

MINUTES of a Meeting of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 10th September 2012 at Crown Chambers, Melksham at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. Richard Wood (Chairman of Meeting), Cllrs. Alan Baines; Rolf Brindle; Pat Nicol; Don Millard; Gregory Coombes and Maurice Hubert.

Apologies: Cllrs. Mike Mills; Paul Clark; Steve Petty; Elizabeth Bean; John Glover and Mike Sankey

- 188/12 **Declaration of Interests:** Cllr Gregory Coombes declared an interest in the items relating to flooding at Whitley as his property had been affected and he lived very close to the residents who had written in. Cllr Rolf Brindle declared an interest in the planning correspondence from Jim Sherry as an acquaintance. Cllr Richard Wood declared an interest in the Planning item relating to a business in Berryfield Close as he knew the owner well and lived in the vicinity. The Clerk declared an interest in the pre-application information for the proposed solar farm on Norrington Common as a Broughton Gifford Councillor.
- 189/12 **Complaint against Councillor:** The Chairman was pleased to report that a resident's complaint against a councillor was not being pursued by the Monitoring Officer at Wiltshire Council as there was no foundation at all for the complaint. This news was welcomed.
- 190/12 **Code of Conduct – Change to Standing Orders:** The Council reviewed a report prepared by the Clerk to consider possible changes to Standing Orders with reference to Discretionary Interests.
Resolved: *The Council proposed the following addition to the Standing Orders, to be an Agenda Item at the next Council Meeting.*
New Clause 53a (in Bold to show this is a legal requirement). All pecuniary interests shall be lodged in writing in a Register of Interests form and online with the Parish Council and Wiltshire Council by members and their spouses within 28 days of taking office, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 – Section 29 and 30 and Wiltshire Council's regulations 2012.
(In normal type) 53b Members and spouses shall be invited to record in writing and online, discretionary interests within the ambit of the National Code of Local Government Conduct, in Q7 of the form.
- 191/12 **Proposed Visit by MP, Duncan Hames:** The Clerk reported that Duncan Hames had been unable to accept the Council's previous invitation to attend a Council meeting as he stays in London at the beginning of the week. **Resolved:** *The Council invite Duncan Hames to attend a Council meeting in the future, when his diary allows.*

The Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow for a period of public participation.
- 192/12 **Public Participation (1)**
Flooding at 209 Corsham Road: Residents of 209 Corsham Road, Mr & Mrs Bollen described the problems they have been experiencing for the last ten years with flooding to their property. They described how their lives were being dominated by

bad weather since they had to monitor the weather forecast constantly and measure rainfall in a rain gauge to ascertain when to assemble their water pump ready for use when flooding occurred. Water collected in a culvert and since the 9" pipe on their property was unable to drain into their neighbour's 6" pipe it backed up around their property and had to be pumped out. This had occurred 6 times this year already. During the severe rainfall on 5th August, they were unable to pump the water out quickly enough and they had to call the Fire Brigade. (Officers were not allowed to assist until water entered a home) The Fire Brigade lent them their fire hoses to pump away the excess water. Humidifiers and heaters were still having to be used inside their home following the flood on the 5th August. Mr & Mrs Bollen emphasised that the flooding experiences were now unbearable and they were now looking to the Authorities for some action and real help. Other houses in the road had been affected on 5th August but theirs was the only property constantly being threatened with flooding Many times their pumping helped to prevent water from entering neighbouring houses.

The Council reconvened. It was agreed to advance this item on the Agenda for discussion.

193/12

Flooding at 209 Corsham Road: Cllr Alan Baines recalled that a Site Meeting at 209 Corsham Road was held in 2009 when this problem had been discussed. The Drainage Engineer who attended that meeting had since left Wiltshire Council. Several schemes were proposed, some of which have been implemented to affect the volume of flow to 209 Corsham Road. The issue had also been raised at the Flooding Operations meetings in the past and at every meeting in the last 12 months. The Drainage Engineer Danny Everett had been dismissive initially and felt that the residents could implement other measures themselves but Cllr Baines felt that Mr & Mrs Bollen had done all that they could to help themselves.

