

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 28th April 2015 at 7pm at the Town Hall

Present: Mr J Farley (Chair), Mr M Ritchie, Mr R Duckworth, Mr E Davis, Mrs W House, Mrs M Lock, Mrs P Alexander, Mr R Lockey, Mr J Edmonds and Mr R Biss

Also Present: Emma Curtis - Clerk
Three members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence: Received from Mr C Laughton, Mrs S Shingleton, Mrs R Douglas, County Councillor William Wallace, District Councillor Lucy Wallace, PCSO Thelma Mead and Tree Warden Kevin Jones.

2. Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on **Tuesday 22nd April 2014** were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Finance

Receive and adopt the Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015.

The Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015 was discussed and adopted and agreed by all members. The Chairman and Clerk signed the Audit Annual Return paperwork and it was noted the accounts were soon to be audited.

4. Annual Reports

PCSO Thelma Mead – No report received

Chairman of the Parish Council – Mr J Farley

Mr Farley expressed his thanks to the following people for their support, help and assistance throughout the year:

- All members of the Parish Council with particular note given to Mr Ritchie, Vice Chairman
- Emma Curtis – Parish Clerk
- Terry Butcher – Previous internal auditor
- Neil Spencer – Maintenance of Station Copse
- Tony Copper – Previous Tree Warden
- Kevin Jones – New Tree Warden
- Tony Higgins – Maintenance of the Town Hall Clock
- The Spirit of Milborne Port
- Steve Davis – Handyman
- Volunteer Churchyard grass cutters

Mr Farley summarised the main actions which had taken place over the previous year:

- New Cricket Pavilion and toilets at the Memorial Playing Fields which opened in June 2014
- Commonalty purchasing and reopening the toilets on the High Street
- South West In Bloom entry
- Cemetery Chapel remedial works
- Commencement of the process for the new Bus Shelter along the High Street
- The precept rising £3000 from £55,000 to £58,000 to cover the maintenance of the new toilets, providing a grant to the commonalty, an increase in the Playing Fields Committee Grant and an improved horticultural maintenance contract with SSDC.

Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee – Mr R Lockey

Mr Lockey gave thanks to Mrs Douglas for her weekly Gainsborough Play Area inspection reports, Mr Biss for management of the allotments, Emma Curtis for her support and hard work, Steve Davis the Handyman, Tony Copper and Kevin Jones for their work as Tree Warden, Neil Spencer for his voluntary work at Station Copse, Mrs Alexander and her team for work towards the new maintenance contract and finally the SWIB team.

Mr Lockey commented that both play areas are still very well used with little issues apart from occasional littering. The main concern at Springfield had been the continued issue with dog fouling and Gainsborough the problem with the planting of the flower beds and receiving the full grant from SSDC. This had now been resolved.

Mr Lockey reported no major issues with the churchyard and cemetery but mentioned that both areas needed remedial work completed on the paths.

Mr Lockey stated that the neglected Grove Garden and Ball Court should now be improved now the new maintenance contract with SSDC had commenced.

It was confirmed that a few problems had arisen with the allotments throughout the year, but that the allotments were now all let and the ongoing problem with the waterworks was being investigated.

Mr Lockey mentioned that the majority of trees at Station Copse were doing well and a maintenance plan was going to be produced in order to manage the copse effectively.

Mr Lockey concluded by giving thanks to those members of the Parish Council who were standing down after many years for all their hard work.

Chairman of the Planning Committee – Mr M Ritchie

Mr Ritchie confirmed there were 60 planning applications throughout the year of various sorts including 18 residential extensions, 12 tree works, and 2 certificates of lawful use. These applications covered an extra 102 houses to the village, not all of which had been approved. The largest applications were those down Wheathill Lane, Higher Kingsbury Close and Gainsborough.

Chairman of the Footpaths Committee – Mrs M Lock

Mrs Lock gave the following report:

The footpaths committee continues to have a good working relationship with Eve Wynn at County and with SSDC. For those interested the status of outstanding problems is available from the County Council interactive mapping system. Two volunteers had come forward to be a Rights of Way volunteer and members of the public continue to report problems to Emma Curtis, the Parish Clerk. Members of the committee also endeavour to check on the parish paths when possible.

The footpaths from East Street to Crendle Woods has been greatly improved with the installation of a series of new gates and a bridge and new markings. the footpaths behind the Bellway Estate was opened in July 2014 in time for the Village in Bloom judging. This is now well used.

