

MINUTES of a Meeting of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 21st February 2011 at Crown Chambers, 7 Market Place, Melksham at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Parish Council: Cllr. Mike Mills (Chairman); Cllrs Alan Baines; Elisabeth Bean; Rolf Brindle; Paul Clark; Gregory Coombes; Maurice Hubert; Don Millard Pat Nicol; Steve Petty; Mike Sankey and Richard Wood

Guest Visitors: Duncan Hames MP and Vice-Chairman of Shaw Hall Committee, Terry Bazeley.

Welcome and Apologies: The Chairman welcomed Duncan Hames MP to the Meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr. John Glover

482/10 **Declarations of Interest:** The Chairman declared an interest in item 8b(v); the Bowerhill Rights of Way Improvements Grant as a member of BRAG and the Bowerhill Residents' Association. Cllr. Sankey declared an interest in item 10(ii) re the footway outside Shaw School as his children attended the school. Cllr. Bean declared an interest in Item 9 relating to Shaw Hall Lease as a member of the Shaw Hall Committee. Cllr. Petty declared an interest in all planning matters and in item 8(viii) re Melksham Board issues as a member of Wiltshire Council Planning Committee and as a Melksham Area Board Member.

The Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow MP Duncan Hames to address the Council

483/10 **Public Participation:**

(i) Visit from MP: Duncan Hames MP thanked the Council for inviting him. He reported that it was difficult to attend Parish Council Meetings while the House of Commons was in progress but this was a recess week. He had received some representations re the Localism Bill, which would affect all parish councils in the future. Civil servants at Westminster spoken as if local councils did not exist so he would very much appreciate any feedback on the Bill which would empower parish councils to have the general power of competence. Another issue could be the role of councils in new arrangements re standards.

Travellers at Bowerhill: The Chairman thanked Mr. Hames for obtaining such a speedy response from the Minister re travellers.

Mr. Hames reported he operated a triage system where priority was given to urgent matters. Replies were slower for policy issues.

Post Offices: The Chairman asked him for his views re the continuing loss of rural post offices.

Mr. Hames emphasised it was important to separate Royal Mail from the Post Office as a whole. He recognized the Post Office did need public subsidy but the Postal Service was different. He questioned whether it was helped best by an injection of public funds since it had the largest pensions deficit. Funds from the private sector would be better.

Melksham Library: The Chairman asked if he supported the campaign to keep Melksham Library in town. Cllr. Millard asked if he felt it was illogical to move it.

Mr. Hames reported he did support the Library remaining in the town, since he could not see the logic of moving it out of town. Proposals for Corsham were far less

controversial than at Melksham. The campus proposals would have more merit if they were about leisure facilities rather than the library. The key issue was who used it and why. Wherever one went it was clear the prime users were unlikely to be gym users as well. At Corsham it made sense to put separate facilities all in one place but at Melksham the proposition was less attractive.

Cllr. Millard emphasised that while Wiltshire Council talked of saving money, funds would be wasted if the library were to be moved, especially after so much had been spent on it already. Elderly people found the town site easily accessible but this did not apply to the Community School site. It should remain where it was.

Cllr. Bean reported that it would be splendid idea to have a café at the library.

Cllr. Clark reported he used the gym and then went on to do shopping. If this facility moved a lot of people would not bother to come into the town.

Relocation of Brookside: Cllr. Coombes reported he had attended the Wiltshire Council Cabinet Meeting on 22nd February and there was talk of relocating Brookside to a site near the Crematorium. It was fine and easily accessible where it was, so why move this care Home out to Semington?

Cllr. Millard expressed shock about such a move. He emphasised St Georges at Semington was being phased out. Elderly relatives or those who did not drive would be deprived of being able to make visits.

Town Centre Viability and Sustainability: Cllr. Wood emphasised the Town centre was being “bled” of essential services. One of the criteria was meant to be sustainability but moving services out of town went against this. A lot of people presently were able to walk into town and thus save petrol consumption. Wiltshire Council talk of sustainability seemed very hollow since petrol consumption would be increased if proposals went ahead.

Cllr. Brindle emphasised the carbon footprint was being calculated on the buildings not on transport. Wiltshire Council was only focusing on saving building maintenance costs, and were not worried about energy used to get to the site.

