

DRAFT COPY – TO BE APPROVED AT THE NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 11TH APRIL 2016

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council of Melksham Without Parish Council held at United Reformed Church, High Street, Melksham on Monday, 16th March 2015 at 7.00pm.

Present: Parish Council: Cllr. Richard Wood (Chairman), Cllr. John Glover (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs. Alan Baines, Pat Nicol, Mike Mills, Paul Carter, Gregory Coombes, Rolf Brindle, Terry Chivers, Jan Chivers and Ian Tait.

Other Community Members: Cllr. Roy While (Wiltshire Councillor), Phil McMullen (Melksham Area Community Partnership), Bob Brownrigg (Whitley Reading Rooms), Michelle Tattershall (Shaw & Whitley Action Group), PC Barry Dalton and PCSO Maggie Ledbury.

Apologies: Cllr. Steve Petty.

Inspector Matthew Armstrong - Wiltshire Police
Graham Ellis - Melksham Railway Development Group
Gill Arbery – Berryfield & Semington Road Action Group
Peter Davies – Shaw Village Hall Committee
Maureen Hibbott – Shaw & Whitley Flood Group
Abbi Gutierrez – Melksham Area Board
Rhys Schell – Melksham Area Board
Anna Wilcox – Headteacher, Forest & Sandridge School
Andrew Matthews – Headteacher, Bowerhill School
Steve Clark – Headteacher, Melksham Oak Community School
Brenda Chandler – Bowerhill Villager
Rob Bridges – Melksham Town Football Club
Paul Clark – Melksham Health Working Group
John Harding - Connect

1. **Welcome & Housekeeping:** The Chairman, Cllr. Wood warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the evacuation procedures in the event of a fire.
2. **a) Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2014:** The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 24th March, 2014, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
b) Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.
3. **Chair's Report:** The Chairman gave his report of the work of the Council during 2013/14 (*See Appendix 1.*).
4. **Reports from Wiltshire Councillors:**
 - a) **Wiltshire Councillor Terry Chivers:** Cllr. Chivers gave a written report of the work he had carried out during 2014/15 as a Wiltshire Councillor (*See Appendix 2.*). He reported that Balfour Beatty would be sub-contracting the grass cutting element of their contract with Wiltshire Council to English Landscapes.
 - b) **Wiltshire Councillor Roy While:** Cllr. While gave a written report of the work he had carried out during 2014/15 as a Wiltshire Councillor (*See Appendix 3.*). He stated that he felt that

Wiltshire Council do not do enough to make the public aware that 2/3rds of Wiltshire Council's budget spend goes on children and the elderly. He reported that there is much partnership working between Wiltshire Council and other professionals, and that Wiltshire Council is the biggest business in the county. There is also greater emphasis from Wiltshire Council on supporting volunteers and community groups. He stated that he planned to invite a complainant of Wiltshire Council to accompany him on a day at County Hall to see its working processes in action.

5. Reports from Melksham Neighbourhood Police Team & Community Safety Group:

- a) Melksham Police:* PC Barry Dalton gave a written report (*See Appendix 4.*), but also highlighted some points of interest. He stated that Melksham is fortunate as it is an area of low crime and that anti-social behaviour (ASB) has decreased along with dwelling burglaries. He said that his team worked with the community to address ASB concerns, and also with other agencies such as Selwood Housing. Cllr Mills stated that the Parish were lucky to have such a dedicated NPT. The evidence that of the 86 patrols of the new MUGA in Hornchurch Road there were no reports of ASB is a testament to the relationship that the NPT have created with local people. PC Dalton stated that the police were currently promoting the new "Community Messaging Service". This service sends out messages from the police on crimes that are actually happening, and Melksham have a good sign up rate with Melksham Rural North having had the most people sign up. This is a free service and can be tailored to needs. Bob Brownrigg thanked PC Dalton for the alert service which he has signed up to. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council is signed up to the messaging service and then feeds this information onto its website and Facebook pages, and as such the police are probably reaching more residents than they record themselves. She reported that the recent warning about catalytic converter thefts had received over 2,700 hits. PC Dalton reported that unfortunately the police had not managed to catch anyone with regard to the recent spate of burglaries in Whitley. In response to a query about "Nottingham Door Knockers", PC Dalton stated that these door to door salesmen have to be licenced and if not they will be arrested.
- b) Community Safety Group & Neighbourhood Police Tasking Group:* A written report was received (*See Appendix 5.*).

