

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday, 27th March 2006 at Crown Chambers , at 7p.m.

Service of Dedication:- A short service for dedicating the new offices at Crown Chambers was held by Rev. Derek Smith.

Present: Parish Council: Cllrs. Mike Mills (Chair); Cllrs. Alan Baines; Elizabeth Bean; Rolf Brindle; Gregory Coombes; Chris Holmes; Ruth Gillings; & Pat Nicol. Cllr. John Glover apologised for arriving late as there was sickness at Lavington school.

Members of the Community: Cllrs. Roy While and Richard Wiltshire (West Wilts District Council, and Wiltshire County Council); Mr. Richard Bean (Shaw Village Hall); Mr Colin Goodhind (Community Safety); Mr. Andrew Matthews (Bowerhill Primary School).

1/ Welcome and Apologies: The Council Chair, Cllr. Mike Mills, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs. Steve Petty; Don Millard; Paul Wiltshire; Mrs Carolyn Beale, (Melksham First); and Mr. Bob Brownrigg, (Shaw and Whitley Reading Rooms).

2/ Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2005: Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday, 20th April, 2005 were confirmed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3/ Chair's Report: The Council Chair, Cllr. Mike Mills gave a report of the work of the Council during the year (*See Appendix attached*)

4/ Members of the Public were invited to participate.

Mrs Yvette Kahane expressed her distress and the distress of many residents to hear that Woolmore Farm was the chosen site for the new school. The information had only been given the week before, by a teacher! There was no formal announcement, no public consultation, even the tenants of the farm had not been told. This was unacceptable, it was all so rushed, people's livelihood was at stake. Mrs Kahane pointed out that previously, the County Council had intended this site should be a rubbish tip. People had campaigned to stop this, and today, this farm was the only organic farm in the area, and was thriving. It was an asset to the local community with its 'organic' status and she stated that there had been a significant increase in wildlife in the surrounding area, such as skylarks, (which are on the 'red list' of endangered species) these would now be under threat, if the school went ahead.

The Chair agreed that the information should not have gone out to the press, as the Parish Council had not received any planning applications. Cllr. Glover said the new school was outside the limits and outside town. The County Council bypass at the Spa linked up the outer development, which meant the school was outside the bypass. Cllr. Baines informed that contrary to recently published West Wiltshire Local Plan it was not in the 2016, but the County Council wanted to claim the 20 million. The County Council wanted to replace the Christie Miller contrary to the District plan, and

replacement pitches Christie Miller allocated on land Pathfinder Way. Public consultation and inspector appointed by the Ministry of Development.

Liz Marsden stated that the County Council bought the land in 1988, and on January 1st 1999 a successful petition had been organised to stop the land being used as a rubbish tip. . The farmer is very proud of what has been achieved.

Mrs Kahane acknowledged the need of a new school for Melksham, and was thrilled about it, but felt that this would create a car-based society due to its location in relation to the main town. She said environment assessment was expensive, and people should look at the alternatives and not let go, and the farm should stay a flagship organisation.

The Chair stated his understanding had been that redevelopment was the key, and there had been no indication to move the school anywhere else.

5/ County Council Report from Cllr. Terry Chivers: The Council noted the report. The Chair expressed thanks to all the County Councillors for their wonderful work over the year.

6/ District Council Report from Cllr. Terry Chivers, and a joint report from Cllrs. Roy While and Richard Wiltshire: The Council noted the report

7/ Annual Policing Report from Inspector Gary Porter: The Council noted the Report.

8/ Bowerhill Village Hall Trust: The meeting noted a report from the Vice Chairman, Cllr. Mike Mills, that once a fortnight there were activities for the younger youth..

9/ Shaw Hill Playing Field & Village Hall: The Council noted the report, and Mr. Richard Bean thanked Mrs Mary Jarvis, the Clerk, and Margaret , Assistant Parish Officer for all the help given.

10/ Shaw & Whitley Reading Room: The meeting noted a report from the Treasurer, Mr. Bob Brownrigg. Cllr. Coombes remarked that though he was the Council representative, he had never been invited to a meeting. Cllr. Baines expressed his thanks to both Shaw and Whitley management committees for the excellent running of the halls.

11/ St. Barnabas Schoolroom: The meeting noted a report from Churchwarden, Stanford Cole and the Chair also expressed his thanks for all the work which has been done.

12/ Shaw C of E. Primary School Report: The Council noted the report from head teacher, Mr. Dave Borrie.

13/ Bowerhill Primary School Report: The head teacher Mr. Anthony Matthews reported that the school was developing and had expanded to 14 classes, two classes for each year group. The mobile classrooms had been removed and replaced by a

permanent block of 6 classrooms. These are now in operation, used by Years 4, 5 & 6 and equipped with state of the art teaching aids. Weekly French lessons have been introduced, and they have joined other schools in a Learning network which is a government initiative. There are also weekly music lessons, taught by a specialist teacher. The school was awarded with the government's Active Mark Award which followed an extensive audit of our provision for physical activities. The football coaching, under the leadership of Mr. James Coomber resulted in receiving the FA Charter Standard for football coaching, and were named as FA Charter Standard County Winners. The Chair congratulated Mr. Anthony Matthews on the success of the school.

14/ Rachel Fowler Centre. The meeting noted a report from the Treasurer, Mr. D. Hodder.

15/ Bowerhill Villager The meeting noted a report from Mrs. Brenda Chandler and the Chair commented that the Villager now distributed 1625 copies and how exciting it was, that Boomerang will sponsor the youth page which will encourage the youth, of which 95% are very well behaved..