Mr. Hames said Cllr. Brindle had “hit the nail on the head”. Analysis was being based on carbon emissions in buildings and did not tell the full story. It should not come down to a narrow assessment of comparing fuel bills. Other bodies such as the NHS were just dealing with the immediate issues affecting them and not addressing the wider issues. It was easy to fall into the trap of just thinking about maintenance costs and leaving somebody else to sort out transport. He hoped nobody was trying to make money out of the proposals.

Loss of green fields: Cllr. Nicol felt it was appalling that good farmland was being used when there were other suitable brown field sites available. Nobody had yet addressed the carp parking implications. There was already a major problem with parking at the new school in the evenings.

Sheltered housing: Cllr. Nicol referred to the letter sent out by Selwood Housing to elderly residents which had really scared them. The changes in emergency call cover for an elderly 94 year old lady she knew which meant that if she fell, she could only summon help from one room only. She could not now speak to anyone from the bedroom or bathroom if she fell down there. Elderly people were paying for this service but it was not comprehensive enough. There must be other clients who were disabled being left in a vulnerable position

Mr. Hames agreed this was a matter for concern. Housing benefit could not be used for such cover. He had received a number of representations and would be monitoring

the situation closely. Since this matter had been taken up, one of the options given had been changed. He sympathized that it could be a long time if one could not reach the alarm button. However it was easy to under-estimate the effectiveness of electronic monitoring, he had visited a suite of offices on the edge of Chippenham where bungalows had been fitted with monitoring devices which picked up if usual movements were not taking place and prompted a warden to get in touch. This would benefit some elderly people. Wiltshire Council had listened re the importance of retaining wardens.

Cllr. Nicol emphasised the outlay of complex systems at the beginning could be costly.

Cllr. Millard advised that laser devices should be used.

Mr. Hames reported that outside experts generally were being consulted.

Shaw Hall Vice-Chairman Terry Bazeley reported that his late mother had used the lifeline equipment and it had been brilliant. A unit had been fitted under the stairwell.

Cllr. Nicol emphasised that the elderly lady she knew now just had one unit in the living room whereas before all her living accommodation had been covered. She felt more vulnerable.

Melksham Rail Service: Cllr. Baines thanked Mr. Hames for speaking in the Commons about the need for a better Salisbury to Swindon rail link.

Mr. Hames reported he had spoken about the rail link three times

(ii) Shaw Hall Lease: Shaw Hall Vice-Chairman Terry Bazeley reported that he hoped to take over as Chairman at the AGM in March. The 30 year Lease between the Parish Council and Hall Committee expired in 1988 although there was a separate Trust Document which existed in perpetuity. A new Lease was now being drawn up which the Hall Committee examined in April. In November the Wansborough Solicitor suddenly sent another draft Lease with an additional Clause which gave the Parish Council the right to give six months' notice to take Shaw field back. He was unclear why the Parish Council would wish to develop the Shaw Field and why the Council would wish to dismiss the Hall Committee

Cllr. Bean expressed support for Terry's work as a Hall Trustee and reported he had formulated a Business Plan for the next 10 years.

The Clerk emphasized there was no question of the Council wishing to dismiss the Hall Committee as their work was greatly valued and appreciated. The Solicitor had apologized for omitting to include the extra Clause at the beginning. As such a long Lease was being proposed, he was concerned to protect the Council's interests in the future. Legally the Council was only obliged to grant a 14 Year Lease. The Solicitor had apologized for omitting to include the Clause earlier

(iii) Report from Wiltshire Cllr. Roy While: *Council Budget:* Wilts. Cllr. Roy While reported that the following day, 22nd February the Wiltshire Council budget was being considered. He was confident recommendations would go through as it was not so severe as other county councils.

Melksham Campus & Library: He was totally in favour of the Campus and a special Board meeting would consider all the points made on 29th March. There were both advantages and disadvantages of moving the Library. It must not be forgotten that when a number of facilities combined, their sum would be greater than the individual parts. The Library of the future would be very different than it was now. No libraries were being closed.

Social Services – Care Alarms: He had noted the points re Care Alarms and Social Services. He had attended a Seminar to hear the advantages of the new system. There were no handouts and a big investment in the new system meant there had to be economies elsewhere. The response to alarms would now be quicker as fewer bodies would be dealing with them.

