

Milton Lilbourne - Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Meeting Minutes:

Venue: Village Hall

Date: Wednesday 15th April 2015

Time: 7.35pm – 9.25pm

Present:

Cllr Paul Oatway QPM (Chairman), Robert Jones (Clerk), Cllr David Fall, Cllr Liz Minnear, Cllr Serena Sparks, Cllr Ann Maconie, Cllr Anthony Wells & Cllr Jamie Cayzer-Colvin.

Guest Speakers:

WPC Teresa Herbert – Wiltshire Police.

Apologies:

Cllr Janine Gosling, Cllr Jerry Kunkler – WC councillor, Mr A Barne.

Parishioners in attendance:

Various

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 A Wells & seconded by Cllr D Fall.

Matters arising

These will be covered in main meeting

Declarations of Interest:

None Declared

Chairman's Report:

It is with great pleasure that as the Chairman of this Parish council, I am in a position to present to you, the parishioners of this Parish my annual report on behalf of the Milton Lilbourne Parish Council for 2014 -2015.

At the outset can I on behalf of the whole parish warmly welcome parishioners that have joined our communities within the last twelve months and in particular those of you from the garage site development, who I recognise present here this evening, it is only fair to say what a difference this development has made to the gateway of the village and I hope that you all have many happy years with us.

Regular attendees please accept my apology for advising on our structure and the manner in which we fulfil our business, but I feel that it is important that we all know of our operating procedures especially those that have recently joined us. This council which was elected un-opposed in 2013 and since then has co-opted members I warmly welcome Ann Maconie and Jamie Cayzer-Colvin, both I am confident will bring to our table a wealth of experience. Our 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 Mr David Fall 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 be

giving you an update on their 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 once again, taking into account we all remain unpaid volunteers.

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 the ongoing support of the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee with on-going ground maintenance together with regular cutting from March and fortnightly perimeter strims, this year's contract will cost us £3,500 a 40% increase on the previous year's costs.

In addition Wiltshire Council contracting out its work to Balfour Beatty continues on our behalf to maintain grassed areas around the village including the Severalls, the Crossroads and Littleworth. These areas are reviewed annually in partnership with myself and highway engineers and two new areas have been included this year, the strip of grass adjacent to the village street by the church and the strip of land once again adjacent to the village street by Lawn Farm Close.

Whilst referring to Lawn Farm Close, many of you will recall the serious flooding that occurred within the village street at this location during the January of 2014, during the year under review we have worked hard with Wiltshire Council Highways to finally and once and for all resolve this matter, as a result engineering, highway and ditch maintenance work has been undertaken to prevent water from entering the village as much as possible, all of the ditches and grips from the crossroads to the Bruces Arms have been extensively dug out and all of the drains from Littleworth to the crossroads and into the village have been cleared and the main outlet pipe from the village street at Milton Lodge which then passes under lawn farm to the ditch to the west of that development cleaned and dug out with high pressure machinery and finally the ditch itself allowing what water there is in the village to flow out freely. My appreciation to Kristian Price and all of his highways team for all of their sterling work in this area, jerry I would appreciate if you would give that feedback.

Unfortunately it has not all been as positive as I would have wished, over a year ago, we were given positive indications of improvements that would take place at New Mill and surrounding catchments, this work was not completed and the road has continued to deteriorate at an alarming rate, as a result in recent months we have had some very challenging, serious and frank debates with officers regarding this failing and the appalling state and condition of the highway within this hamlet. In fairness to the officers concerned, they have been very transparent as to how this has come about and as a result of our firm position, I am pleased to report that the road is to be completely resurfaced and top dressed from the crossroads through to the A345 at Clench Common and as can be seen this work is now underway, with residents being catered for.

I can confirm that we have maintained £500.00 in the civil emergency contingency fund and I shall be recommending to David Falls subcommittee and full council that this is raised to £1000, this being budgeted finances 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, although it was considered during the flooding that I have recently referred to.

As a council we have had to take the difficult decision with regards to the precept, there is every likely hood that parish councils within the next parliament will have their precepts capped at about 2%, that is why we raised it last year, this year and will again next year, we are not alone in this and most parish councils have adopted that strategy for planning for the future.

