

Milton Lilbourne - Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Meeting Minutes:

Venue: Village Hall

Date: Wednesday 16th April 2014

Time: 7.35pm – 9.25pm

Present:

Cllr Paul Oatway QPM (Chairman), Robert Jones (Clerk), Cllr David Fall, Cllr Janine Gosling, Cllr Liz Minnear, Cllr Serena Sparks, and Cllr Anthony Wells.

Guest Speakers:

Cllr Jerry Kunkler – Pewsey/Wilts Council representative

WPC Teresa Herbert – Wiltshire Police.

Apologies:

Mr & Mrs Spanswick

Parishioners in attendance:

Mr & Mrs Maitland Jones, Mrs R Yeates, Mr & Mrs P Parsons, Mr & Mrs R Giddings, Mrs J Barne, Mrs C Donovan, Mr & Mrs S Williams, Mrs P Dorling, Mr & Mrs M Holland, Mr R Loraine-Smith, Mr & Mrs P Mayhew, Mr & Mrs D Wells, Mr & Mrs P Bathe, Mr A West, Mr & Mrs R Polden, Mrs H Shepherd, Mr & Mrs M James, Mr & Mrs J Holmes, Mr A Deadman, Mrs J McGuigan, Mr & Mrs M Williamson, Mr P Rhodes.

Approval of minutes from last meeting:

Cllr P Oatway stated minutes had been posted for review and proposed same as being an accurate record of events and were duly approved. Proposed by Cllr D Ward & seconded by Cllr V Bunyan.

Matters arising

These will be covered in main meeting

Declarations of Interest: – Chairman once again raised the issue and the requirements of the Parish Councillors and agreed format.

Note – Members are bound by the provisions on the National Code of Conduct and are where required to declare either personal or prejudicial interest and where necessary, leave the meeting during consideration of any relevant matter/s.

Chairman's Report:

As many of you are aware the Parish Council is formulated under a structure of three sub committees that report back to the full council, those committees being planning under the chairmanship of Mrs Gosling, finance under the chairmanship of Mrs Minnear and myself as the chairman of the community committee. It has been a busy year for all of those committees on your behalf and the respective chairs will give you an update on their respective activity shortly. I would at this point like to take the opportunity to personally thank all of our councillors for their time and dedication to their role and this parish.

As many of you are aware this Parish Council was elected unopposed on the 2nd May 2013, when the Parish, Town and Unitary elections took place across the County, Councillor Ken Bryant since that time has decided to resign, I having accepted that resignation and I would like to thank Ken for his contribution during his time with us and wish him well. We currently do have vacancies for Parish Councillors and if you are interested in serving your Parish, please make contact with the clerk.

As a council we are often asked to help and support organisation both locally and nationally and this may be enlarged on further with the Finance committee report, but during these tightening times there is a need to be ever mindful as to who we are allocating money and grants to, none the less we are committed to supporting the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee with on-going ground maintenance together with regular grass cutting from March and fortnightly perimeter strims, this contract would have cost us £2,500 plus 3% this year with BBLP, but unfortunately within the last couple of days we have been notified by BBLP by letter, that they do not intend to renew our contract or others and will cease cutting in two weeks, this decision at the 11th hour is totally unacceptable on their part it leaves us in a terrible predicament, both the clerk and I have already commenced remedial action with Wiltshire Council and we are as I speak hastily attempting to find a new contractor for 2014/2015, but with so many others in this same position now, I fear that we will bear the brunt of a financial penalty for their poor and late communication.

Please bear with us and we will keep you updated but at this moment in time with nearly seven acres behind me and now growing I am extremely concerned, None the less I have summoned official's from Wiltshire Council to the village next Tuesday to enable us to ascertain what is and what is not being cut, I am far from amused as to this situation but we are committed to maintaining our regular level of service which, also includes satellite areas around the village including the Severalls, the Crossroads and Littleworth.

I am very mindful last year of areas that have caused concern to residents and in particular in the area of the church within the Village Street and land adjoining the street near to Lawn Farm Close, both of these areas within the conservation area will be embraced within our contract with Wiltshire Council or the new contractor, going forward this year, having said that I am a little disappointed that some areas have yet to be addressed after clear identification for maintenance by this Parish Council.

Once again I can confirm that we have maintained £500.00 and more is available if required, under our civil emergency contingency fund, this being allocated for whatever reason this council requires in the event of a civil emergency within the Parish and I am pleased to report that there has been no need to touch this allocation within the last financial year.