The current proposal was for a survey of the complete drainage system, upstream and downstream to 209 Corsham Road to take place. This required the permission of other landowners and Danny Everett had been passed the details of the "Connect" Shaw & Whitley village magazine so that he could place an advertisement to let the residents know about the proposed survey. So far no item had been put in the magazine.

The results of the survey would determine the scheme to be put in place, but Cllr Baines warned that the work would be quite extensive and would need to be funded over 3 years. He would like to see a start made on the scheme and at least a commitment of one year's funding to ensure water backup was reduced.

It was noted that the Chair of the Flooding Committee, Wiltshire Cllr Jonathan Seed was now aware of the seriousness of the problem and that the Bollens had been in touch with MP Duncan Hames as well. Cllr Baines summarised that while Wiltshire Council was willing to act, there is no quick fix. The amount of money for flooding issues for the whole of Wiltshire was small and other schemes that were being considered for funding involved groups of houses or were on a bigger scale elsewhere in the County.

The Chairman advised that a site meeting was to be arranged with Emma Truran of Wiltshire Council on Monday 17th September, Cllr Hubert agreed to attend the meeting to represent the Parish Council and report back.

Cllr Coombes gave details of remedial works that were carried out 3 years ago when the blocked drains were blown through and Mr Bollen confirmed that cracks in pipes had been found and the pipes lined, but this had only decreased the volume of water that could then flow through the pipes.

Cllr Hubert reported that he had visited Whitley residents that had been affected by the flooding on 5th August and at one stage a small river was running through the village. He accepted that it had been a flash flood but the situation had not been helped by the blocked ditches and blocked drains. The Highways Engineer Andy Cadwallader had surveyed the ditches and concluded that the Fuller Estate needed to clear their ditches, although in the end a resident had cleared them. Cllr Hubert felt that there had been a lot of delays and that no action had been taken over the last 3 months. Cllr Baines commented that Wiltshire Cllr Seed's letter dated 14th August had explained that the implementation of the survey was dependant on gaining access to the land which was in the hands of the landowners and residents and therefore a provisional date had not yet been set. It was agreed to write to Wiltshire Council to request a real concerted effort to move this issue forward, making clear that while several residences had been affected by the flash flood on 5th August, the flooding at 209 Corsham Road was not just as a result of flash flooding but was now regular occurrence. Wiltshire Council already knew what drains were ineffective and needed to start on remedial works immediately rather than just doing another Survey

Resolved: *The Council write to Andy Cadwallader to request that ditches be cleared as soon as possible. 2. The Council contact Wiltshire Councillor Jonathan Seed to request his support to ensure landowners were contacted to give permission for the survey and drainage work to be done.*

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

194/12

Public Participation (2)

a) Proposed Solar Farm at Land West of Norrington Lane, Broughton Gifford:

The Chairman welcomed Jodie Hoare from Aardvark EM Limited who wished to present pre-application information about a proposed solar farm at Norrington Lane. The Council noted that the site was not in the Parish boundary but could visually affect the residents of Shaw Hill.

The site covered some 22 hectares, three fields in total and was chosen due to its close proximity to the high voltage lines and would feed straight into the neighbouring sub station. Potentially the electricity generated there would be used locally.

Aardvark did not envisage that there will be a direct visual impact on the residents but there are footpaths through the fields at present. The solar panels will be erected higher than at some other installations, and there will be no fences erected so the footpaths could be kept open in their current position. The farmer plans to graze sheep in the fields as the height under the panels would be approx 1.5 metres. A 5

metre buffer would be left for any footpaths, or alternatively the footpaths could be diverted. Aardvark were arranging to meet the Footpaths Officer to seek his views. Geographical and archeological surveys would also be conducted for the area.

Jodie Hoare explained that the planning application would be made fairly soon as grants available were in decline, and that a provisional date was set for a public consultation at Broughton Gifford on 27th September 4pm to 7pm.

b) Report from Wiltshire Councillor, Roy While:

Audit: Cllr While reported that he had been chairing the Audit Committee which had been reviewing the qualified audit report covering some £3/4 Million of the Council's budget.