Some of you may be aware that with any new developments, builders are contracted to donate financial sums to local councils for community developments, it is more commonly known as Section 106 monies, as a result of the development at the crossroads, this council has been allocated £19,007.77p, that money could not be released until the last property was sold and indeed we will never take possession of that money it will be held by County and drawn down by us for whatever we consider its use for. At this moment in time the clerk is in consultation with Wiltshire Council to establish exactly what we can use the money for, as there is some ambiguity around its potential use, taking into account what other Town and Parish Councils have used there's for.

Our Parish Communication strategy continues to be developed, the notice board for Milkhouse Water was installed recently with many favourable comments from parishioners within that hamlet and I would like to seek the views of the residents of Little Salisbury as it is our rolling programme of work to consider installation within that hamlet during this financial year. These notice boards are important to us as they provide a sense of belonging and identity to those that live within these hamlets and enable us and others to communicate messages with ease to our people. But life does move on with new ways of working and our new website gives us, parishioners and the wider world easier ways in which to communicate and I would encourage you to visit and use the site, it is a site that is maintained by us but allows and embraces our partners within it. www.miltonlilbourne.org.uk

We really do live in exciting times and on behalf of this council, I am pleased to report that we are at the forefront of National initiatives that effect and improve on your quality of life, High speed Broadband is here and it is now live, to access this facility via your service provider, please look up "Wiltshire on Line" and guidance is given there as to what you have to do, but it was this council that engaged with the BT/Wiltshire Council programme of work to secure an access box here within the parish, likewise there is a National programme of work to bury the overhead power cables in certain areas, Serena Sparks, David Fall and myself have attended a recent presentation on behalf of the National Grid where our parish has been identified as a strong possibility through the Vale of Pewsey, for this work, some hard canvassing was done on your behalf and we now await to see if we are one of the successful bidders in this multi million pound project, of which I am aware that we have been identified as a priority area within The North Wessex Downs AONB.

Policing – This year has seen little to no crime within the Parish again. 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, NHW is very much there to support the Police and provide community reassurance to communities, but unfortunately over the years it has lost its momentum, "Community Messaging" is very much taking its place and either David or Teresa will bring us all fully up to date with this new initiative and I encourage you all to sign up to this live as it happens form of communication from the police. See www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk

One area that does continue to cause us concern is the speed of some vehicles that travel in excess speeds on the B3087 and the collisions that have occurred on the crossroads in the last twelve months, I thank you for the speed checks that you regularly perform on our behalf and wondered if we could take a more targeted approach with our local knowledge and the consideration of Community Speed watch, perhaps a matter for discussion.

I am a member of the CATG with Jerry under the umbrella of Wiltshire Council and I shall be requesting that the B3087 in the crossroads area is re-assessed for consideration of a 30 mph speed limit as a result of the new housing development.

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 so 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, Richard and their small 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 again Teresa and her team and the wider Constabulary for their on-going support, you have our utmost continued confidence.

This Parish Council continues to have 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 , to assist with village projects which have improved the ambiance of our village, the overhead projector and sound system in operation this evening has been secured by such funding and grants and I hope you would all agree, brings new opportunities and most certainly takes the hall to a new level.

With regards to our footpath structure within the Parish, we have conducted a survey of footpaths within the parish and consulted with some landowners who are supportive of our overall aim in improving and enhancing our footpaths within the parish to ensure that our people have good access and use of our countryside. Our initial objective being to 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 by the installation of kissing gates or the like, both David and I can talk about this later should anyone be interested. It is of note that Richard Broadhead the county's senior rights of way officer has been consulted on this initiative.

During the year many of you will recall the commemorations to mark the 100th year anniversary since the commencement of World War One and as a parish we played a part very much within that, the temporary war memorial that was constructed here in the village street, to mark the 97 men that left this parish and went to war and of course the ten that never returned, received over whelming support and for those of us that had the opportunity to attend the wreath laying service on remembrance Sunday, I am sure you will all agree it was truly a very humbling and both inspirational moment to be there and be part of it and above all to witness family members and children laying wreaths for men that died for their country in a foreign land over a hundred years ago, an incredible experience. Likewise I would like to thank all those that took part and contributed.

A year ago, I named all of those that had died in that conflict and I think it is important to reflect, for a moment to realise that over one hundred years ago two had already been killed in action.