Other areas of interest and concern:

- Communication strategy – This continues to be developed, the notice board for Milkhouse Water was delayed in production but has now been purchased and will be installed in the coming weeks. Fyfield will likewise be completed during this year financial year. These notice boards are important to us as they provide a sense of belonging to those that live within these hamlets and enable us and others to communicate our messages with ease to our people.
- Policing – This year has seen little to no crime within the Parish. That does not mean that we should be complacent and there is in my view every reason to support our Police and a need for everyone to be vigilant and report matters regardless of how small or insignificant.

I am sure that Teresa, will expand in her report. But I must say, year on year on, we are fortunate that in real terms we have little crime in the Parish and I am exceptionally pleased with the increased police presence that we are seeing on a regular basis. At the area boards I have publicly spoken of the professionalism and dedication of Teresa and her team, it is such a pleasure to have such a policing team as this, passionate about what they do and wanting to provide an excellent service to all, I wish to publically thank Teresa and her team once again and Wiltshire Police for their on-going support, you have our utmost continued confidence.

- This Parish Council continues to have a membership of the Area board and the Pewsey Community Area Partnership to name just two, where on your behalf we have continued to secure considerable funding for ourselves and the village hall yet again, to assist with village projects which have improved the ambience of our village, (Car Park, Overhead Projector) further bids are to be made during 2014-2015.

- Footpaths - We have conducted a survey of footpaths within the parish; we are now in the process prioritising a work maintenance programme to ensure that our people have good access and use of our countryside. This piece of work will link to one of our Diamond Jubilee projects which I have previously talked about , which will create an accessible circular footpath from within the village giving all of our people, access to the country side with special attention to our ageing community. It is our intention to install wooden kissing gates with landowner's permission; both David and I can talk about this later should anyone be interested.
- The Garage Site - Now moving a step closer to completion. I am aware of the comments, such as to many houses, to big, too cramped to close to the road and so it goes on, but I am confident that we have better outcome than we had and it could have been a lot worse, personally I think it is settling in well and the two thatched cottages look really nice.
- Village Hall - My usual appreciation and thanks to Chairman of the 'Village Hall and Recreation Ground' and the efforts of the committee during the last year.

It would be quite wrong not to reflect on the summer fayre, which clearly goes from strength to strength, with this year's fayre can only be described as incredible with so many visitors being attracted, many from well outside of the parish. Likewise to rough and tumble that was managed well and caused little to no disruption during the morning.

- Likewise my thanks to the parochial church council for all that they do for the community.

I have just talked about our partners within the community, this is not the first time that I have said it and no doubt will not be the last, but I am becoming increasingly irritated by the constant drip feeding of criticism that is levelled at the PC , VH, and PCC, by a minority of individuals around the village, who clearly have nothing else better to do, all of the committees work tirelessly on your behalf, unpaid volunteers, a little bit of praise goes a long way now and again and if you do not like what is going on , join them and influence them in their decision making, or attend AGM's and have your say, stand and be counted.

My sincere thanks to Jerry Kunckler our County Councillor and for all that he has done and continues to do in supporting this parish, in Jerry we have a true friend at County Hall and of course Robert our parish clerk, who continues to do an absolutely outstanding job, both in his role and in supporting me

On referring to the County I am only to aware of the unease of the conditions of our roads and lanes within the Parish, we have already conducted numerous surveys and reported those breakdowns, we are now in structured dialogue over a programme of work, Wiltshire Council has allocated over £55 million pounds to road repairs over the next 6 years and I can assure you some of that money is coming this way, there are many examples to talk about and we are aware of them but the condition of the Highway within the hamlet of New Mill in particular is totally out of control and totally unacceptable and needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency and I am sure Jerry will offer his support here.

To flooding once again several areas of the Parish were badly affected by flooding, some reaching a critical situation, both the clerk and I visited Wiltshire Council Staff working tirelessly at around midnight one night to resolve the serious flooding here in the upper part of the village , likewise at New Mill again. As a council we have added flooding to one of our core areas of responsibility and we are in ongoing consultation with Wiltshire Council over required remedial action to prevent this happening again.(talk Through what is happening and has happened to date, drain inspection etc) village new mill.