6. Reports from Action Groups and Melksham Community Area Partnership:

- a) BASRAG:* A written report was received (*See Appendix 6.*). The Chair reported that this year has been more active as more people have been involved with BASRAG. He stated that the residents were still waiting for action with regard to the construction of a new village hall and as such BASRAG are having to make necessary repairs to the old hall as they don't know how long it will be before a new hall is built.
- b) BRAG:* A written report was received (*See Appendix 7.*). Cllr Mills reported that BRAG had been successful in their grant application from Melksham Charities and had been awarded £7,000. They were now in a position to order two lectern style notice boards.
- c) SWAG:* A written report was received (*See Appendix 8.*). Michelle Tattershall, Chairman of the relaunched Shaw & Whitley Group reported that the group wished to rename themselves and that there was a meeting to be held on 17th March, where this would be discussed. She stated that the new group was still in the process of setting up, but its aims were based around the play area, flooding issues and planning applications that could potentially affect the residents of both villages. Bob Brownrigg stated that he was on the committee of the original

SWAG and had been invited to give some advice and historical information. He said that he was really pleased to see that the group had been started up again.

- d) Melksham Community Area Partnership:* A written report was received (*See Appendix 9.*). Phil McMullen reported that it had been a really busy year, however with funding being cut he felt that it wouldn't be so busy next year. He gave his thanks to the Parish Council for the money and support they have given to keep small groups going. He reported that MCAP had just received a grant of £1,500 from the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide "SMART" kits for people to protect their homes against burglary.

7. Reports from Village Halls & Magazines:

- a) Whitley Reading Rooms:* A written report was received (*See Appendix 10.*). Bob Brownrigg reported that a new boiler had been installed in the Reading Rooms 3 weeks earlier provided by a grant from Baxi Commercial Community Challenge. He thanked the Clerk for providing him with the information about how to apply for this grant. Additionally he thanked the Parish Council for the grant for a new notice board. A new aluminium fire door was due to be fitted in the next few weeks.
- b) Bowerhill Village Hall:* A written report was received (*See Appendix 11.*). Cllr Mills reported that Bowerhill village Hall had recently been painted under the community payback scheme, and they had done a marvellous job.
- c) Bowerhill Villager:* A written report was received (*See Appendix 12.*).
- d) Connect:* A written report was received (*See Appendix 13.*).

8. Reports from Schools:

- a) Forest & Sandridge C.E Primary:* A written report had been received (*See Appendix 14.*).
- b) Shaw C.E. V.C. Primary:* A written report had been received (*See Appendix 15.*).
- c) Melksham Oak Community:* A written report had been received (*See Appendix 16.*).

9. Reports from Transport Groups:

- a) Melksham Community Area Transport (CATG):* A written report had been received (*See Appendix 17.*). Cllr Baines reported that Snarlton lane had met the criteria for a 20mph speed limit and if implemented would cost £3,000.
- b) TransWilts Community Rail Partnership:* A written report had been received (*See Appendix 18.*). Phil McMullen reported that in the future it was hoped that there would be a direct line from Swindon to Southampton Airport.

10. Reports from Health and Charity Groups:

- a) Health Working Group:* A written report had been received (*See Appendix 19.*). Cllr Carter reported that although the local GPs had absorbed all the new patients created from the new housing development, it should be noted that the reason that the demand for health care was disproportionate was due to the fact that the houses are occupied by an older age group, making larger demands on the services. This was something that should be brought to the attention of Wiltshire Council when the Parish Council make comment on future planning applications for large developments.
- b) Almshouses:* A written report had been received (*See Appendix 20.*) Cllr Nicol reported that the Almshouses had been recently refurbished to meet regulations. Their priority was to give grants to groups with little money.

11. Reports from Sports and Social Groups:

- a) *The Whitley Players:* A written report had been received (*See Appendix 21.*)
- b) *Pavilion Club:* A written report had been received (*See Appendix 22.*). The Clerk reported that she had a meeting with the Community Youth Worker on 19th March, and it was hoped that the Youth Club could be relaunched.
- c) *St. Barnabus Cricket Club:* Phil McMullen reported that he was the Chairman of St. Barnabus Cricket Club in Beanacre and that they were a friendly club that played about 5 times a year. He stated that they had a very good pitch and were interested in providing a cricket pavilion in the future.

12. Matters Arising from Community Reports: Cllr Baines reported that the TransWilts Service changes this summer due to the electrification of the railway lines. He stated that travellers should be mindful of changes, especially at weekends, and of very long diversions, and should check before they travel.

13. Comment & Question Time: There were no questions from the public.

14. Queen's Honours List: It had been suggested that the Annual Parish Council would be a good forum for members of the public to nominate people for the Council to consider putting forward for the Queen's Honours List. Cllr Coombes felt that this was an item to be discussed in committee as people's names and details were being given. ***Recommended:*** *Any proposals for nominees to be considered in committee at the next Full Council Meeting, to be held on 23rd March, 2015.*

Meeting closed at 7.58pm

Chairman, 11th April, 2016

