mr Norvill to make clear the council and others had rights of way over the track and it should not be obstructed with fencing or debris.*

Meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

Chairman, 20th June 2011