

MICHELMERSH AND TIMSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 19th May 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall, Timsbury.

Present: Parish Councillors Mr. R. Fitzgerald (Chairman), Mr. P. Clarke, Mr. R. Davis, Mr. A. Jones, Mr. J. Rhodes and Mr. R. Vie, Parish Clerk Mr. P Buist, TVBC Cllr. Tony Ward, Hampshire CC Cllr. Michael Woodhall and 25 parishioners.

Action

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 112th Annual Parish Meeting. In particular our Test Valley Borough Councillor, Hampshire County Councillor and John Cooper from CPRE who would be making a presentation.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr. Robin Goodland.

3. Presentation from John Cooper of CPRE

Mr. Cooper spoke about the CPRE mission, the protection of our landscape, the use of brown field sites for housing development, the reduction of our carbon footprint and the importance of sourcing local produce. He explained that CPRE were concerned about the proposed changes to the planning system and the possible reduced local community input to the planning process. The Chairman thanked Mr Cooper for his presentation.

4. Minutes of the 2007 Annual Parish Meeting.

It was **proposed** by John Rhodes and seconded by Robert Davis that the minutes of the previous years meeting be accepted. This was **agreed unanimously**.

5. Chairman's Report 2007/2008

The Chairman thanked the Councillors and Clerk for their work during the year. The Parish Council had commented on about 40 planning applications. Some more contentious than others. He made mention of the proposed development at the Barns where the Parish Council supported the principle but were not comfortable with the proposed design. Concern continued about the development on the Old Redland Tile Works site. During the year the Council's attention had been drawn to the Hampshire CC proposals for possible mineral extraction. The Parish Council had vigorously opposed the sites identified for clay extraction and the proposals had been modified.

The Parish Council's ownership of the Recreation Ground had now been registered with the Land Registry. A report on the need for affordable housing in the parish was completed by Community Action Hampshire. The state of some parish roads were also of concern and little seemed to be done to permanently fix the problems. The Council continued to have regular liaison meetings with BKP and had opposed the "mega shed" development at Andover Airfield.

The Parish Council finances were in a healthy state and the Council had been able to make an unbudgeted grant to the Jubilee Hall for roof repairs.

He thanks all those who gave up their time voluntarily for the Parish and in particular Peter Pritchett-Brown who was retiring from the editorship of the Parish Newsletter after 15 years.

6. Statement of Accounts

6.1 Year ending 31 March 2007

The accounts, distributed at the meeting, had been accepted by the Parish Council and the auditor.

6.2 Provisional Statement year ending 31 March 2008.

The provisional accounts were distributed at the meeting.

6.3 Budget & Precept for the Year to March 2009

The Clerk presented the budget and precept and noted that the precept would be reduced to £12,000 for 2008/9.

7. Councillors' Reports

7.1 Tony Ward, Borough Councillor for Kings Somborne & Michelmersh

Cllr. Ward spoke about his first year as a TVBC Councillor. Planning issues took up most time and infill and mineral extraction were contentious ones in Michelmersh & Timsbury. A further 8600 homes were planned for Test Valley and sites for these had been mainly identified. Parish Councils should look at affordable housing where there was a need. Test Valley currently recycled 20 – 35% of its rubbish and the aim was to increase this to 40% by 2010. He ended with an invitation for Parishioners to contact him and offered an electronic news bulletin if an email address was provided.

7.2 Michael Woodhall, County Councillor for Stockbridge & Wellow

Cllr. Woodhall thanked all the Councillors for the work that they did. He was now Chairman of Hampshire CC and had been pleased to make a grant to the Parish Council for a new dog latch and stile. He spoke on; the Abbottswood development and the increased traffic implications; the problems of large lorries using county roads; the threat of mineral extraction in the villages and the condition of Hampshire Roads. The ever present pot hole in Hill View Road was raised and he agreed that the continual temporary repair of this could not be cost effective. He would investigate.

8. Update on the registration the Recreation Ground and options to secure it's future as a place for sport and recreation.

The Parish Council had been considering the need to safeguard the future of the Recreation Ground by placing it in some form of trust or in a deed of dedication. This came from a possible re-organisation of local government where Parish Councils may not exist. This situation appeared to have disappeared. It was generally felt by the meeting that as the process of creating a deed was a quick one and the perceived problem was no longer a threat then there was no need for action to be taken on the matter at the moment.

9. Open Forum

John Chambers invited the Chairman and Cllrs. Ward and Woodhall to visit the top of New Road to see the damage lorries were doing there.

Mary Less asked if Parish Councillors at the meeting could be introduced. This was done.

Dr Subramanyam was concerned about access to the Tile Works site. Cllrs. Ward and Woodhall would investigate.

In reply to a question from Mike Koscian, it was confirmed that the tyres dumped in Rudd Lane had been cleared.

Anthony Rackham suggested that the precept did not always have to go down. Parishioners were invited to make suggestions on what more should be done.

The meeting closed at 09.25 p.m.

Peter Buist
Parish Clerk