16/ Shaw & Whitley Village Voice. The meeting noted the report from the Shaw & Whitley Village Voice, and the Chair congratulated the editor for the work done. Alison Baud, the editor from 2003 to 2006 is now standing down. Cllr. Mills expressed the council's appreciation for the excellent magazine Alison has edited.

17/ Berryfield & Semington Road Action Group: Cllr Petty explained that the new hall has really taken off, and is well used.

18 Berryfield & Semington Road Action Group: The meeting noted a report from Cllr. Steve Petty, who stated he was pleased to say the Action Group was "producing the goods."

19/ Beanacre Matters: The meeting noted a report from Cllr. Holmes. Cllr. Holmes explained that the magazine was moribund and would shortly be wound up.

20/ Bowerhill Residents Association: Cllr. Mills reported that new bus shelters were being installed, kerbs were up and tarmaced. Lancaster road, Falcon Way and Kestral Court had been done.

21/ Bowerhill Community Action Group: Bowerhill Community action group were active and at the moment there was public consultation on a number of issues and there were people prepared to offer help.

22/ Shaw and Whitley Action Group: Cllr Bean reported that the action group had stood down at this time, but if any issues came up, they would reform and help. The Clerk reported that the group were quite dispirited at the moment, as they had worked very hard with her, to try and establish a play area in Whitely. However, the Neston estate had turned down their suggestions.

23/ Melksham Trust The meeting noted a report from the Chairman, Cllr. Richard Wiltshire.

24/ Community Trust Managers Report (formerly Melksham First): The Clerk reported that Melksham First hoped to move into their new offices at Crown Chambers on Wednesday, 29th March 2006.

25/ Melksham Community Safety Group: The meeting noted a report from Cllr. Mike Mills, who reported that the “Validate System” which identifies the age of young people, is being well publicised. Retailers in Melksham will be able to ascertain the age of young people when buying cigarettes or videos.

26/ Melksham Community Safety Groups Mr. Colin Goodhind explained that the new non-emergency police number was causing problems and confusion amongst the public. The local press were working to try and get the confusion cleared up.

27/ Melksham Railway Development Group Cllr. Alan Baines reported that he had acknowledgement of his personal submission of the detailed timings of the connections and the non connections. He stated that basically the company was only doing what it had been told to do by the Government, and if there were any more trains, the Company themselves, would have to fund them, therefore, they were trying to make the best of the rolling stock. Trains from Gloucestershire to Westbury connected to virtually nothing, and it was similar circumstances in the evening. This was of no benefit to people travelling to work, or who wanted to go shopping. Cllr. Glover agreed and regretted that the late evening service was curtailed as well. Cllr. Baines felt there should be a viable station for Melksham and the service should be enhanced, not reduced.

28/ Area 32: Cllr. John Glover explained that there had been numerous meetings with the Committee, culminating in the re-instatement of Melksham Town Service – these should go back to same service run by Frome minibuses. Cllr. Baines commented that brand new vehicles were to be purchased. Cllr. Glover also explained that there was no additional government funding for X72 which was lost.

29/ Friends of Melksham Hospital Cllr. Gregory Coombes praised the people of Melksham for their generosity to the hospital. However, he was concerned that the hospital should stay open, as it was a relatively modern hospital. There was room for development on the site. There was already a brand new surgery and doctors could easily nip across the road to see patients. If the site was sold, it would produce a lot of cash.

30/ Wiltshire Association of Local Councils Cllr. Gregory Coombes reported that a conference Rural Affordable Housing in Sustainable Communities was to be held on 27th and the keynote speaker was to be Elinor Goodman and the conference was to be chaired by WALC President Dr. Andrew Murrison.

31 Melksham Youth & Community Service: The meeting noted a report from Cllr. Pat Nicol, the Parish Council representative. The Chair explained that the Pavilion Club did need a lot of cleaning and decoration, and that it would be a good project for the youth. He also expressed his thanks to the Beanacre play park group, the church, and the parish who had worked together and got the playground established in the end. Cllr. Holmes was delighted that it was a focal point for the village.

32/ Bowerhill Sports Field: Cllr. Baines explained that after eight and a half years, we are still waiting for the village green application. The Chair said it was important to get the playing field sorted out, and it has taken as long as Bowerhill Village Hall.

33/ Beanacre Community Park: Mr. Lee Emery expressed his thanks to the Council for their support. It was good to see church, parish and action group coming together. Cllr. Holmes commented, that Phillipa Jackson, Carolyn Beale and others pursued the course. Well done. Cllr. Mills stated that the Bowerhill Sports Field were still waiting after eight and a half years to get sorted out. Bowerhill Village Hall had taken a long time as well.

At the end of the reports, The Chair invited any other comments from the public.

Beanacre/Lacock bus shelter: Mr & Mrs King of Beanacre, ask for a bus shelter at the Beanacre/Lacock end of the village. They were grateful that the council had installed a bench for the public to sit on, but in wet weather a proper shelter would be beneficial. They were aware there was not a lot of space. Cllr. Glover suggested a cantilever shelter with the outer edge against the road. Cllr. Mills agreed the council would once again look at the possibility of a shelter at Beanacre/Lacock.

Free Bus Passes for those over 60: Cllr Glover stated that from the 1st April, those over 60, were entitled to free bus passes, as long as it was after 9a.m.

Thanks The Chair expressed thanks to everyone for coming.

Meeting closed, and everyone adjourned for refreshments

Chairman, 2006