Melksham Campus: Cllr While explained that he had spent a lot of time over the Summer working on the Campus project. The brief was completed in July and they had met 2/3 times with the Architect who was now drawing up spatial plans. It was a complex site, and the cost of relocating the football and rugby clubs now had to come out of the Budget and therefore some things were being trimmed and cut back. An informal meeting with the Area Board had been arranged for the following week. Cllr While felt that Melksham were very lucky as they were receiving the most expensive Campus in Wiltshire.

The Area Board meeting for the public to discuss plans for the Campus was to be held on Wednesday 10th October at the Assembly Hall. Subject to approval at the Area Board meeting the next phase would be the appointment of an Architect in October with a planning application and construction tenders out in the New Year. Construction would start in Summer 2013 with a completion date end of 2014/early 2015.

Cllr While had met with several different groups including the users of Christie Miller, Crown House and a variety of young people through the MOCS Headteacher Steve Clark, Atworth Youth Club and the Canberra and had assured them that they would be involved in the design process. If plans were approved at the Area Board meeting then an information leaflet would be produced with FAQ's.

W/12/00467/FUL Solar Farm at Land North of Craysmarsh Farm, Redstocks:

The Parish Council had no objections to this planning application but Cllr While had called it in for a Planning Committee decision. He had started the meeting with a neutral view but had been persuaded by the arguments put forward by objectors to support their views. However, the Committee approved the application which had been passed by the Chair's casting vote.

Proposed Solar Farm at Land West of Norrington Lane: Cllr While was keeping an open mind about this application, which was a larger scheme.

Lorry Park at Bowerhill: Cllr While reported that he intends the December Area Board meeting to agree the recommendation that the Neighbourhood Planning process should be used to agree a lorry park facility at Bowerhill.

The Council reconvened.

- 195/12 **Minutes, Planning Committee 13th August: Resolved:** *The Minutes of this Meeting be approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.*
- 196/12 Arising from Min. 182/12 **W12 01384 Michael Coppin, land adjacent to Vicarage, Corsham Road, Shaw. Proposed retention of small structures for housing animals and erection of new hay barn.** The Council noted that approval had been given for this application and there was a condition to ensure animal bedding ~~could~~ not be burnt on site.
- 197/12 Arising from Min. 183/12 **W12 00992 Sahara Sandpit, Sandridge Hill, Sandridge Common. Consolidation and relocation of existing businesses with change of use of former sand pit to form compound, including erection of building for storage of plant hire and civil engineering equipment and vehicles with associated workshop, office and welfare facilities and processing plant for recycling, construction/demolition materials. Proposal includes retention of a weighbridge.** The Council noted that a slightly amended red outline plan had been received for the Certificate of Lawfulness to match the application site; to try and ensure that only one crusher would be able to operate on site. The Planning Officer was not consulting the Parish Council again as it was only a small, procedural change.
- Cllr Millard commented that there had been a flooding problem in the past at Sahara Sandpit.
- 198/12 Arising from Min. 186/12 **Neighbourhood Planning:**
- a) **2nd Joint meeting with Melksham Town Council 22nd August:** The Council reviewed a joint report of the meeting prepared by the Clerk and Steve Gray, MTC Clerk. The meeting had recommended a joint Neighbourhood Plan.
 - b) **Joint Neighbourhood Plan with Melksham Town Council:**
Resolved: *The Council prepare a Joint Neighbourhood Plan with Melksham Town Council.*
 - c) **Officer of Assistance with Neighbourhood Plan from Consultant Juim Sherry:** The Council noted an offer of assistance with the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan by Jim Sherry. Cllr. Baines felt that as he was acting for the 6 landowners affected by the proposed new Melksham Link Project for the Wilts & Berks Canal there could be a conflict of interest. It was agreed not to take up this offer.
- 199/12 Arising from Min. 187/12 **Further Planning Correspondence 5) Complaint re business being conducted in Berryfield Close:** The Planning Enforcement Officer had informed the Clerk that the matter had been settled amicably. The business would cease operating at Berryfield Close on 13th September, and would re-open at a unit at the bottom of Sandridge Hill. The contact by the Enforcement Officer had given the business owner the incentive to move and take on new premises.
- 200/12 **Planning Applications:** The Council considered the following planning applications:
- i) **Street Trading Consent Application for Sizzle Shack.**
Comments: - General: *There are already issues re the lack of public toilet facilities in this area and the Council feels that the provision of food and drink here will exacerbate the problem. The Parish Council is also concerned that a mobile food*

