MICHELMERSH & TIMSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th February 2012 at 7.30 p.m. at the Jubilee Hall, Timsbury.

Present: Parish Councillors: Mr. J. Rhodes (acting Chairman), Mr. D. Cowling, Mr. P. Clarke, Mr. R. Fitzgerald, Ms Helen Palmer, Mr. B. Lucas (acting Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Bob Davis, Tony Ward and Andrew Gibson.

Action

Open Period

Concern was expressed over the amount of green field land in and around the village that could easily be developed if it is not in some way protected. It was also asked whether the Brickworks needed to be within the settlement boundary. A suggestion about green open spaces was presented to the Council.

Open Period Closed

2. Declarations of interest.

Cllr. D. Cowling expressed a prejudicial interest in the core strategy matters as he lives adjacent to the proposed settlement boundary.
Cllr. R. Fitzgerald expressed a personal interest in any issues regarding the Sports Club/Ground.
Cllr. P Clarke expressed a personal interest in core strategy matters.

3. Discussion of the Parish Council's response to the Test Valley Borough Council's Core Strategy and Development Plan Consultation Documents.

- The Recreation Ground and Hunts Farm Playing Field are shown within the proposed settlement boundary. It is not clear how (or even if) these areas are protected from future development.

  It was agreed that Hunts Farm playing field is to be excluded from within the settlement boundary and that both areas should be declared as public open spaces.

- It was agreed that part of the land to the north of the Malthouse Inn car park should not be included within the settlement boundary. The Council considered that once past the Malthouse, travelling north, the view to the West is essentially of countryside, with the pair of cottages appearing as isolated modest-sized dwellings typical of agricultural cottages.

- The curtilages of a number of dwellings at the extremes of the proposed settlement boundaries extend significantly beyond the existing buildings on these sites, in some cases providing sufficient area to accommodate a further dwelling which would intrude on what is currently open land outside the village.

  The Parish Council agreed to request that either the settlement boundary is redrawn to contain only a section of these gardens, with the suggestion of 10 meters maximum distance from the existing building or a policy is included which prevents additional dwellings being 'added-on' in these cases.

- The existing policy which controls backland or tandem development appears to have been discarded. One characteristic of the village is that most dwellings front on to the highway and have an open view to the rear. The PC feels strongly that this character must be preserved and that this is best achieved by the inclusion of a specific policy that effectively prevents tandem development. The Council does not consider that reliance on other less specific policies would be effective.

  The Parish Council agreed to request TVBC to retain a specific backland and tandem development policy.

- After a lengthy discussion about the Brickworks being within the settlement boundary, it was agreed that it should be excluded as it was felt that it would be disadvantageous if included.

- The Parish Council agreed to identify much of the land immediately outside the proposed settlement boundary as green public open space.

The Chairman volunteered to draw up a revised plan and draft a letter to be sent to TVBC before the closing date of Friday 17thFebruary @16.30hours. **JR**

4. Dates of future meetings

The Chairman said that it was not certain that the next meeting would be held on its scheduled date owing to the absence of the Clerk.

Open Period

It was requested that a copy of the Parish Council's response to the TVBC core strategy be given to those present. The Council agreed that a copy of its response will be added to the village website.

Copies are to be hand delivered **BL**

All parishioners present reiterated the importance of retaining the village character and expressed their concerns over increased development on green fields and in-fill. The Council was thanked for its efforts.

Open Period Closed

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Ben Lucas

Acting Parish Clerk,

13th February 2012