

MICHELMERSH AND TIMSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2018

Present: Parish Councillors. Robert. Davis (Chairman), Cllr. John Rhodes, Cllr. Helen Palmer, Cllr. Donald Cowling, Parish Clerk, Katie Hardy, HCC Cllr. Roy Perry and 16 Parishioners

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 122nd Annual Parish Meeting and introduced the members of the Parish Council.

2. Apologies

Apologies from, Cllr. Rory Fitzgerald, Cllr. Peter Clarke & TVBC Cllr. Tony Ward

3. Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting.

Minutes from 15th May 2017 were approved.

4. Chairman's Report 2017/18

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 the 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.

Cllr. Davis then reviewed a few of the highlights in 2017/18:

Planning Issues

Cllr Davis gave a brief summary of the main issues raised concerning various planning applications over the last 12 months. He explained that the Council were consulted on planning applications received by Test Valley BC (and by Hampshire CC for waste and minerals applications) but the decisions were made by TVBC or HCC.

The Council's comments took into account the appropriate Local Plan policies and the recommendations in the Village Design Statement. About 40 applications had been reviewed in the previous year. One application of particular interest was for three earth-sheltered houses on land adjoining Stockbridge Road: the Council had objected to this application on the grounds of that there was no justification for this development in the countryside.

Village Improvements

Broadband

Cllr. Davis informed the meeting that Virgin Media will commence work this August to install a fibre network in most of the village, which would make high-speed broadband service available.

New Style Village News Sheet

Cllr Davis asked the meeting for their views on the new-style monthly 'News Sheet', produced by the Parish Council, which replaced the bi-monthly Village Newsletter. Those present expressed the view that the News Sheet was welcome and provided the information they needed. Following a suggestion from a resident, it was agreed that it might be useful to add the school holidays to the Diary section of the news sheet.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDEPR)

In line with the new GDPR, Cllr. Davis stated that residents would have to 'opt-in' to the Parish Council email circulation list in order to continue to receive the News Sheet and other Parish Council information via emails. Cllr. Davis stated that an email would be circulated in the next couple of weeks to which residents would have to respond in order to remain in the list.

Village Issues

Road Conditions & Flooding

Cllr. Davis stated that the Parish Council had met with the Environment Agency and TVBC to discuss the flooding problem at the bottom of New Road. He stated that the EA has now installed a new section of culvert which seems to have alleviated the flooding problem in this area.

Speeding

Cllr. Davis informed the meeting the Council had contacted HCC Highways about the positioning of the 30 mph/derestriction sign on Haccups Lane, and suggesting that the 30 mph limit area should be extended in view of the poor sight lines and limited road widths. HCC had declined to take any action on the grounds that to date no serious accidents had been reported in the area.

6. Accounts

A summary of the Parish Council's accounts was circulated. The precept (the amount collected from parishioners with the TVBC Community Charge and returned to the Parish Council) would remain at £15,500 which averages approximately £40 per household.

7. TVBC Councillors' Report (Tony Ward)

In the absence of Cllr. Tony Ward, the Chairman gave a brief summary of Cllr Ward's presentation – including an overview of the changes in Ward Councils. Cllr. Davis explained that the wards had been reorganised in a bid to equalise the number of electors between wards.

8. HCC Councillors' Report (Roy Perry)

Cllr. Roy Perry gave a presentation on the budgetary changes currently being implemented within HCC and how those changes impact various services such as schools, highways, and social care.

Cllr. Perry then asked if there were any questions:

1. A resident raised concerns to Cllr. Perry regarding the reporting and repairing of pot holes on the village lanes. Cllr. Perry stated that the main A roads will have priority after the recent bad weather, however he asked that the parishioner email him directly and he would make enquiries to the Highways Agency.

2. A resident raised concerns that there has been an increase in Council Tax and asked if by sharing services between neighbouring boroughs and counties would help meet budget cuts without the need to increase Council Tax. Cllr. Perry stated that service sharing is already being done between Hampshire and other counties and that prior to this year, the Council tax had been frozen for five years. He also stated that Hampshire's Council Tax is the second lowest in the country.

3. Parish Council Chairman, Bob Davis asked about the future of the Bunny Lane Recycling Centre.

Cllr. Perry stated that it was his aim to keep the centre open to the public, even if this meant charging users £1 per visit. Currently the Government has not approved public charging for this service, so it will remain free for the foreseeable future.

4. Parish Council Cllr. Helen Palmer asked if Community Infrastructure Levy funds (i.e. contributions from developers building larger projects) could be used for the Parish Council to instruct pot hole repairs in the village. Cllr. Perry stated that CIL funds are used by TVBC. However he stated that in the future Section 106 funds could reasonably be used for this purpose. He discussed the merits of devolution for Parish Councils to be given funding to be responsible for grass verge cutting and small road repairs etc.

5. A resident enquired as to how much detail the Parish Council were given by TVBC with regards to Planning Applications. Cllr. Davis stated that the Parish Council were given all of the information submitted by the applicant. Specific details of planning requirements could also be found on the TVBC website if someone wanted to verify that a build was being carried out in accordance with the permitted application.

There were no further questions.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Perry for attending the meeting.

Cllr. Perry left the meeting.

9. Open Forum

A resident asked if there was anything the Parish Council could do to deter security/flood lights from being directed from private residences onto the village roads and footpaths. Cllr Davis said that an article would be published in the village news sheet to ask homeowners to be mindful of light pollution caused by security lights.

There being no further questions or points raised, Cllr.Davis thanked everyone for attending the meeting, which was closed at 9.00 pm.

Katie Hardy
Parish Clerk