provider will be competing on advantageous terms against established food businesses in the area as it would not be paying rates.

- a) **Portal Road, Bowerhill:** The Council OBJECTS to this site due to the serious traffic and parking problems already experienced at Portal Road especially at night with lorries.
 - b) **Hampton Park West, Bowerhill:** Of the two sites proposed for Bowerhill, this site is preferred.
 - c) **Station Yard, Melksham:** No comment as this site is within the Town boundary.
- ii) **W/12/01364** Land east of Forest Lane, Lacock. Agricultural farm worker's dwelling
Comments:- No objections, subject to the dwelling only being used as an agricultural farm worker's dwelling.
- iii) **W/12/01392** Bailey, 2 Anson Grove, Bowerhill. Proposed two storey and single storey side extension *Revised Plans*
Comments:- No objections. The Council was previously concerned over lack of parking, and is pleased to see two parking spaces on the revised plans.
- iv) **W/12/01483** Munday, Land South West and North West of Oakley Farm, Lower Woodrow. Proposed change of use from agricultural land to equestrian centre, conversion of former poultry house to equestrian use, and new drive to connect new parking area to existing access from public highway.
Comments:- The Council OBJECTS to this application and feel it is totally inappropriate for the site. Councillors have had a number of representations from neighbouring residents with objections too.
- a) There are concerns over the potential increase in traffic, particularly for horse boxes as the site feeds into towards Lower Woodrow or down a single track road (New Road) or in the other direction towards Lacock over the historic bridge.
 - b) The access to the site is inadequate; it effectively would be a commercial centre-making do with an access designed for a limited private stable block.
 - c) The conversion from a poultry shed to an equestrian centre is inappropriate and the Council feel that a complete rebuild would be what was actually required.
 - d) Previous consent has been given for the neighbouring Oakley Farm for a dwelling associated with the Egg Farm business. The Council is concerned that the loss of one of the poultry houses for this application undermines the permission given for the farm worker's dwelling at Oakley Farm (W/11/00578/FUL Retrospective application for replacement of mobile home refers).
 - e) The Council deplores the waste of agricultural land that will occur if the proposed access drive across the site is installed.
 - f) The Council is concerned that there is insufficient land for the number of horses proposed, and for the disposal of the associated manure.
 - g) There is no mention of how Footpath 47 which crosses this site is to be safeguarded.
 - h) The Council is concerned that proposals include the relocation/removal of trees. Should permission be granted, any trees that are removed should be replaced elsewhere on the site with mature native trees.

- v) **W12/01339** Unit B4 Ashville Centre, Hampton Park - this is wrong on late list – actual site is address is 5-6 The Enterprise Centre, Lysander Road, Bowerhill.
Fencing to enclose rear land.
Comments: - The Council has no objection to the principle of fencing in this land but is concerned that the solid wooden fencing will result in a loss of visual amenity as at present the site is clearly visible from the Sports Field and Westinghouse Way. The existing gap in landscaping needs to be filled with deciduous planting including hawthorn hedgerow and possibly an additional tree as a condition of planning consent.
There are also two large mature trees on the site. One tree requires some remedial attention as it has some fungal growth. My Council is very concerned that a deep trench has already been dug less than 2 metres from one of the trees which may have caused root damage (please see photograph below). The integrity of the area around these trees should be protected, to ensure there is no further root disturbance

There are no objections to the following applications:

