

MINUTES of a Meeting of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday, 21st March 2011 at Melksham Town Hall at 8.55p.m.

Present:; Cllr. Richard Wood (Chairman of the Meeting), Cllrs Alan Baines; Rolf Brindle; Paul Clark; Gregory Coombes; John Glover; Elizabeth Bean; Pat Nicol

Apologies: Cllr. Mike Mills (Chairman) Cllrs. Steve Petty, Don Millard, Mike Sankey, Maurice Hubert

- 532/10 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Elizabeth Bean declared an interest in the item relating to the letter from the residents at 2 Beeches Green ref. insurance claim as a resident of Beeches Green.
- 533/10 **Minutes, Planning Committee 14th March: Resolved:** *The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting be formally approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.*
- 534/10 **Planning Committee recommendations, 14th March: Resolved:** *The recommendations as detailed in Min. 530/10 be formally approved by the Council*
- 535/10 Arising from Min. 530/10 (a): **Shaw Hall Pre-School Garden -Silver Birch Trees:** Cllr Bean reported that the Shaw Hall Pre-School had requested through their Chair and Vice Chair to lop the silver birch trees at the rear of the Shaw Hall in the newly created Play Area. Cllr Bean explained to the Pre-School that they must write to the Parish Council to ask permission, but has concerns that this may not happen. Cllr Baines recalled that when the first meeting was held with the Pre-School about the Play Area the Council did agree that the lower limbs could be trimmed so as not to impact on the children playing, but there had been no discussion on any further work. Cllr Bean reported that the lower limbs have already been removed.
Resolved: *The Council write to the Pre-School Chair to explain that the trees are owned by the Parish Council and that no further work should be done to trees, apart from the agreed lopping of the lower branches..*
- 536/10 Arising from Min. 530/10 (c): **Winter road salting, Bowerhill:** Cllr Baines raised concerns at the latest Group 32 Committee meeting that bus routes are not automatically prioritised for winter road salting. The footway in Halifax Road is the childrens' pedestrian route to Bowerhill School and there is potential danger if cars slid out of Mitchell Drive into the pedestrians. It was agreed that it would be too late to inform the Highways Engineer when the roads actually needed salting, and to advise them now of the special request.
Resolved: *The Council write to the Area Highways Engineer to request that although the Bowerhill bus route is not a priority for salting, that a special case be made for the Halifax Road area due to the potential of cars sliding into school children en route to Bowerhill Primary School.*
- 537/10 **Planning Applications: Resolved:** The following planning applications were considered by the Council:
MW/11/00836/s73 Selwood Housing Garage Block Adjacent to 22 Halifax Rd. Wilts128QU. Proposal to extend the time limit for implementation for 2 bungalows and associated works (planning application 07/00996).
Comments:- *The Parish Council strongly objects to this proposal to extend the time limit. The Parish Council and community does not support this application in any way and*

the Council has therefore asked me to again reiterate previous objections as follows.

- 1. If this proposal goes forward it will remove the valued residential amenity of existing garages and car parking area. There is an overwhelming need for these facilities.*
- 2. The proposed development is contrary to the original design concept of this area which provides a purpose-built vehicular area with pedestrian link to the properties. The garages and hard standing area are part and parcel of the property ambience.*
- 3. The proposed application will remove an essential garage/parking residential amenity for residents who live in this area which cannot be replaced elsewhere in the immediate vicinity. The attached photos clearly show how the area is fully used and needed for parking. All the garages are in use and some have been occupied by the same residents for many years.*
- 4. If this area is developed there is nowhere else for these residents to park safely. Indeed at a local Meeting, the Police expressed concern about the traffic hazard which will ensue. The only place left to park will be on the main Halifax Road. The main straighter section of Halifax Road has had a complex chicane traffic-calming system installed, so the only available parking is on the blind corner, just past the Wellington Drive turning. See photos attached.*
- 5. While the Housing Society has indicated that replacement garages may be provided elsewhere on Bowerhill, sites are at an inconvenient distance from the dwellings. This will cause unnecessary hardship to occupants who have young children or who are elderly.*
- 6. Several properties only have pedestrian access from this car parking area. If it is removed, residents will have no way in for furniture delivery, removals, ambulances, etc.*
- 7. The plans show a block hard standing area which is supposedly for wheelie-bins. This runs into the footpath area which will be blocked when the dustbin Lorries come. The hard standing will almost certainly be used for parking when existing parking is removed as there is nowhere else to go. The Council is very concerned that refuse collectors will end up abandoning bins in the open area because collecting and returning them will become too onerous and awkward.*