Car Parking Charges: As regards car parking charges, he had been interviewed by a local paper but his views had not been printed. If there were cut backs, the payback had to somewhere. If there were no charges bus services would have to be cut. Wiltshire Council was trying to avoid more cuts.

Bowerhill Sports Field: He was trying to arrange a meeting with between officers to iron out remaining problems.

Local Centre Land: A battle had been won but not the war. The Inspector's Appeal Report had focused on its use for community facilities but this was not mentioned in the developer's Marketing Strategy. He was hoping to sit down with Mike Kilmister and go through the issues.

Noise Complaint: He had received a complaint about a noise problem, parking outside a house and somebody trying to purchase derelict land.

Cllr. Coombes sympathized with all the cuts having to be made. He did feel that one way to save money would be not to pay Wiltshire councillors who failed to turn up to meetings. This money could then help the community.

The Council re-convened

484/10 **Minutes, Planning Committee 7th February: Resolved:** *The Minutes of the Planning Committee 7th February be approved with the following amendments:*

*Min. 467/10 Pg 4, Housing Shortfall – Line 2 –delete 60 million, insert 2 million
Local Development Framework - Line 1 – delete 2026, insert 2016*

485/10 Arising from Min. 485/10 **Section 106 Agreements:** The Clerk emphasized the need for parish councils to be involved throughout the whole process of drawing up planning agreements. At present local councils were asked for their views early in the process and then just given a copy of the final 106 Agreement when it was too late to make changes. They needed to see the final draft before approval to prevent important omissions. This was noted.

486/10 Arising from Min. 485/10 **Core Strategy:** It was agreed that the Council needed to request a definite Schedule for Consultation on this Strategy.
Resolved: *The Council write to request a Schedule of Consultation dates.*

487/10 Arising from Min. 468/10 **Shaw Pre-School Garden Fencing:** The Clerk expressed concern that if a new temporary wooden fencing was now installed in lieu of a permanent metal fence to be put in, when funds had been raised, it would then prove extremely difficult to obtain grant aid to replace the new fence with metal fencing. Cllr. Millard emphasized there was less maintenance on metal fencing. It was noted the fence around the Play Area which had been installed 20 years ago, was still in very good condition.

Resolved: *The Council obtain cheaper quotations for the metal fencing and assist the Pre-School Group to install the metal fencing immediately.*

- 488/10 Arising from Min.472(b) **Section 96 Licence for roundabout:** The Clerk reported that the Council's Insurers had now replied to request that the words "where the Licensee is legally liable" be inserted into Clause 4, line 2 of the Section 98 Licence, and she had written to Wiltshire Council with a request for this amendment to be inserted.
- 489/10 **Melksham Campus & Library – consultation:** The Chairman reported that at the 1st Consultation Event on 12th February hosted by the Melksham Community Partnership, residents who attended had been dismayed to find that there was no Wiltshire Council Officer to answer questions. One of the main questions was "How can Wiltshire Council find £23 million in the present economic climate?" There were to be 5 campuses at a total cost of £119 million. It appeared funds would need to be borrowed and paid back with interest. As future interest rates were unknown, the cost could be far higher than predicted. The Head teacher of the new Community Oak School had not accepted access to the Campus or extra car parking because the school had to be funded entirely from the Education budget. If the swimming pool were to be moved, a regular bus service would be needed in the evenings from 7.00 – 10.00 p.m. Cllr. Nicol emphasized the transport costs to reach facilities needed to be added in as well. Cllr. Wood questioned the annual running costs and emphasized that the most sustainable option was to leave the library where it was. Why were sustainable issues not being taken into account? The chosen Campus site would affect the school. There would have to be another access unless it was put through the Cromwell Oak Field. Another area of land would need to be purchased. Cllr. Baines questioned whether Woolmore Farm was the best site and why four of the five options had been dismissed so quickly. The proposed site for the Campus had never been part of the Woolmore Farm site. Unless Wiltshire Council had recently purchased it, they did not own it as claimed, and there were mistakes or misinformation in their calculations. It was claimed the site was adjacent to a housing growth area but this was untrue. Planned housing growth was in the Snarlton Lane and Sand ridge Common area. The only access was via Snowberry Lane and there was no back access to the school as yet. The flood risk at Site Option 1 was low – moderate; at most only 20-25% and the majority of this land did not flood. There was a reference to Site 4 being a preferred location for employment. However land at Berryfield or land next to the sewage works had not been allocated. There was more access to housing growth from the area next to A350. Site 5 had other supporting factors. It was unclear how an appraisal of sites had been done. Councillors questioned whether the figures used had been fabricated in order to dismiss the other options. Cllr. Brindle emphasised an additional 100 car park would be needed. There was already a split site since the Highways depot was being located elsewhere. It was noted that other Council services were moving to Chippenham, Devises and Trowbridge. A lot of money had already been spent on the Youth Centre. Young people did not want to go back to school for youth activities in the evening. Cllr. Nicol emphasised that this had been tried in the past at Swindon and tensions between school and youth services staff resulted in Wiltshire Council having to go back to having separate youth centres. If youth work was relocated to this site, Melksham would go back to having young people on the streets, causing problems. Cllr. Bean referred to young people who walked to and from the Canberra at present.