- vi) **W/12/01561** Andrews, 16 Birch Grove, Bowerhill. Propose single storey extension
- vii) **W/12/01568** Land West of Boundary Farm, 620 Berryfield Lane. SN126EF
Proposed change of use from agricultural workshop to B1 use.
- viii) **W12/01583** Mr Tony Evans, 70 Shaw Hill, SN12 8ED
Proposed extension to garage incl new tiled pitched roof to existing flat roof
- ix) **W12/01587** Mr Simon Cottle, Tanhouse Farm, Redstocks, SN12 6RF
Proposed continued use of land for the stationing of mobile home.
- x) **W12/01645** Checkmate Flexible Engineering, unit 6 Pegasus Way, Bowerhill
Proposed erection of single storey steel framed industrial building.

201/12

Planning Correspondence:

- a) **MUGA at Hornchurch Road:** The Council noted that Cllr Mike Mills had reported that a few residents who had initially had expressed reservations about the MUGA were now supporting the scheme, having been pleasantly surprised by their visit to the similar facility at Shaw Playing Field.
- b) **Letter from resident re unsocial working hours at housing development behind Snarlton Lane. Resolved:** *The Council write to the developers and Wiltshire Council passing on the concerns of the resident.*
- c) **Western Area Planning Committee:** The Council noted that the Planning Committee on 12th September had been cancelled.

202/12

Finance:

- a) **Receipts:** The Council noted that the following receipts had been received since the last meeting:
- | | | |
|---|---|--------|
| Robinsons Fish & Chip Shop: Bin sponsorship (50%) | £ | 184.85 |
| Allotment Rent (Briansfield) Re-let | £ | 6.25 |
| Photocopying charges | £ | 8.00 |

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

4211	TOTAL Equipment Ltd: Crown Chambers Rent 4 th Qtr October, November, December 2012	£	1,608.75
4212	Mazars: External Audit for year ending 31 st March 2012 £550 + VAT	£	660.00
4213	Paul Filkins: Beanacre Grasscutting 4 cuts (July/August) @ £45 per cut	£	180.00
4214	British Telecom: Crown Chambers internet – Aug, Sept, Oct £86.23 + VAT	£	103.47
4215	JK Mobility Stairlifts Ltd: Annual service to stairlift at Crown Chambers (£80 +VAT)	£	96.00
4216	RM Software: PC support (19/7/12) (£45 + VAT)	£	54.00
4217	Leekes Ltd: Maintenance materials (£4.99) New lock/chain for Briansfield Allotments (£22.47) + VAT	£	26.72
4218	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust: Annual membership	£	25.00

Salaries:

4219	Mrs Mary Jarvis: September salary + additional hours	£	
4220	Mrs Teresa Strange: September salary + expenses (cleaning Materials £5.27 + VAT)	£	
4221	Mrs Margaret Mylchreest: September salary	£	
4222	Mr Terry Cole: w/e 11/08/12 – 01/09/12 + travel allowance £ + July mileage £55.60 + August mileage £42.40 + expenses (Petrol for lawnmower £4.17 + VAT)	£	
4223	Mrs Elaine Cranton: August office cleaning + 1/2hr Outstanding hrs from July	£	
	Total Salaries:	£	3,368.38
4224	Inland Revenue: PAYE Tax & NI for Employer/ee	£	721.39
4225	Wiltshire Council – Wiltshire Pension Fund: Employer/ee Superannuation for M. Jarvis/T. Strange	£	676.86

c) **Bin Sponsorship:** The Finance Officer reported that payment had still not been received from one of the litter bin sponsors. **Resolved: The Council write to the sponsor giving a final date for payment to be received by otherwise the bin will be offered to another business to sponsor.**

sponsor giving a final date for payment to be received by otherwise the bin will be offered to another business to sponsor.