The Council trusts that, in view of the continuing unanimous strong objections from residents in this area and the fact that Selwood Housing has not taken up the permission granted to implement the application, the Planning Committee will not allow a further time extension. However, should the Committee be minded to approve, no access should be given to developers other than via existing roads. As this is a dense residential area, working hours should be restricted to 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. only. Monday to Friday.

MW11/00858 Mr Lee Hazel, 112 Beanacre, Wilts SN12 7PZ

Replacement dwelling: replacement double garage; rebuilding and raising of garden wall.

Comments:- *The Parish Council would like to have a meeting on site to review this application. Please may we therefore have an extension of time to submit comments on this application after our next full Council Meeting on 18th April.*

538/10 **Finance:****i) Receipts:** The Council noted the following receipts:

BACS Wiltshire Council: PIGS grant for BRAG signpost project £ 717.32

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

3814 Void Cheque

3815 British Telecom: Internet 01/02/11-30/04/11 (£95.94) £ 115.12
+ VAT. **Reissue of chq 3790 cancelled as lost in the post.**

3816 Community First: 3rd Party contribution for Landfill Tax £ 605.49
Grant for extension to basketball project (12.4%)

3817 Wessex Water: Water connection for new allotment site £ 5,232.27

3818 Total Equipment Ltd: Crown Chambers Rent Apr-June £ 2,144.88
2011 (£1,608.75) Electricity 8/11/10-21/1/11 (£453.93
+ VAT)

3819 Goughs Solicitors: Legal services for 2 x tenancies for new £ 958.00
allotments & pre-emption agreement (£750) Land registry
fees for protective notice (£58) + VAT

3820 SLCC Enterprises Ltd: 3 x delegates Allotment Training £ 342.00
@ £95.00 each (£285) + VAT

3821 Wiltshire Publications Ltd: Melksham News adverts for £ 145.80
Grant aid (£43.20) and Annual Parish Mtg (£78.30) + VAT

3822 Mr Mike Mills: Outstanding Chair's Allowance 2010/11 £ 125.53

3823 Post Office Ltd: Postage stamps £ 100.00

3824 Bowerhill Villager: Adverts in 10 issues (Apr 11-Mar 12) £ 65.00

Salaries:

3825 Mrs Mary Jarvis: March salary (less 50p overpayment £
made in error on Chq 3794)

3826 Mrs Margaret Mylchreest: March salary £

3827 Mrs Teresa Strange: March salary + Expenses (Stationery £
£1.83 Company Seal £21.65) + VAT

3828 Mr Terry Cole: 64 hours w/e 12/02/11 – 05/03/11 + Travel £
allowance + mileage (£58)

3829 Mrs Gill Butler: 16 hrs 24/02/11-17/03/11 + 2.5hrs pro rata £
entitlement for statutory days/holiday

3830	Mrs Elaine Cranton: February office cleaning 6.25hrs	£	
	Total Salaries:	£	3,087.60
3831	Inland Revenue: Tax & NI for Employer/ee	£	734.40
3832	Wiltshire Council – Wiltshire Pension Fund: Employer/ee Superannuation for M. Jarvis/T. Strange	£	608.14

- iii) **New IT Equipment:** The Council was pleased to note the Area Board Grant award of £467 for the purchase of a large screen for viewing of plans.
- iv) **Shaw Play Area – replacement cradle seats:** The Assistant Finance Officer reported that the work to replace the swing seats would be done when the Shaw Play Area was closed temporarily when the groundworks for the adjacent basketball court took place. This would ensure that the Play Area was closed no longer than necessary, and the Parish Caretaker would be on site during the groundworks.
Resolved: *The Council accept the quotation from GB Sport & Leisure for two replacement cradle seats for the swings at Shaw Play Area at £135 including carriage, excluding VAT.*

539/10 **Minutes, Council Meeting 21st February:** **Resolved:** *The Minutes of this meeting be formally approved by the Council and signed by the Vice Chairman as a correct record.*