- James Head : Mons Star 1st Wilts 27/10/1914

- Archibald Ware : 2nd Wilts 1/3/1915

But now it is a time to look to the future, as a council it is clear from the feedback that we have received that there is an appetite to construct a permanent memorial, as a council we will lead on this and we will be writing to every household in the parish in the coming weeks to seek your views, on its design and preferred location, so you the people are very much a part of what we do. Those findings will be returned to the clerk electronically, by post or phone and initially dealt with by David Falls sub-committee who will make recommendations on its findings to the full council.

At the recent Village Hall AGM, a defibrillator was mentioned and before we knew where we were several of our community had taken it upon themselves to organise fund raising and an unbelievable amount of money raised in no time, can I thank those fund raisers for their initiative and indeed to all those that have generously donated. From this several challenges have emerged, banking, overspend, purchase, ongoing maintenance and so on, as a result the Parish Council has agreed to be responsible for this project. We will be seeking expert advice on this programme of work, the most appropriate device to purchase and seek lessons learnt from others that have installed them, but once again, you the people have a role in this and I will be seeking your views on colour, design and most of all where you consider that it should be installed. The village Hall Committee have agreed that it could be installed on their premises if that is the wish of the people.

I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks to Chairman of the Village Hall and recreation ground and the efforts of the committee during the last year and likewise to all of the members of the parochial church council for all that they do for our community.

My sincere thanks to Jerry Kunckler our County Councillor and for all that he has done and continues to do in supporting this parish and of course Robert our parish clerk, who continues to do an outstanding job, both in his role as the parish clerk and in supporting me.

As I draw this report to an end, village life in this quiet and peaceful part of rural Wiltshire continues and develops 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, let's 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 in growing numbers within our parish, for their part in defending the realm and our interests abroad, we all are indebted to their service during these incredibly difficult times at home and abroad.

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

Wiltshire Police Report:

Milton Lilbourne Parish Police Report for Parish Council APM – April 2015

Presented by WPC Teresa Herbert – A comprehensive report was presented and explained, with due consideration to recent burglary, and vehicle theft especially from the local beauty spots. Discussions about cold-calling were also highlighted. To conclude a full Crime report was presented with changes in activity and results over 2014 & 2015 periods.

County and District Councillors Reports

This was presented by Cllr P Oatway:

- Wiltshire Council New Highways Services - Steve Cross & Kristian Price – A new contract starts in June that takes on not just highway but also street scene, Balfour Beatty Living Places will be the contractor, and what's left is a small client team. This team will interact with communities and contractor.
- Pedestrian access to Pewsey Station - Consultants haven't produced report yet, it is ongoing, will be ready for next meeting. Estimate was less than £10k
- The Pewsey Leisure Centre is to be re-vamped - Work is anticipated to begin in the summer 2015 with closure for 12 months with the campus fully opened by the autumn of 2016.

Finance Committee Reports:

Presented by Cllr L Minnear:

Breakdown of parish expenditure for 2014/15. This was followed with confirmation that precept would be increased to £10k for the year 2016/17.

Annual Reports were presented at the meeting and these were adopted by D K Ward & seconded by C Spanswick

Planning Committee Report:

Presented by Cllr S Sparks:

- 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 was highlighted with the ability to now access all current planning activity through the planning portal on the parish website, 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. Defibrillator/War memorial – This is to be considered via Parish Council, with agreed consultation with parishioners on ideas re design and siting. This having been passed to Council from Village Hall committee and donations already received.
2. Projector & Screen - this was ably demonstrated on the night and Q's re maintenance were covered with main responsibility to PC re ongoing costs.
3. Recreation Ground – It was asked whether compensation could be sought from BB/WC re costs but this was explained as part of the austerity measures from Central Government
4. Area Board Grants – These were discussed and the success of the Parish in obtaining assistance with, projector, Tree Seat and VH Car Park
5. Flooding on B3087 – This was discussed with issues around new houses, this is being pursued privately with builders QDOS, PC offered its assistance if required further.
6. Village Lane – Bottom of Village concern was expressed with state of road and issues re manhole covers and drainage system not working as expected.- PC to pursue
7. Best Kept Village Competition – This is judged each April/May and this would be considered next year when new 2016 awards were being presented – PC & VH committee to follow up.

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