How were they going to get home if it was relocated outside the town? There was concern that the £23 million cost quoted for the new Campus at present would escalate with interest to be more in the region of £32 million.

Resolved: *The Council formulate a response to Wiltshire Council based on the points made above and emphasise that the new Melksham Oak School did not welcome the Campus being adjacent to the school.*

- 490/10 **Shaw Hall new Lease:** *The Council agreed to advance this Agenda item as Terry Bazeley was waiting to hear the Council's response. The Clerk reported that the current Chairman Clive Brigs had sent apologies that he had been unable to attend the Meeting. Cllr. Bean reported that her husband Richard Bean was also disappointed he could not attend. It was noted that the extra clause had been inserted due to the proposed length of lease (100 years) Cllr. Coombes proposed this be reduced to 50 years and the clause taken out. Cllr. Nicol proposed an amendment to 30 years and Cllr. Hubert proposed a further amendment to 25 years. It was noted that if a shorter period was used no break clause would be necessary at all. The above proposals and amendments were then withdrawn. Cllr. Baines then proposed, seconded by Cllr. Wood that the Council follow the minimum period required by law of 14 years which would also cover the 10 year period for Mr. Bazeley's Business Plan. This was unanimously agreed. *Cllr. Bean abstained from voting**
- Resolved:** *The Council instruct the Solicitor to redraft the Lease with a 14 year period and no break clause.*

- 491/10 **Planning Applications: Resolved:** *The following planning applications were considered:*

MW11 00298FUL Robinson 34 Dowding Way, Bowerhill. Conversion of existing shop to form 2 flats and fish and chip shop.

Comments:- *The Council has no objection to this application subject to the flue being correctly positioned to ensure residential properties do not suffer from the adverse effects of fumes.*

MW11 00325FUL Fiveash, 393 The Spa, Bowerhill. Rear single storey extension

Comments:- *The Council has no objection to this application as long as it is not imposing on neighbours. It is also concerned that there does not appear to have been any planning notices displayed in the vicinity.*

There were no objections to the following applications:-

MW10 03787FUL Land adjacent to 491 Semington Road. Erection of one detached dwelling and formation of new access (*Third set of revised plans*)

MW11 00251FUL Johnson, Selves Farm, Forest Lane, Lacock. Ground floor extension to Owl Lodge, use of buildings for wedding receptions and non-residential training and education, and extended hours of use.

MW11 00252ADV Johnson, Selves Farm, Lacock, Erection of highway sign adjacent to public highway

MW11 00296FUL Harlow (Agent) 499 Semington Road, Melksham. Single storey extension

MW11 00376FUL Glover 15 Wellington Drive, Bowerhill. Single storey rear extension and conversion of conservatory to habitable room

MW/11/00455 Drs John & Lucy Marshall, 179 Top Lane, Whitley. Proposed creation of rooms in attic, roof lights and replace windows.