- d) **Crown Chambers lease:** The Finance Officer reported that a new lease had been requested for Crown Chambers, and drew attention to the fact that an invoice had been received (*See cheque 4211*) for the period Oct, Nov, Dec 2012. **Resolved:** *The Council write to TOTAL Equipment Ltd confirming that they seek a new Lease long term, and in the short term ask for a letter of guarantee that the Council could remain at Crown Chambers for the next 2 years, until the Summer 2014.*
- e) **NALC Consultation – Cheque Signatories Legislative Reform Order:** The Finance Officer advised that she saw no need for the Council to move away from the tried and tested process of two signatures on a cheque but could see the benefits of moving to new electronic systems for much bigger councils. The new legislation would allow Councils to continue with the current cheque system in the future. It was noted that the Council review their internal control procedures annually in June.
- f) **Appointment of External Auditor from 2012/13:** The Finance Officer reported that Grant Thornton LLP had been appointed by the Audit Commission as External Auditor for the Parish Council for the next five years 2012/13 to 2016/17.
- g) **Funding for your Community Training Course:** The Finance Officer sought permission for herself and the Clerk to attend the WALC/Charities Information Bureau training course for councils looking to apply for funding for projects. **Resolved:** *The Clerk and Finance Officer attend the Funding your Community training course on 18th September at the cost of £35 + VAT per person.*
- h) **Fire Marshall training:** The Clerk reported that she had attended Fire Marshall training on 24th August and that her qualification lasted until 24th August 2014.

- 203/12 **Minutes, Council Meeting 23rd July:** **Resolved:** *The Minutes of this Meeting be approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.*
- 204/12 Arising from Min. 149/12 **Tree Preservation Orders:** The Clerk reported that a reply had been received from Wilts. Council Officer Chris Kirk, to inform that the TPOs had not been confirmed due to legislation changes on 1st April. The TPO for 205A Woodrow could be reconsidered but the application for a TPO on the Oak Tree west of Falcon Way could not be confirmed due to subsidence issues. **Resolved:** *The Council write to the resident at 205a Woodrow to advise him that he had the option as applicant to re-apply if he so wished.*
- 205/12 Arising from Min. 150/12 (iii) **Lorry Park for Bowerhill:** The Council noted replies from MP Duncan Hames and Cllr. Seed and welcomed Cllr. While's support for a Lorry Park to be installed at Bowerhill as part of the Neighbourhood Plan for that area.
- 206/12 Arising from Min. 156/12 **Land behind the Spa:** The Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged with Mark Hunnybun and Neil Ward of Wiltshire Council on 17th

September at 10.30am at Shurnhold with the Clerk, and Cllrs Mills, Brindle and Baines representing the Parish Council.

Cllr Coombes commented that Wiltshire Councillor Roy While should be thanked for his attendance at the Parish Council meetings.

Resolved: *The Council write to Cllr Roy While to express their thanks and appreciation of his attendance at Parish Council meetings.*

207/12 Arising from Min. 158/12 **Green and Grey bins, Shaw:** The Council noted correspondence relating to this issue. On 16th September a smaller refuse collection vehicle will see if it can reverse up School Lane; if this could be done then it would provide an alternative solution as the wheelie bins could be collected from School Lane.
Resolved: *The Council write to resident Mr Brian Wilson, to convey the decisions of the Council at the meeting he attended.*

208/12 Arising from Min. 160/12 **Wiltshire Council new Dog Control orders:** The Clerk reported an email received from Wiltshire Council's Public Protection Manager Graham Steady to inform that the role of Authorised Officer could not be filled by a councillor, only a Council Officer or contractor. The implication was that Council Members would therefore be unable to issue Fixed Penalty notices relating to dog issues. The same email emphasised that the meaning of "reasonable excuse" was not defined, but any excuse had to be more than trivia or lack of foresight. It was agreed to check this out with DEFRA.
Resolved: *The Council seek independent advice as to whether it was possible for councillors to become Authorised Officers so that they could issue Fixed Penalty notices relating to dog issues.*