The Parish Council is now proceeding with the action to move the footpath from across the centre of the Memorial Playing Field to the side next to Springfield Road. This was agreed after a meeting with Eve Wynn from SCC. A new gate will be installed from Springfield Road. It is hoped that this will help to alleviate the dog fouling problem and also improve the Cricket Pitch.

My thanks go to Emma Curtis , Parish Clerk and members of the Footpaths Committee for their help and hard work during the year.

Chairman of the Parish Plan Action Forum – Mr J Oldham

Mr Oldham gave a brief history about the Parish Plan Action Forum and when and why it was established. Mr Oldham stated that over the past year the Action Forum had failed to meet and virtually nothing has been done due to difficulty in trying to get everyone together. However, he did state that the social aspect of the plan had been taken over by the Spirit of Milborne Port and that the communications aspect goes from strength to strength with village noticeboards being repaired and refurbished, the Welcome Pack updated and the website being increasingly used, all of which are hitting around 20% of houses in the village. The community website has is well used and new articles added are “Tweeted” automatically and the newsletter is sent to 165 subscribers. Mrs Alexander mentioned that she appreciates the efficiency of the system and Mr Oldham commented he would like more help with the website.

Tree Warden, Kevin Jones – No report received

District Councillor Lucy Wallace – No report received

County Councillor William Wallace – No report received

5. Question Time and reports from Village Organisations

Mrs M Lock – WI

Mrs Lock gave the following update on the WI:

The WI continues to flourish in the village with 44 members. We have been involved in a variety of activities throughout the year. To celebrate the national centenary of the WI we planted a tree in the Weighbridge. We also sponsored a mosaic made by one of our members as part of the Village in Bloom. This is outside the Fish and Chip Shop. We also support The Spirit of Milborne Port at Christmas and the Summer Fete. Our Friday Coffee Shop continues to flourish serving both the village and people passing through. Our most recent venture on April 27th was a walk open to all WI members around the county. Over 30 people joined us, enjoyed the walk and were most impressed with our village. We are always happy to welcome new members.

Mrs M Lock – Tuesday Luncheon Club

Mrs Lock gave the following information on the Luncheon Club:

TLC meets on Tuesdays at Church House to serve lunches to the older members of the community. The lunches are cooked by 5 teams of volunteers. Those who are not able to walk to lunch are transported free by our volunteer drivers. On occasion we have speakers to give out helpful information. We are also helped by the Primary School Year 6 pupils who come once a month to help with serving. They also entertain us at Christmas. In August we usually organised a trip to the coast for afternoon tea. The Club is very popular and full at the moment.

Mrs P Alexander – Milborne Port Gardening Club

Mrs Alexander gave the following annual report:

The Gardening Club has had an excellent year of monthly meetings including talks in the Camelot Room at the Village Hall, notable summer garden visits to gardens in Stourton Caundle and the Old Rectory in Marston, and discount shopping trips to Castle Gardens, Sherborne and Poundbury Garden Centre. Subscriptions have been maintained at only £8 per annum with supplementary income to support club activities coming from plant sales at the Summer Fete and our own club sale in May. We now have over 40 members and from excess income over expenditure are able to offer our

members a subsidised visit, this coming June, to the RHS Gardens at Rosemore in Devon.

Mr R Duckworth – Commonalty Charity

Mr Duckworth confirmed that the Commonalty had now opened the toilets along the High Street and they were 20p to use and were being used regularly. Mr Duckworth also mentioned that the Commonalty had purchased a new mobility scooter and continued to support those in the village in other charitable ways.

Mr E Davis – Playing Fields Management Committee

Mr Davis stated that there was still an ongoing problem with dog fouling although the new dog bins had helped a little. Mr Davis mentioned that the committee was looking in to adding an outside electricity point to help with events at the playing fields.

Mr P Lock – South West in Bloom

Mr Lock commented that once again the village had entered the South West in Bloom competition and had been accepted. Judging would take place week commencing 8th July 2015 and the first planning meeting would be taking place this week. The theme for this year was “Sensory and Sustainability” and some aromatic herbs would be planted.

Mr Farley concluded the meeting by passing on his thanks to all those longstanding Parish Councillors who would no longer be standing; Mr E Davis, Mrs W House, Mr R Duckworth, Mrs S Shingleton and Mr Farley himself. Mrs Alexander expressed particular thanks to Mr Farley for conducting the Chairman position so efficiently over the past three years.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.