MICHELMERSH AND TIMSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 20th May 2005 at 7.30 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall, Timsbury.

Present: Parish Councillors Mr. P. Pritchett-Brown (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), Mr. D Cowling, Mrs. C. Evans, Dr. M Subramanyam, Parish Clerk Mr. P Buist, TVBC Cllr. D. Bidwell, Hampshire CC Cllr. M. Woodhall, and 20 parishioners.

Action

1. Welcome and Introductions
The Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Councillors Bidwell and Woodhall. The Care Group was also thanked for providing refreshments.

2. Apologies
Apologies were received from; Dr. W A Lees, Dr. J. Glasspool, Mr. R. Vie and Mr. R. Hunt.

3. Minutes of the 2004 Annual Parish Meeting.
It was **proposed** by Donald Cowling and seconded by Dr. Subramanyam that the minutes of the previous years meeting be accepted. This was **agreed unanimously**.

4. Chairman's Report 2004/2005
The Vice-Chairman presented the report of the past year. He referred to the Parish Council members who also represented the Parish on a number of public bodies as well as attending Borough and County Council meetings. He also expressed his thanks to all those who helped to produce and distribute the Parish Newsletter.

On planning, he noted that the Borough Plan did not support large scale development in this area and that the Village Design Statement provided valuable support in considering planning applications. There had been a number of important planning matters to consider in the past year including the Redland Tile Site, Hunts Farm, Bridle View, Casbrook Common and Salvidge Farms.

On the environment, he commented on the developing plans for the Children's Playground, the Brickworks and the installation of dog stiles from which he thanked Aiden Harvey and Sir David Frost for allowing the installations on their land. He also thanked those who had volunteered to erect the stiles.

On legislation and regulation, he noted that there was lots more of it and the Parish Council was required to consider policy statements and consultation documents on a range of subjects.

He ended by thanking Councillors Bidwell and Woodhall for their support. He also thanked the Parish Councillors.

5. Statement of Accounts

5.1 Year ending 31 March 2004
The accounts, distributed at the meeting, had been accepted by the Parish Council and the auditor. They were still to be accepted by the Audit Commission. In answer to a question it was confirmed that a spend of £616 on the Recreation Ground was on hedge cutting and fence repair.

5.2 Provisional Statement year ending 31 March 2005.
The provisional accounts were distributed at the meeting. It was noted that the precept had been reduced from the previous year and that income on rent was down as the Sports Club had paid rent at the old rate. Expenditure was similar to the previous year but there had been a 12% increase in the insurance premium.

6. Councillors' Reports

6.1 David Bidwell, Borough Councillor for Kings Somborne & Michelmersh

David Bidwell reported that the County was not meeting their recycling targets. TVBC planning procedure were being considered by officers and it was taking the Council too long to consider planning applications. Before submitting planning applications, he recommended that applicants first speak to the planning officers. On Council Tax he felt that the Parish gives pretty good value for money. He stressed that he was an independent councillor, not subject to a party whip and called for more independent members. Finally he considered Michelmersh & Timsbury to be a very good Parish Council and thanked the members for the work that they do.

7.2 Michael Woodhall, County Councillor for Stockbridge & Wellow

Michael Woodhall thanked the Parish Council for the work they did. Hampshire had a major waste disposal problem and recycling must be encouraged. The County Council was in good shape and was spending major sums on schools and social care. There was a large amount of repair work being done to country lanes and roadside hedges and ditches were being monitored. Traffic accidents were down and there were plans to introduce new speed restrictions to the A3057. Michelmersh & Timsbury was a low crime area and Cllr. Woodhall was impressed with the way police were supporting rural areas. Anti social behaviour was a big problem. The Government was imposing housing on the County and this was not acceptable. There would be a very robust stance against huge numbers of new houses. Finally he noted the re-vamp of the Romsey Library.

7. Budget & Precept for the Year to March 2006

The Clerk presented the budget and precept and noted that the precept would remain at £14,000 for 2004/6. A parishioner commented that a lot of money was being spent on the children's play area when it was used by so few. The expenditure in 2005/6 was to replace the play area surface which had deteriorated and on which RoSPA had commented on in their annual report of the site.

8. Sports Club Negotiations – Parish Council Positional Statement

The Parish Council was unable to discuss this subject as it was still subject to court proceedings, but did wish to make a statement. This covered the Councils duty to review all expenditure; the negotiations in 2002 to agree a new lease at a peppercorn rent; the rejection of that lease by the Sports Club Management Committee; the subsequent increase in rent, agreed by the club with arrears paid then further payment at the new level refused; the offer of arbitration rejected by the Club and the subsequent Court case and the refusal of the Club to allow the extension to the Jubilee Hall.

In September 2004 the Parish Council had passed a resolution to combine the annual rent income from the sports facility with 10% of the precept to create a sports fund. This fund to be used exclusively on the maintenance and operation of sports facilities in the parish.

The Parish Council welcomed comments in the open forum, but because of the legal proceedings would not be able to respond that evening.

9. Parish Plan

Nick Bone reported that the response to the Parish Plan had been low. Funding for the development of a plan was now not available, some Parish Council funding was available but not enough. An analysis of the questionnaires revealed that the desires were for a shop, play area, cycle way, landscaping around the Jubilee Hall, tidiness around the village, bus service, road safety and local employment. He welcomed help and support from people within the villages.

10. Open Forum

Questions and comments raised were on:

- Cycle track where some land ownership problems had to be resolved before

further progress could be made.

- Test Valley Way where Cllr. Woodhall would enquire about the programme for cutting back the overgrowth.
- Improved bus service where plans were in hand to introduce the Cango bus service. Scooters were also available on hire from the County Council for young people with a need for transport.
- PC Statement, which would be made available to Robin Goodland.
- Loss of recycling facility at the Malthouse that would be taken up by Cllr. Bidwell.
- Placing the Recreation Ground in trust, which the Parish Council would now take on.
- Alarm at the lack of progress between Parish Council and Sports Club and need for a compromise.
- Concern from Tree Warden about dumping of grass cuttings in Haycfoft Copse.
- Jubilee Hall could extend if lease between Parish Council and Sports Club is surrendered.
- Sports Club would be prepared to surrender lease, but want to know what facilities will be available and what conditions will apply in future.
- Village shop where there appeared to be insufficient interest to take it forward.

The Vice-Chairman in closing the meeting thanked all the village organisations; Bryan Raines, the tree warden; Mary Lees for her footpath work; the PCC's; the various groups providing sport; Kath Davis for her web site work; the Jubilee Hall Management Committee; the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators; the TVBC and Hants CC Councillors; the PC members and Clerk and the Care Group.

The meeting closed at 09.05 p.m.

Peter Buist
Parish Clerk