492/10 **Planning Correspondence**

- (i) **Subsidence 3 Beeches Green, Shaw:** The Council noted further information from Wiltshire Council microfiche records. It was noted that there had been a subsidence problem with the main house due to faulty drains. It was noted that a neighbor had reported the garage re-build had been carried out in two stages. The Clerk reported that no reply had yet been received from the Insurers.
- (ii) **Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations:** The Council noted an email from Wiltshire Council Officer Sean Chacksfield. It was agreed to find out which mineral sites had been dropped
- (iii) **Planning Application for new Hall at Berryfield:** Letter received from the Hall Secretary Gilliam Arbery to express intense disappointment on behalf of Berryfield Hall Committee and Action Group that the Planning Officer was suggesting the outline application for a new Hall be amended to an extension of temporary permission for the existing Hall, due to the outline application possibly affecting the undetermined route for the new Wilts and Berks Canal. The existing Hall was deteriorating rapidly and if there was no progress the community would lose interest. The Clerk advised the Council to consider going to Appeal for non-determination of the application as there was no firm route for the Canal on any policy document. The Council agreed to ask Gill Arbery if her letter could be forwarded to the Planning Department.

493/10 **Annual Parish Meeting – format:** The Chairman reported he would be away for the Annual Parish Meeting but would be sending through a report. Clrr. Wood agreed to chair the meeting. Miriam Zacarelli had been invited to attend on behalf of the Melksham Community Partnership to carry out consultation on the proposed new Campus. Following discussion the Council agreed that the Consultation item take place towards the end of the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by refreshments and then a short Council Meeting.

494/10 **Finance**

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

3802	British Telecom: Internet 01/02/11-30/04/11	£95.94 + VAT	£	115.12
3803	Condor Office Solutions: Photocopier Charges			
		26/10/10-24/01/11	£95.15 + VAT	£ 114.18

3804	RM Software: 2 hrs PC Support £90 + VAT	£	108.00
3805	Avery Weigh-Tronix: Chart for new postal rates £7.77 + VAT	£	9.32
3806	Mrs. Mary Jarvis: February Salary + Expenses (£29.90)	£	
3807	Mrs. Margaret Mylchreest: February Salary + Shortfall in Jan wages + Expenses (£10) Stationery	£	
3808	Mrs. Teresa Strange: February Salary + Expenses (£13) (Land Registry fees £5.50 Postal fees £4 & Cleaning materials)	£	
3809	Mr. Terry Cole: 64 hrs w/e 15/01/11-05/02/11 + Travel Allowance + Mileage (£70.40) + Expenses (£7.50)	£	
3810	Mrs. Gill Butler: Casual hours 20/01/11-17/02/11	£	
3811	Mrs. Elaine Cranton: Jan. Office Cleaning 4.5hrs + 2 hrs sick pay (£11.86)	£	
3812	Inland Revenue: Tax & NI for Employer/ee	£	810.62
3813	Wiltshire Council – Wiltshire Pension Fund: Employer/ee Superannuation for M. Jarvis/T. Strange	£	660.39
3814	<i>Void Cheque</i>		

(ii) Grant Aid for Wilts and Berks Canal project: A request was received from Wiltshire Council for £500 grant aid to help fund the Wilts and Berks Canal Officer post. Cllr. Coombes proposed, seconded by Cllr. Wood that no payment be made and this motion was carried by 10 votes with one vote against. (Cllr. Petty abstained from this vote) **Resolved:** *The Council reply to say that while it supported the Wilts and Berks Canal project in principle it was not happy to fund staffing costs.*

(iii) Parish Weedspraying: The Council considered a quotation for 2011. The Chairman felt the spraying in 2010 had not been so successful as in 2009. Cllr. Bean suggested the Council miss a year and put the funds towards the new fencing at Shaw instead. Cllr. Millard suggested the Council seek other quotations. Following discussion it was agreed to accept the quotation but ask the Contractor to a) let the Council know when he was going to spray and b) ask if the type of spray had been changed as it did not seem so strong. **Resolved:** *The Council accept the quotation in the sum of £780.30 and reply as stated above.*

495/10 **Minutes, Council Meeting 24th January: Resolved:** *The Minutes of this meeting be formally approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record*

496/10 Arising from Min.433/10 **Local Centre Land, Bowerhill:** The Clerk reported there had been a good response to the request for ideas for the Local Centre Land. The Chairman expressed disappointment that the new Marketing Strategy document made no mention of the need for liaison with the Parish Council or for community facilities to be put at the site. The reference to the five year period was meaningless without a start or end date. At the Appeal the Inspector had criticized developers for not discussing the Marketing Plan with anyone. The site was valued at £200,000 with planning permission. It was agreed to write to the Planning Officer Mike Kilmister with the Council's concerns and to ask that the Marketing Strategy also be made available to the Bowerhill Residents' Association for discussion.

