

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday, 19th March 2007 at Rachel Fowler Centre, at 7p.m.

Present: Parish Council: Cllrs. Mike Mills (Chair); Cllrs. Alan Baines; Elizabeth Bean; Rolf Brindle; Gregory Coombes; Ruth Gillings; Chris Holmes; Richard Wood. Cllr. John Glover apologised for arriving late due to problems at Lavington School.

District Council and County Council:- Cllr. Roy While.

Members of the Community: Inspector Cullop (Wiltshire Constabulary) Mr. John Hamley (Melksham Rail Development Group Whitley Players and Whitley Reading Rooms).

1/ Welcome and Apologies: The Council Chair, Cllr. Mike Mills, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Don Millard, District Cllr. Richard Wiltshire, Mrs Carolyn Beale, (Melksham First) and Mr Lee Emery (Beanacre Matters).

2/ Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2006: Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 27th March, 2007 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*) The Chair ended his report by saying that it had been ten years since the Parish Council had begun negotiations with WCC to take over the Sports field via a legal agreement and the agreement was still not yet finalised ! The Parish Council elections would be taking place in May, and the Chair hoped that all Councillors would stand again. He reminded Councillors to submit their nomination papers by 11th April and he looked forward to seeing them all again in May. He appreciated all their commitment and hard work over the last four years. He thanked Mary for all her hard work over many years and he thanked Margaret for her support to Mary and Jo and Gill. He also thanked Gordon for his work as Caretaker and Barry for inspecting the Play Equipment. He then invited Inspector David Cullop to give his report.

4/ Wiltshire Annual Policing – Inspector David Cullop: Inspector Cullop said he was extremely pleased to be back in the Trowbridge, Melksham and Bradford on Avon area once again. He had lived in Holt in the Woolley Grange area, and had been a constable in the area 16 years ago so his roots were in West Wiltshire. He went on to give a fascinating report on Neighbourhood Police Teams (NPT) and gave an account of the progress of the Optimus Project. (*See Appendix attached*)

The Chair then invited comments and questions.

Cllr Holmes commented that the Police do a fantastic job and it was much appreciated. Cllr. While was most interested in the performance monitoring Task Force and asked for more information. He appreciated the amount of working going on where the real problems were and the scale of work was impressive.

The Clerk reported residents' concerns about problems they were having in contacting Hampton Park by telephone. The main problems were getting cut off mid-stream or having

to hold for a long time, with no end results. She suggested a solution would be to always have a local officer available. Inspector Cullop agreed to investigate this problem. Cllr. Bean was concerned about the number of cars without car tax. Inspector Cullop informed that a survey was being carried out this summer, and untaxed cars would be crushed. Cllr. Bean informed that at the Shaw Village Fete this summer "Crime Stoppers" would be on hand to educate people. Cllr. Glover commented that good publicity would be needed to co-ordinate things, and added his thanks to Inspector Cullop.

The Chair expressed his thanks to WPC Ann Morris who worked very closely with the people of Bowerhill, and especially for her work in the evening with young people. She had a real knack of communicating with people and he thanked her for 11 sterling years of service which were very much appreciated.

5/ County Councillor Cllr. Roy While: The Chair invited Cllr. While to give a verbal report. Cllr. While commented that the Police did a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes, and the only way to solve problems was for everyone to work in partnership i.e as they did together over the anti-social behaviour at Brabazon Way. He was encouraged that the Playing field issues were being resolved after many years. The recreations needs of the community had to be addressed. He emphasised that the Working Party needed to be actively involved in the relocation of the fields adjacent to Christie Miller, as there was real danger the community could lose the opportunity to get the facilities the Parish really needed. Cllr While commented on the hard work taking place to ensure the PFI proposals for Blenheim Park were defeated and he was determined to see a successful outcome.

Cllr. While stated he was very much in favour of Unitary Status for Wiltshire. With regard to the Canal Footpath, County Council Officers were in negotiations for the land purchase.

Cllr While also told the Council that they had a major part to play in the planning of the new School. However, it was crucial to ensure that the plans for the school did not get sidetracked by the leisure/recreational needs. Cllr. Glover observed that attention should be given to ensuring the new George Ward School access was properly planned and positioned correctly.