209/12 Arising from Min. 165/12 **Bowerhill Jubilee Sports Field:**

- i) **Amendment on Contract:** Letter received from JCP Solicitors to advise that an incorrect date had been inserted into the Fields in Trust Dedication at Clause 4.2. and to request that the correct date be now initialled. **Resolved:** *The Council approve the amendment and the Chairman and Clerk initial the relevant change.*
- ii) **Fields in Trust:** The Council noted delivery of a Field in Trust sign for erecting at the Bowerhill Jubilee Sports Field.
- iii) **New Maintenance Contract:** The Council noted the correspondence from Steve Ibbetson, Technical Services Manager, Wiltshire Council confirming that English Landscapes ground maintenance contract has been extended until the end of May 2013 and still included the maintenance of Bowerhill Jubilee Sports Field. The site would continue to be managed by English Landscapes, including the pitch booking and English Landscapes would retain the income during the period up to the end of May 2013.
Resolved: *The Council write to confirm acceptance of the extended contract.*
- iv) **Line marking:** Cllr Wood reported that the new line marking needed investigating from a health and safety point of view. The lines had not been painted white but were brown and appeared "burnt" by weed-killer. The concern had been raised by the official from the Chippenham & District Sunday League. It was agreed to raise this matter with Wiltshire Council **Resolved:** *The Council bring this to the attention of*

Wiltshire Council and seek confirmation that the new line marking was legal and fit for purpose.

- v) **Petition to save George Ward Playing Fields:** The Council noted a petition was circulating. Members felt it was too late to save the Playing Fields from development as the proposed New Green application had been rejected and the case for development won on Appeal
- 210/12 Arising from Min. 168/12 **Allotments:** The Clerk reported that the gate at Briansfield Allotments had been repeatedly left open and unlocked. A new replacement lock had been purchased for the gate. **Resolved:** *The Council ask Mr Crump, volunteer Allotment Warden Assistant, to assist in ensuring the gate is locked at night.*
- 211/12 Arising from Min. 176/12(d) **Diversions to Footpaths MW22 & MW23:** The Council noted the reply from the Right of Way Officer who considered the alternative diversion from the Bridlepath at MW41 to the footpath a good idea and would investigate further with the farmer.
- 212/12 Arising from Min. 176 (f) **Adoption of Snowberry Lane:** The Council noted a reply from Wiltshire Council Highways Dept that the distributor road leading off Snowberry Lane was not yet adopted and would remain with the developer for a one year (minimum) period although the Council were happy that it was safe to be open. Councillors raised concerns as to who would take responsibility in case of an accident particularly when Wiltshire Council had recently diverted traffic themselves via the un-adopted road during a period of roadworks; whilst signs indicated that drivers used the road at their own risk. **Resolved:** *The Council write to the Highways Dept to ascertain who took responsibility for an accident occurring on the un-adopted road.*
- 213/12 **Melksham Area Board, SCOB & CATG:**
(i) Campus Update: The Council noted that latest Melksham House User Update (August 2012)
(ii) CATG issue re: Disability Access from Shaw, Whitley and Atworth: The Council expressed concern that this issue had been closed without action taken to ensure disabled people could have easy access through dropped kerbs on footways from Shaw into Melksham. It was noted that Wiltshire Council intended to address this issue when the George Ward site was developed. However there was no date as to when this would happen. This reply did not resolve the difficulty being faced by disabled people now. It was noted Wiltshire Council's tag line is "Where everybody matters".
Resolved: *Cllrs Baines and Brindle, as members of the CATG, agreed to raise the matter on behalf of the Council at the next CATG meeting.*
- 214/12 **Bus issues:**
i) **Hardstandings at Whitley:** The Clerk reported that a Site Meeting had been arranged with Wiltshire Council on Monday 24th September at 3.30pm.
ii) **Timetable information:** Cllr Baines reported that as the public transport representative for the Parish Council, he had still only found out about the new timetable after it came into affect and the office staff received the new timetable some days after that. The new timetable from First showed buses now leaving approximately on the half hour giving a new half hourly service. However, there were

no guarantees that Faresaver would not subsequently change their timetable to revert to a hourly service with both buses at the same time.

