

MINUTES OF THE ETCHILHAMPTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 31 MAY 2016 at 7pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL (draft)

Present: Mrs Bridewell, Mr & Mrs Hanson, Mr Nash, Mr Roberts, Mr R Smith, Mr Whitehead (Wiltshire Council), Mr Woods (Chairman).

Apologies: The Wiltshire Police did not attend but provided a written report (attached).

AGENDA

1 Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed. Matters arising were:

- Broadband – Mr Whitehead reported that the village was due to be surveyed for high speed broadband this year. Fibre from the exchange box in Coate to the village and fibre connections within the village were necessary.
- Highways/Flooding – Mr Woods reported that the Wiltshire Vactor machine was still awaited to investigate the drainage from the Village Hall to the Green. Mr Whitehead reported that Wiltshire was prioritising areas where houses had been flooded. 4" pipes throughout Wiltshire could not cope with flash floods.

2 Wiltshire Police Update. No officer was able to attend so the police had provided a written report (attached) which was tabled.

3 Wiltshire & Dorset Fire Service Update. No-one attended and no report had been provided. Mr Whitehead reported that there was still a call centre in Devizes and a new centre in Salisbury.

4 Wiltshire Councillor, Philip Whitehead, Report and Qs&As

Mr Whitehead reported that within Wiltshire's overall budget, £321m, child care and care of the elderly took £16m. Due to rising costs and despite hiving off or cutting less important services a rise in Council Tax of £3½ - 4m had been required. There was a rise in the Highways budget of £3m, the first in many years.

Highways – the services had been re-organised and re-contracted. Tarmac had taken over much of the work previously done by Balfour Beatty.

Very local work would return to direct Wiltshire control via the re-introduction of Parish Stewards. The stewards were still being trained in new equipment by Balfour Beatty and would not come on-line fully until about October. They would not be able to meet all requests and jobs would have to be prioritised. Problems could be reported online or by telephone to Trowbridge. The false reports of "job done" on the online system were an IT issue which Wiltshire was addressing. Telephone calls cost about £5.20 per call whereas online reports cost about £0.70. Wiltshire was bound to meet statutory duties only. New road works at Dunkirk Hill in Devizes had been postponed until Browfort had been sold. It was acknowledged that air quality at Shane's Castle and Wadworth's corner was particularly bad.

Recycling Depot on the A342 – this was discussed at length. Mr Whitehead said that Wiltshire was aware of the problem of smell, wind-blown debris, visual unattractiveness, fire risk, the problems created by traffic and mud and the damage to the pavement and highway by the sweeping machine. All issues should

be resolved when the site construction was completed. The waste required dry conditions so the building would be fully closable. This would eliminate wind blow, smell and the risk of spontaneous combustion. When completed mud from construction lorries would stop coming onto the road and landscaping to hide the building would be carried out. Mr Whitehead noted the suggestion that lorry wheels could be washed clean on site before emerging onto the A342. Apparently Stert residents were content with the situation. Construction was about one third complete.

Hopton Recycling Centre – Mr Whitehead reported that the opening hours had been re-arranged following surveys of usage. He found 3pm the least busy time to visit.

Seagulls – the problem of seagulls in the Devizes industrial sites had not gone away. Mr Roberts mentioned that the gulls were a protected species so rapid extermination was not possible. Substitution of dummy eggs in nests was being used.

Mr Whitehead was thanked for his attendance and explanations.

5 Big Walk & Queen’s 90th Birthday Medals – 19 June

Mrs Bridewell reported that the Social Committee was organising a “Big Lunch” to follow on the “Big Walk” to be led by Mrs Harrison. Mr Woods would distribute Queen’s Medals acquired by the Parish Council.

6 Parish Council Treasurer’s Report and Annual Accounts

Mr Nash presented the Parish Council’s Annual Accounts. No questions were raised.

Mr Hanson was thanked for acting as unpaid internal auditor and Mr Nash as Responsible Financial Officer.

7 Parish Council Chairman’s Report

Mr Woods spoke to his account of the Council’s activities over the year. His written report (attached) was tabled.

On dog fouling someone had torn down warning notices erected by Wiltshire. This would be reported again.

Mrs Hanson reported that she had found an unknown woman exercising dogs in the Churchyard.

8 Any Other Business

The meeting noted that the public toilets in Devizes had been taken over from Wiltshire by the Town Council.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm