

# MICHELMERSH AND TIMSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall, Timsbury.

**Present:** Parish Councillors Mr. R. Davis (Chairman), Mr. P. Clarke, Mr. R. Fitzgerald, Mr. A. Jones, Mr. J. Rhodes, TVBC Cllr. Tony Ward, Police Sergeant Christine Plascott, and 40 Parishioners

### Action

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting and introduced the members of the Parish Council.

#### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following:

Parish Councillor Richard Vie

Parish Councillor Robin Goodland

County Councillor Andrew Gibson

Roger Wilson, William Drury, Johanna and Mike Koscian, Mary Lees, George Smith, and John Hunt

#### 3. Presentation by Sergeant Christine Plascott

Sergeant Plascott gave a comprehensive overview of policing in the village. She urged people to report any suspicious activity in the surrounding areas and assured residents that every call would be handled personally by one of her Romsey based team.

Sergeant Plascott informed the meeting that Farm Watch was now in operation and being coordinated by the Mottisfont Farm Administrator. Several parishioners voiced concerns regarding speeding, reckless driving, and dog fouling in the village.

Sergeant Plascott urged residents to come forward with specific incident details and outlined the policing options available to address the issues.

#### 4. Minutes of the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting.

It was **proposed** by Mr. R. Davis and seconded by Sue Leadbetter that the minutes of the previous years meeting be accepted. This was **agreed unanimously**.

#### 5. Chairman's Report 2008-2009

The Chairman gave a brief overview of the Parish Council's main roles and responsibilities, outlining the number of Parish Meetings held annually, where and when they are held and by whom they are attended.

The Chairman explained that the Council owns the recreation ground, the land this hall stands on, the sports pavilion and the children's play area and is responsible for other areas of land and assets.

Reviewing Planning Applications (34 in 2009), addressing parishioner concerns, keeping residents informed by way of the Village Newsletter and Parish Council website, and liaising with the local Constabulary are all aspects of the Parish Council's role in the community.

The Chairman thanked Mike Koscian and Jane Finnimore and their helpers for their production and distribution of the Parish Newsletter and Kath Davis for maintaining the village website.

He then highlighted some changes over the past year:

New Parish Clerk, Katie Hardy and the retirement of previous Clerk, Peter Buist. The Chairman thanked Peter for all his hard work during his 8 years as Parish Clerk.

Michael Woodhall, who used to be the Test Valley Central representative on the County Council retired during the year and his place was taken by Andrew Gibson.

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#### Cycleway

The extension to the cycleway was opened - from the bottom of Mesh Road to the corner with Yokesford Hill. There was an opening ceremony and three of the Councillors joined the inaugural ride.

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### **Redland Tile Works**

The new housing at Casbrook Fields is progressing with several houses now occupied. Cllr. Davis informed the meeting that the PC has had a meeting with HCC, the Highways Authority, and now understands the County Council's position concerning the status of the access road. Cllr. Davis stated that the PC has no intention of engaging in any dispute with HCC or Test Valley about the legality of the access. Cllr. Davis then welcomed the new residents at Casbrook Fields.

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### **Community Garden Project**

Work has started on the Community garden outside the Jubilee Hall. A team of people led by Sue Leadbetter, Dottie Woods, together with Helen Palmer who is a landscape architect and who has provided her services free of charge, develop the scheme you can see on the sketches on the boards and put together an application for a grant to the Big Lottery Fund. This was progressed through the PC and we were awarded a Lottery grant of £10000. The PC has granted a further £2000. The first stage will be completed this summer. Cllr. Davis asked if anybody would like to make a donation, perhaps towards the cost of a bench or a tree, that would be most welcome.

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### **Sports Club Lease Negotiations**

Cllr. Davis summarised the current lease negotiations between the Parish Council and Sports Club. At the moment, the Club has a license from the PC to use the pavilion and the Sports ground, but this is a short-term arrangement – either the Club or the PC can terminate the License on 3 months notice. The Club ideally needs security of tenure to enable it to plan its future, and also to allow it to apply for grants to improve the facilities. This would be better for the Club and also, potentially for the PC. : For example, at the moment the Parish Council would probably have to bear the cost of major works to the pavilion. So the PC had had a draft Lease drawn up by solicitors and this is currently with the Club for comment. It is a draft, and there is a lot of scope for negotiation. Both the Club and the PC obviously want to be sure that it is fair to both parties.

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### **Pocket Park**

Cllr. Davis gave reference to the Pocket Park at the end of Mannygham Way. This is a section of woodland, part of Haycroft Copse, which the PC leases from TVBC at a rent of (I think) £15 per year. Bryan Raines, who is the village's volunteer tree warden, has recently done a lot of work in the Pocket Park, with new fencing and gate and construction of hurdles to mark the edges of paths and to protect wildlife areas. It is a SINC. Cllr. Davis stated that the PC is planning to carry out further work on the fencing around the area and he thanked Brian for his work.