Resolved: *The Council reply to Wiltshire Council as detailed above.*

The Council then resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow Cllr. While to speak again.

497/10 **Public Participation (2)**

Local Centre Land: Cllr. While reported that he was trying to arrange a Meeting with Mike Kilmister to go through all the concerns re the Marketing Strategy and would let the Clerk know when this had been arranged.

The council reconvened.

498/10 Arising from Mins. 439/10 & 440/10 **Basketball Court, Shaw:** The Council noted a letter from the Hall Chairman Mr. Clive Briggs to confirm that the Hall Committee had agreed to give £1,450 towards the project and to ask for written confirmation that the Council would maintain the new court in the future. This was agreed. The Clerk reported that Teresa had submitted another grant application to the Landfill Tax to make up the shortfall in funds needed to put in a complete new court. It was agreed that if no grant were awarded the Council would do the project in two stages, with a new court and extra basketball hoop as the initial stage.

499/10 Arising from Min. 446/10 **Bowerhill Paths Improvement Grant:** The Chairman reported that the Rights of Way Warden Paul Millard had now obtained a quotation for the new signs and costs were higher than anticipated. The whole Scheme would cost £1,434.66; a cost of £478.22 for each of the three partners; the Parish Council, BRAG and Wiltshire Council if the sum was equally divided. He proposed, in view of the higher costs, that the Parish Council ask Wiltshire Council if it would be willing to fund 50% of the project costs which would then mean the Parish Council and BRAG pay 25% each. This was agreed.

Resolved: *The Council ask Wiltshire Council to pay 50% of the revised cost of the PIG Scheme for Bowerhill paths to the Kennet & Avon Canal.*

500/10 Arising from Min.446/10 **Footpath 89 Improvements & Kissing Gate Sponsorship:** Letter received from the Rights of Way Warden Paul Millard to report that some remedial work was being done on FP 89 at Shaw Hill. A new Scheme enabled people

to sponsor a Kissing gate for £120 in memory of a relative or pet. He was looking to replace stiles on Footpaths 89, 90 and 93. Cllr. Bean offered to sponsor a new kissing gate at FP 89 in memory of her West Highland terrier. It was agreed the Clerk would mention the new Sponsorship Scheme in the Spring newsletter.

Resolved: *The Council reply to confirm interest in the Scheme and ask Paul Millard to contact Cllr. Bean re the new kissing gate for FP 89.*

- 501/10 Arising from Min 446/10 **Footpaths 37(Melksham Town) and 92 (Melksham Without)** The Council noted receipt of a copy of a letter from Mr. Terry Chives to Wiltshire Council to express concern that a large security sign, adjacent to the public right of way sign for the above paths, could intimidate the public and should be removed. Paul Millard had replied to Mr. Chivers to refute his claim that the sign was intimidating but had offered to tidy up the paths and renew the Rights of Way sign.
- 502/10 (a) Arising from Min 447/10 **Speed counts for Semington Road:** The Council noted the results of the a speeding survey in Semington Road. 85% (85th percentile) of traffic travelled at 34.2 mph and therefore it was not deemed a Speed Watch area. For the area to be eligible for Community Speedwatch, the 85th percentile had to be 35- 38.9 m.p.h.
- (b) Arising from Min.448/10 **New Allotments, Berryfield:** The Clerk reported that the landowner had now signed all the Legal Documents, including the Pre-emption Agreement to give the Council first option to buy the new allotment land. The documents had now been sent through for Council signature. It was agreed to call an Allotment Committee Meeting so that the documents could be checked ready for signature.
- 503/10 Arising from Min. 448/10 **Berryfield Allotments – rats:** The Clerk reported that the Allotment Warden and Caretaker had now carried out a survey with Cllr. Brindle. Cllr. Brindle reported that a few allotments had places where rats could hide in clutter and it was important that these areas be cleared. It was agreed that a written report would be considered at the next Allotment Committee meeting.
- 504/10 Arising from Min. 450/10 **Area Board Issues:** Notes of an Informal Meeting held 7th February with the Area Board Chairman, Wilts Council Officer Nikki Lewis and Cllr. Roy While were circulated to all councillors. The Chairman reported that it had been a good meeting and Cllr. Seed had emphasised that all Board decision were now made in public and any person could raise an issue at a Board Meeting. It was noted that Area Boards were being given more highway powers to decide on priorities for re-surfacing roads.
- 505/10 **Highway and Transport Issues**
- a) **Cycle route from Bowerhill to Berryfield Lane** Cllr. Brindle requested that a cycle sign be placed at each end of the cycle route between Hornchurch Road and Berryfield Lane. The Clerk to ask Cllr. Brindle mark up a map to show where signs were needed.
- b) **Pavement outside Shaw School:** Letter received from the Head teacher Mr. Borrie to request that the pavement adjacent to the recycling centre at the end of