6/ Joint District Council and County Council Report from Cllrs. Roy While and Richard Wiltshire: The Council noted the report and the Chair expressed his thanks to Cllr. While and Cllr. Wiltshire for excellent work over the year. There was no report from District Councillor Chivers. Cllr. Baines expressed this thanks too to the councillors for working in partnership with Melksham Without. He thanked them for their efforts both as District and Councillors.

7/ Bowerhill Village Hall Trust: The meeting noted a report from Cllr. Mike Mills on the progress of the last year.

8/ Shaw Hill Playing Field & Village Hall: The Council noted the report and the thanks given by the Hall Committee to the Parish Council.

9/ Shaw & Whitley Reading Room: The meeting noted a report from the Treasurer, Mr. Bob Brownrigg on the many improvements taking place in the hall.

The Chair reported that a recent newspaper article had suggested Shaw and Whitley should break away from the rest of the Parish. Cllr. Baines commented that the Boundary Committee had totally different ideas and in the 1980 referendum the overwhelming majority wished to remain in the present parish. He did not think the position had changed. The Parish Council benefited from having several communities in the parish including Beanacre, Bowerhill and Snarlton Lane. Traditionally the Council worked hard to ensure all areas were treated fairly and to spread funds evenly throughout all the various areas. Benefits were greater because the communities were all in one parish which made it possible to generate funds for larger projects..
Cllr. Bean said she felt it would be fatal for Shaw and Whitley to go it alone.

10/ St. Barnabas Schoolroom: The meeting noted a report from Churchwarden, Stanford Cole on the improvements which have taken place in the last year, and their appreciation of the continued support of Melksham Without Parish Council.

11/ Bowerhill Villager: The meeting noted the encouraging report from Mrs. Brenda Chandler on the successful year they have had.

12/ Berryfield & Semington Road Action Group: Cllr Petty declined to give a written report.

13/ Beanacre Matters: The meeting noted a report from Mr. Lee Emery which stated the Beanacre Matters would be wound up. Cllr. Holmes, as Vice Chairman of Beanacre Matters, questioned this, and referred to the constitution. He agreed to investigate and inform the Clerk.

14/ Bowerhill Residents Association: The Council noted the report from Mike Mills, Chairman of Bowerhill Residents Association.

15/ Bowerhill Community Action Group: The Council noted the excellent work achieved in the last year by this Action Group

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

17/ Melksham First: The council noted a report from Carolyn Beale. The Clerk reported that Melksham First had held two meetings with the local youth of Whitley, to ascertain their needs. The Chair expressed disappointment that Maggie Giddings had left Youth Action Wiltshire where she had done such good work.

18/ Melksham Community Safety Group: The Council noted the report from Mike Mills.

19/ Melksham Community Bus: Cllr. Brindle reported the new community bus would be delivered about the beginning of April. It will be green and yellow, and have the sponsor's names at the rear. The cost of the bus was £57,000. The Chair commented that the Bowerhill route was proving very popular.

20/ Melksham Town Centre Group Report: The meeting noted the report from Cllr Mike Mills.

21/ Melksham Railway Development Group: Cllr. Baines reported a successful "Save the Train" meeting with County Councillors, Train Company executives and many others had attended from outside the immediate area. There were constructive proposals put forward, and it was possible that a 2 hourly service could be in place by December. Cllr. Glover commented that a business plan was needed.

22/ Area 32 Melksham Public Transport Group Committee: The council noted the report from Cllr. Alan Baines.

23/ Friends of Melksham Hospital: The Committee noted the report from Cllr. Gregory Coombes.

24/ Wiltshire Association of Local Councils: The Council noted the report from Cllr. Coombes.

25/ Wilts & Berks Partnership/Melksham 1st Waterways Task Team: The Council noted this report. Cllr. Baines informed that Chaloner Chute was leaving. Cllr. Brindle explained that Chaloner had been with the Wilts & Berks for several years.

26/ Youth & Community Service: The meeting noted a report from Cllr. Pat Nicol, the Parish Council representative .

27/ Beanacre Community Park: Mr. Lee Emery reported on the Beanacre Community Park which had been a huge success due to everyone working together.

At the end of the reports, The Chair invited any other comments from the public. No further matters were raised.

Thanks: The Chair expressed thanks to everyone for coming.

The Meeting closed at and everyone adjourned for refreshments

Chairman, 17th March 2007