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### **Road Conditions and grit bins**

Cllr. Davis acknowledged the unusually hard winter and the damage it has caused to the village roads. He informed the meeting that the County Council will supply us with grit bins and supplies of grit before next winter; the PC has asked for four bins, locations to be decided. Cllr. Davis also stated that the Clerk had carried out a pothole survey and has submitted a schedule and map to the County Council via Andrew Gibson, who has taken a particular interest in sorting out the pothole problem in Hampshire.

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### **Village Lengthsman**

Cllr. Davis stated that this year some funding has been provided for a parish Lengthsman, shared between the village parishes to complete maintenance on verges, ditches and hedges. Cllr. Davis requested any input from parishioners with regards to assigning the Lengthsman tasks.

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### **Financial Position**

Meeting attendee were given a summary of the Parish Councils accounts. This shows the income and expenditure for last year, actual against budget, and the PC's budget for 2010 -11.

Cllr. Davis identified the PC's main source of income as the precept – the amount we receive from Test Valley which is added-in to your Council Tax. The precept last year was set at £12,000 per year, the same as in 2008-2009 and is unchanged again this year.

The PC has had a surplus for a number of years so we have built up a fairly large cash reserve. So at the end of March, the end of our financial year, the PC has had around £28000 in the bank. As a rule of thumb, parish councils are recommended not to hold reserves of more than one years' precept.

Cllr. Davis identified some budgeted projects for the coming year:

- The Community garden.
- Repair the fencing to the recreation ground
- Rectification work to the pavilion showers.
- Replace village Notice Boards
- Develop a design for a new children's playground – Cllr. Davis informed the meeting that there were some preliminary schemes for this on the display boards for review.

## 6. Statement of Accounts

### 6.1 Budget & Precept for the Year to March 2010

The Chairman presented the budget and precept and noted that the precept would remain at £12,000 for 2010/11.

## 7. Councillors' Reports

Tony Ward, Borough Councillor for Kings Somborne & Michelmersh thanked the parishioners for their attendance to the meeting. He was pleased to see such an enthusiastic turn out. Councillor Ward provided an update on developments within the Borough Council, particularly on matters concerning planning and new development. Tony Ward also presented a report from Andrew Gibson, the Hampshire County Council councillor for Test Valley Central, who was unable to attend the meeting on this occasion.

Councillor Gibson's report highlighted the common problems in his 23 Parish Councils include: Highway Maintenance, Gritting, Footpaths clearance, Lengthsman, HAT's, Grants.

He acknowledged that the poor road conditions on the back lanes of Michelmersh were a key issue and were on a Project log to be dealt with once the back log caused by the bad winter has been cleared.

Provision and security of grit bins is also a key concern. Councillor Gibson has put a case forward for 200 boxes of rock salt to be distributed amongst the 23 villages in Test Valley Central.

The Lengthsman Project has a total budget is £10,000 and that will mean around 45 hours of work per Parish Council.

Councillor Gibson requested that Michelmersh & Timsbury provide a list of works for the Lengthsman.

Councillor Gibson stated that the Devolved budget of £10,000 has been confirmed for 2010/11 but it will then cease in this form. He is able to carry over the £1,000 under spend and is open for requests for the next financial year.

He was also pleased to be able to help the Cricket Club funding for the new 'nets'.

## 8. Open Forum

### BT Kiosks

It was the majority view that the telephone boxes in the villages be adopted, repaired and maintained by the Parish Council. Most people felt that they were unique and were a key landmark within a village community. **It was agreed** that the PC would pursue adopting the BT kiosks.

PC

### Broadband

Many villagers raised concerns regarding the slow broadband speed in the village.

The possibility of buying a BT hub and then selling broadband services and telephone to raise money for the Parish Council was raised. Cllr. Tony Ward said that he would research this issue further to see if it would be a viable option. TW

### **Playground Renovation Project**

It was the majority view that the existing playground on Mannyngham Way be renovated. Several parishioners stated that it would encourage young families to make better use of the space and could be seen as a central point in the village to encourage a better sense of community. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council pursue further designs and costings. PC

### **Dog Fouling**

Several parishioners raised concerns about the amount of dog fouling around the village, especially Haccups Lane. **It was agreed** that an article be written for the village newsletter to highlight the health legal implications of dog fouling. PC

### **A3057 Crossing**

Several parishioners raised concerns regarding the safety of pedestrians crossing the A3057. A potential solution was the installation of a traffic island at the road's widest point. This solution would not only make it safer to cross the road, but would help unite the village. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council would investigate this option further with TVBC and HCC. PC/TW

### **Village Tidy Up**

**It was agreed** that there would be a village clean up day organised by the Parish Council in conjunction with TVBC. PC  
Mr. Philip Ladelle offered to donate a skip free of charge for the event.  
**It was agreed** that the event be advertised in the village newsletter to encourage parishioner participation.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Katie Hardy  
Parish Clerk