the car park be widened to enable parents with pushchairs and children to walk along it safely. It was so narrow that at times, cars had actually brushed against pedestrians using it. It was agreed that the double yellow lines needed to be joined up outside the school, and the grass verge cut back as far as the stone which marked the beginning of the Golf Course. There was a small dwarf wall which could be moved back as well. Cllr. Sankey informed that the present car parking near the school did actually help to calm down the traffic. A few years ago, the school had been offered extra land for the car park, but had not taken this up.

Resolved: 1. The Council submit details on an Issue Sheet to the Area Board so that the matter could be taken up by the Melksham Area Highways and Transport Group. 2. The Council reply to Mr. Borrie to tell him this issue was being referred to the Melksham Area Board.

- c) **Board Highways and Transport Improvements Meeting:** Cllr. Baines gave a verbal report of the Area Highways Meeting held that afternoon. It was noted that improvements to sections of Whitley footways were being drawn up and, to make the Bromham junction on A3102 safer, Wiltshire Council was being asked to erect an additional sign on the Westbook side.
- d) **Lights Switch off Initiative:** The Clerk reported she was compiling a list of street lights which could be switched off to save energy. The Chairman reported that the lights at the George Ward site were now being switched off at 8.00 p.m. Cllr. Coombes suggested the Council ask the Police which lights could be safely switched off. Cllr. Wood suggested the lights in Western Way, Semington Road and outside the new Asda be switched off from 12 midnight to 6.00 a.m.

506/10 **Minutes, Sports Field Working Party, 7th February:** **Resolved:** *The Minutes of this meeting be formally approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.*

507/10 Arising from Min.478/10 **Construction of Pavilion:** It was noted that the District Valuer's Report was due to be published shortly. In view of this it was agreed to defer consideration of the Pavilion Construction until the valuation report had been received.

508/10 **Sports Field Working Party Recommendations:** **Resolved:** *The recommendations as detailed in Min476/10 – 481/10 (excluding the first resolution for Min 478/10) be formally approved by the Council*

509/10 **Correspondence for action**

(i) **WALC County Circular for January - Buckingham Palace Garden Party:** Nominations were requested. **Resolved:** *The Council nominate Cllrs. Baines Brindle and Nicol to attend.*

(ii) **Dog fouling, Eden Grove:** Letter received from Mr. Terry Chivers to report that there were still dog fouling problems in Eden Grove, Whitley: **Resolved:** *The Council report this matter to Wiltshire Council.*

- (iii) **Street Trading Scheme Consultation:** It was noted that the Council concerns detailed in a letter of 27th January had been taken into account. The draft scheme sought to ban any street trading at locations within 500 metre walk using the public highway of a school or college. Consultation closed on 17th March 2011.

510/10 **Correspondence for information:** The Council noted the following papers:

- (i) Street Naming and Number Policy
- (ii) Wiltshire Council Parish Newsletter February 2011
- (iii) Outline Consent and Premises Approval for Dr. N Gough and Partners to dispense from the Winsley surgery to 1283 patients in the additional areas of Holt, Broughton Gifford, Atworth, Great Chalfield and Whitley
- (iv) Information re Melksham Town Centre Improvements in Church Street.

Meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Chairman, 21st March 2011