Resolved: *The Council write to Phil Grootcock at Wiltshire Council to request that the dissemination of information be improved and that the Parish Council needed to be notified of changes to bus timetables before the change actually happened*

215/12

Highways and Rights of Ways:

i) Proposed Traffic Orders for A3102 Sandridge Road:

- a) **LJB/TRO/MELW 40mph order at Sandridge Road/Melksham east.** The Council noted the revised plan now including the previous 30m shortfall at the northern end of the Melksham Distributor Road.
- b) **HKB/TRO/LUNE 40mph order from east of Churchill Avenue junction to west of 295 Sandridge Common.** The Councillors commented that there was no consistency on this stretch of road with a very short stretch of 40mph between two stretches of 30mph.
- c) **Safety Report on A3102 Sandridge Hill:** The Council noted that following the review of the Double White Line system on Sandridge Hill the broken line on the uphill section will be closed to prohibit overtaking. Clr Millard welcomed this.
- d) **Highway Works repairs:** The Council noted the latest traffic reports.
- e) **HGV Ban on A36 Bath:** The Council noted a press article to inform that the decision re an HGV ban on London Road Bath had been deferred by the Dept of Transport due to objections. The Clerk suggested that the Council take the opportunity presented by the delay to write again and reiterate the Parish Council's objection to the ban which would result in even more heavy traffic on A350. This was agreed
Resolved: *The Council write to the Minister of Transport to emphasise their objection to the HGV ban on the A36 at Bath as it would result in an unacceptable increase in HGV traffic on A350.*
- f) **Temporary closure of A365 Western Way (part):** The Council noted the temporary closure by Wiltshire Council.

216/12

General Correspondence for Action:

- i) **Sustainable Communities Act 2007:** The Council noted correspondence about forthcoming regulations under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 from NALC, Duncan Hames MP and the Local Works. It is noted that at present only the principle Local Authority can use the Act.
Resolved: *The Council write to Wiltshire Council to encourage them to use the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 to help rural communities.*
- ii) **Community First AGM invitation – 12th September:** **Resolved:** *Clr Coombes to attend to represent the Parish Council.*

iii) **Best Kept Village Competition:** The Council were delighted that Bowerhill had been placed equal third in the Large Village category in the Best Kept Village competition for the whole county round.

Resolved: Cllr Mills to liaise with BRAG (Bowerhill Residents Action Group) at their next meeting on 11th September to advise on a mutually convenient date for a joint presentation of the prize and certificate.

iv) **Wiltshire Council EPS – Flood Seminar, Warminster, 17th October:**

Resolved: Cllr Hubert to attend on behalf of the Parish Council

v) **Carer Support AGM – 27th September:** **Resolved:** Cllrs Nicol and Coombes to attend on behalf of the Parish Council

vi) **Grow Wiltshire AGM – 23rd October:** **Resolved:** Cllr Coombes to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

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General Correspondence for Information:

The Council noted the following information.

- i) **Wilts & Berks Canal Trust – AGM invitation Saturday 20th September at Bourton**
- ii) **Melksham Area Waterways Action Group – Minutes 28th August.** It was noted the next Meeting would be held on 9th October at the Adventure Centre 6.30 p.m.
- iii) **Marie Curie Cancer Care –** The Council noted the request for publicity had been passed to the local village newsletters.
- iv) **Neighbourhood Tasking Meeting Minutes, 26th July**
- v) **Mini recycling sites review –** Notice of removal of sites at Shaw & Bowerhill schools from 1st October.
- vi) **Play Area (Shaw & Beanacre) Inspection Sheets** from Caretaker. It was noted that items raised were all low risk and the Caretaker would be actioning the need to tighten eye bolts on the Junior Swing at Beanacre and removing moss on the soft play areas at Shaw. The annual ROSPA inspection was due shortly.
- vii) **NALC Response to the Public Rights of Way Consultation**
- viii) **Community Games fund from Wiltshire & Swindon Sport**
- ix) **Wiltshire Council events about becoming a local councillor “Do you have the X factor?”**
- x) **CIB South & West Bulletin re grant aid**
- xi) **Newsletters for Rural Services Network, CiB South and West, and GROW. August and September, LCR Online**
- xii) **Calendar of Events for Melksham – September and October and information re Melksham Food and Drink Festival**

Meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Chairman, 15th October 2012