540/10 Arising from Min. 488/10 **Section 96 licence for roundabout:** The Clerk reported that Wiltshire Council had refused the Parish Council’s request to add in “where the Licensee is legally liable” into Clause 4 of the licence. The Parish Council insurers had responded that although they appreciate that the proposed activity is relatively low risk, the current wording of the licence exposes the Parish Council to indemnifying Wiltshire Council for **any** claim from injury, loss or damage irrespective of whether the Parish Council is actually legally liable for the incident. The Public Liability Insurance section of the Aviva insurance policy only provides protection in cases where legal liability is proven. The Insurers advised that the Parish Council request a separate written confirmation that the Parish Council will not be expected to indemnify them where there is no basis at law to do so.
Resolved: *The Council sign the Section 96 Licence subject to Wiltshire Council providing a letter to confirm that the Parish Council will not be expected to indemnify Wiltshire Council where there was no basis in law to do so.*

541/10 Arising from Min. 490/10 **Shaw Hall new lease:** The Clerk reported that the Shaw Hill Village Hall and Playing Field Committee had now signed the revised lease drawn up for a 14 year period.
Resolved: *The Council approve the lease and the Chairman and Vice Chairman to sign the lease when the Chairman returned from holiday.*

542/10 Arising from Min. 498/10 **Basketball Court, Shaw:** The Council noted the conditional grant award of £4,883.70 from Community First for a Landfill Tax grant including the 3rd Party Contribution of 12.4% to be made of £605.49.

The Council approved the quotation from C J Morgan for £11,450 excluding VAT, for the groundworks element of the extension to the basketball court. To remove the existing half

court and replace with a new surface 24m x 12m (288sqm), including removal of the existing hoop for re-use elsewhere, temporary site security fencing and line marking. It was agreed the contractor be asked to avoid working on site during the School Easter Holiday period in April and the Half Term holiday in May.

The Council then reviewed the quotations for the delivery, supply and installation of 2no. combination end goals. There was discussion about which goal style would best suit the children playing five-a-side football. It was agreed that Richard Bean, the Shaw Playing Field booking secretary be asked to seek advice from the footballers who currently use Shaw Playing Field and the Council also seek Mike Rogers, from Melksham AFC.

Resolved:

- i) *The Council approved the quotation for £11,450 for the ground works for the Basketball Court at Shaw Playing Field from C J Morgan.*
- ii) *The Council seek advice on the best style of combination goal to choose and defer the decision on the quotations from Suppliers to the next full Council Meeting on 18th April 2011.*

543/10 **Request for Skateboard Park, Shaw:** Cllr Bean referred to the request for a skateboard park at Shaw Playing Field as mentioned in a Report from Wiltshire Councillor Mark Griffiths for the Annual Parish Meeting: It was agreed that the skate board park be an agenda item at the next Council Meeting on 18th April 2011 and Wiltshire Councillor Mark Griffiths be invited to attend the meeting.

544/10 **Minutes, Allotment Committee, 7th March:** **Resolved:** *The Minutes of this meeting be formally approved by the Council and signed by the Vice Chairman as a correct record.*

545/10 **Allotment Committee Recommendations:** **Resolved:** *The recommendations as detailed in Mins. 513/10 -517/10 be formally approved by the Council.*

546/10 **Correspondence for action:**

Shaw School Crossing: A letter was received from local residents, Matthew & Carole Perry to express concern that the flashing warning lights beneath the triangular school signs were not working. They also commented that the flashing lights put over the Belisha Beacons were good but felt that a Pelican Crossing would be much safer.

Resolved: *The Council reply that the faulty lights had been reported and fixed, and that any request for a crossing would have to be made to the Area Board.*

546/10 **Correspondence for information:** The Council noted the following papers:

- i) 2011 Census questionnaire
- ii) Wilts and Berks Canal Group Minutes 17th February
- iii) Melksham Community Area Transport Group Minutes 21st February
- iv) West Wilts Portage Service information
- v) 3 Beeches Green – Copy letter to Crawford from adjacent residents
- vi) NHS Trust reply re transfer of Health Services to Great Western Hospital Trust

Meeting closed at 9.54pm

Chairman, 18th April 2011