This year marks the 100th year anniversary since the commencement of World War One, this council will be joining in with the County commemorations and early discussions have already taken place with the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee and The Parochial Church Council regarding our intended plans to commemorate the 97 men and woman that left this Parish to play their part in what became known as the Great War. It is important to reflect and remember the 10 that fell and never returned to their beloved country, county, parish & village.

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| • James Head : | Mons Star 1 st Wilts | 27/10/1914 |
| • Archibald Ware : | 2 nd Wilts | 1/3/1915 |
| • Maurice Deadman : | 5 th Wilts | 10/8/1915 |
| • Horace Head : | 5 th Wilts | 10/8/1915 |
| • Sidney Ware VC : | Seaforth H,s | 16/4/1916 |
| • John Drewitt : | 2 nd Wilts | 8/5/1916 |
| • Charles Staggs | Can AMC | 9/4/1917 |

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| • William Underwood | R/Berks | 21/8/1917 |
| • George Waite | 1 st Wilts | 15/8/1918 |
| • Percy Styles | RFA | 22/8/1918 |

This year likewise sees, the commencement of considerable military commemorations, on the 6th June it is the 70th anniversary of D Day the biggest land invasion ever known and the commencement at the end of the 2nd World War, not to be forgotten, Private Matthews from the Dorset shire Regiment, from this Parish was the only man to pay the ultimate sacrifice during that campaign, he lies within our church yard.

As I draw my report to an end we should not forget some of those that have sadly left us during this year; all would have played their part in this village and village life and to some degree some more than others, such as the late Mrs Ashton a true villager and lady, who quietly went about her business, only to pleased to help and talked of goodness and she is sadly missed. As indeed are others.

Our village life in this quiet and peaceful part of rural Wiltshire continues and I am of a view that we should never forget ,that stable balanced society, in which we all enjoy at home is a reflection on the rule of law and our appreciation to the men and woman of the Wiltshire Constabulary, that keep it that way, day in and day out , likewise to members of our armed services', of whom many live in our communities and live here within our parish, for their part in defending the realm and our interests abroad, we all are indebted to their service during these incredibly dangerous times at home and abroad

I hope that you continue to see a council who knows its people and it's Parish, a council who has cared for all of its parishioners and will continue to do so, whatever their age or wherever they have lived, in what is a special part of Wiltshire, that we are all fortunate to live.

Wiltshire Police Report:

Milton Lilbourne Parish Police Report for Parish Council AGM 27th March

Presented by WPC Teresa Herbert – The main areas of concern within the Parish has been the recent burglaries sin the area which were predominately non-dwelling i.e. outhouses, sheds and garages. There has also been a spate of narrow boats being broken into in the Wotton rivers area.

County and District Councillors Reports

Councillor J Kunkler stated & advised:

- Budgets were under continued pressure with some £52m allocated to Wiltshire for ongoing maintenance, with road repairs accommodating most of this budget. From Mid-June Gully works were to commence from Pewsey up the B3087
- BT – Works continues and superfast broadband should be available early next year
- The Pewsey Leisure Centre is to be re-vamped and will house the new police station, and will also be the central office for registration of births, deaths and marriages. The centre will be closed for approx. 5 months whilst this update takes place.
- Electrification of the railway will extend to Westbury which will mean a more regular service for commuters.
- The Chairman thanked Cllr Kunckler for his tireless and continued work and support over the year.

Finance Committee Reports:

Presented by Cllr L Minnear:

Breakdown of parish expenditure for 2013/14. Services were to be maintained with Grounds maintenance for the forthcoming years under review. This was followed with confirmation that precept would be increased to £8k for the year 2013/14.

Annual Reports were presented at the meeting and these were adopted by P Rhodes and seconded by D Ward

Planning Committee Report:

Presented by Cllr J Gosling:

- Advised that a small number of applications had been received during the last year, however once again we had a general lack of activity in this area with no particular issues outside of the Wiltshire Council planning guidelines.
- Website developments – This will provide in time a further link to current and historical planning applications for the parish, which people might find easier than the Wiltshire Council website to investigate.

Parishioners Questions:

This was opened via the Chairman Cllr P Oatway who raised the following for consideration:

1. Village Hall – Can the Car Park be gritted – This was referred to Village Hall committee
2. Broadband – High speed broadband for the community will get funding
3. Defibrillation – This is to be considered via Parish Council, with unit recently installed and available in Wootton Rivers for the community.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting ended at 9.25pm

Minutes submitted by: Clerk Robert Jones

Minutes approved by: Paul Oatway Chairman