MICHELMERSH AND TIMSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th April 2013 at 8 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall, Timsbury.

Present: Parish Councillors Mr. Robert. Davis (Chairman), Mr. Peter. Clarke, Mr. Rory. Fitzgerald, Mr. Ben Lucas, Mr. John. Rhodes, Mr. Donald Cowling, Ms. Helen Palmer, TVBC Cllr. Tony Ward, HCC Cllr. Andrew Gibson, PCSO Jo Cole and 30 Parishioners

Action

1. Welcome and Introductions
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 117th Annual Parish Meeting and introduced the members of the Parish Council.

2. Apologies
There were no apologies

3. Minutes of the 2012 Annual Parish Meeting.
It was **proposed** by Mr. R. Davis and seconded by Mr. Guy Roberts (parishioner) that the minutes of the previous year's meeting be accepted. This was **agreed unanimously**.

4. Police Report
PCSO Jo Cole gave an overview of policing in the rural areas. She stated that Michelmersh & Timsbury was still a very low crime area.
PCSO Cole informed the meeting that even though Romsey Police Station is now closed to the public, it is still operational. The non-emergency number to call is 101.
PCSO Cole informed the meeting of the Community Speed Watch initiative and explained that extra funding had been allocated for unmarked cars to police the rural areas during the night in order to clamp down on oil thefts.
PCSO Cole informed the meeting that both Farm Watch and Neighbourhood Watch were still very active initiatives in the rural villages.
PCSO Cole requested that any parishioner wanting police updates should provide the Clerk with their email address.

5. Chairman's Report 2012-13
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, 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.

Mr Davis then reviewed a few of the highlights in 2012:

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations
Mr. Davis thanked in particular Angie Sleight and Caroline Roberts for their ideas and organisation of many of the Jubilee weekend events – which included a street party on Mannyngham Way, an evening party, a band concert at The Barns, a walk along the River Test, and the BBC broadcast of the Jubilee service at St. Mary's Church. The weekend generated income which was distributed to the Jubilee Hall and the Michelmersh Barns Trust.

Gypsy Site Planning Application
Mr. Davis explained that the Parish Council had taken professional advice from planning consultants to assist with opposing the Gypsy Site planning application. This course of action was taken due to the number of residents who opposed the proposed development. Mr. Davis explained that the planning application was refused, however it is thought that the application will now be taken to appeal.

Michelmersh Brickworks
Cllr. Davis informed the meeting the Parish Council had given evidence at the resumed Public Hearing in March and now awaits the Inspector's decision in May. Cllr. Davis stated that the Parish Council were not convinced that the latest plan proposed by the brickworks is necessarily the 'least bad' option for the village. Mr. Davis explained that the Parish Council would endeavour to work with the Brickworks to minimise the disruption and damage to the village landscape.

Village Facilities improvements
Cllr. Davis informed the meeting that the bench at the bus stop on New Road has been refurbished and a concrete base laid by TVBC at no cost to the Parish Council.
The Parish Council has purchased two picnic benches and a wooden gazebo for the Community Garden.
There are also plans to purchase an additional noticeboard to publicise village events etc.
Cllr. Davis also mentioned that the Parish Council was currently researching ways to prevent further damage to the recreation ground by laying plastic 'grassprotecta'- type matting and by installing wooden bollards to clearly define the parking area.

Financial Position
Meeting attendees 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 2012 -13.

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 2010-2011, however due to the exceptional expenditure this year on professional fees for advice on the Bridle View Gypsy site planning application and the Minerals and Waste Plan, and in view of the proposed projects for the coming year, it has been decided to increase the precept by £3500.

6. Statement of Accounts

6.1 Budget & Precept for the Year to March 2013
The Chairman presented the budget and precept and noted that the precept would remain at £15,500 for 20013/14.

7. TVBC Councillors' Report
Tony Ward, Borough Councillor for Kings Somborne & Michelmersh thanked the parishioners for their attendance to the meeting. Cllr. Ward then gave a comprehensive overview of Test Valley Borough Council's cost cutting measures and recent achievements.
Cllr. Ward urged the Parish Council to consider conducting a Housing Needs Survey in conjunction with TVBC.
Cllr. Ward also invited parishioners to sign up to 'Tony's Blog' .

8. HCC Councillors' Report
Andrew Gibson stated that he had opposed the Brickworks plan to excavate Hillside and School field and had supported clay being imported to the brickworks.
Cllr. Gibson stated that there is to be a change of contractors for road repairs – the focus will be on repairing the crumbling verges and conducting preventative maintenance.
Cllr. Gibson stated that the contract for alleviating the flooding on Rudd Lane has now been signed and the work is to take place once the field has dried out.
Cllr. Gibson also informed the meeting that HCC is hiring 1000 apprentices over the next 12 months. Information can be found on HCC website.

9. Open Forum

Questions were raised with regards to the following:

Neighbourhood Plan
Mr. Chris Hall suggested that the Parish Council should consider implementing a Neighbourhood plan, as this would help safeguard sites in the village from potential planning and development.
Clllr. Tony Ward stated that creating a neighbourhood plan is extremely time consuming, costly, and relies heavily on community involvement. Also, the effectiveness of such a plan has yet to be proven.

Water Concerns
Concerns were raised with regards to supplying water to the new development at Abbotswood.
Cllr. Tony Ward stated that the water authorities are confident that there is a sufficient water supply.

Rural Broadband
Cllr. Gibson informed the meeting that HCC has signed up to 90% coverage with BT. He stated that New Road would receive the high speed broadband. He stated that the program would take approximately three years to deliver.

Cllr. Bob Davis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and subsequently closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10pm

Katie Hardy
Parish Clerk