

**Minutes of Atworth Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Wednesday 21 September 2011**

**Attending:** Effie Gale-Sides, Bill Cooke, Robert Floyd, Bob Hole, & Maureen Weston.

**Apologies:** Alan Bagnell, John Lambert & Tom McMahon.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the Meeting held on 20 July 2011 were approved; Proposed Maureen Weston, seconded Robert Floyd.

**Presentation:** Mrs Joanne Eccleston; co-ordinator for the Wiltshire Good Neighbour Scheme gave a short presentation on its role bridging the gap between people (particularly the 55+) needing support and the services that can meet their needs. She provided some examples and described, in response to questions, what was possible. Contact details are available on Parish Notice Boards.

**Matters Arising:**

**Community Policing.** P.C Dalton provided a resume of recent policing activity including the arrest of a young adult for driving whilst disqualified. He reported that the Community Speed Watch Team continued to operate effectively. Sgt Dave Hobman has replaced Sgt Mel Rolfe as head of the Melksham NPT. He has yet to speak to Churchfields about cycling on footpaths. He will do so shortly. Finally he drew the meetings attention to the new 101 phone number for non-emergency contact with the Police. Madame Chairman thanked P.C Dalton for his report and reminded the meeting that there was a 'drop-in' session with the Police before every full meeting of the Parish Council.

**Melksham Area Board Report.** The Parish Clerk (designate), Mr Mitch Roberts, reported on the most recent Board. The issue of Speed Indicator Devices is on the Agenda of the next Community Area Transport Group; the Parish Clerk will attend.

**Accounts 2011/12.** The Clerk presented the Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2011. He recommended that the monies identified to the Parish Plan be absorbed into the Council's General Fund. This was agreed; proposed Maureen Weston, seconded Robert Floyd. The Balance Sheet was also approved; proposed Bill Cooke, seconded Bob Hole. The Clerk would produce a Forecast of Outturn for the half year (30 September).

**Copse of Pines.** The Clerk reported that he had received from Mr Webb photos of both the Copse and the Village Green. He would forward to the Area Board. The Council considered whether to seek ownership of the Copse. The possibility of leasing was raised. The Council, after further discussion, asked the Clerk if he could arrange for a responsible officer of Wiltshire Council to attend a future meeting to discuss the options and implications.

**Bus Shelters.** The Council noted that the shelters had been ordered and were due for installation in early October. A petition was received from Mr R Bill containing some 150 signatures protesting against the installation of a shelter near the Clock Tower. Several people spoke in support of the petition and one against. Correspondence received on the subject was read out. Madame

Chairman invited Councillors to comment on the petition and asked if the Council wished to review its earlier decision. No request for a further vote was made.

**Replacing Stiles with Kissing Gates.** The Clerk reported that two of the three proposed sites had new gates in place. The third was on hold as Neston Estate was opposed as the gate (replacing an existing stile) lead onto a permitted path rather than a designated footway. The Clerk was asked to write to Neston Estate giving an assurance that the Council would not be seeking a change of designation of this path. Mr & Mrs Webb were thanked for their sponsorship of the gate at the end of Post Office Lane.

**Clock Tower Servicing.** The Council noted the cost of the complete overhaul and service of the Clock Tower, in line with the original quote. It was agreed that the Village Clock winder be written to and thanked for his invaluable service. It was agreed; proposed Bill Cooke, seconded Bob Hole that this item could now be removed from the agenda.

**Jane Brown Charity.** The Council agreed that the remaining sum (£155) should be utilised to support a function for the elderly when celebrating the Queens Jubilee on 4 June 2012. The state of the Jane Brown Plaque was raised by a member of the public who was invited to write or email the Clerk with his concerns and how they might be resolved.

**Retirement of Parish Clerk.** Madame Chairman welcomed and introduced the new Parish Clerk, Mr Mitch Roberts, who would take over from the present Clerk on 1 October. Mr Roberts expressed his thanks for the welcome and said he was looking forward to working with the Parish Council and its electorate.

**Funeral Bier.** Robert Floyd advised that he was still considering possible options for the future location of the Bier.

**Schedule of Parish Council Deeds held by Solicitors.** The Clerk provided Councillors with a copy of the schedule. He still has to establish with the Land Registry what Council property is registered. The Youth Club Lease is held by the Clerk. Its eventual location can be considered once the, shortly due, review of the Lease has taken place.

**Replacement of Parish Councillor.** The Clerk reported that, as there had not been a request for an election the Parish Council might co-opt to fill the current vacancy. Mr Arnold Snowball was introduced by Madame Chairman as a potential replacement. Mr Snowball introduced himself and explained why he was interested in becoming a parish councillor. It was agreed; proposed Maureen Weston, seconded Robert Floyd that Mr Snowball will be co-opted to the Council at its next meeting.

**Installation of Cycle Barrier, Godwins Close.** At the request of a member of the public it was agreed that notices reminding residents not to cycle on footpaths would be placed on Parish Notice Boards. It was also agreed that Wiltshire Council Highways Department be asked to place clearer and larger No Cycling signs on the footpath in Godwins Close. The Clerk was also asked to consult with the Highways Department on the possibility of 'sleeping policemen' being laid down at the entrance of Godwins Close.

**Parking at Churchfields.** The Clerk reported that this issue would be discussed at the Area Board Community Area Transport Group on 6 October. The Clerk would be attending.

**Letter from Mr K Spencer.** The Council accepted the Clerks recommendation that any discussion on Mr Spencer's letter be encompassed within the Bus Shelters Agenda Item.

**Unlicensed Parking, Village Hall Yard.** It was agreed; proposed Bob Hole, seconded Maureen Weston that this item be removed from the Agenda.

**Queens Diamond Jubilee.** The Council noted that the potential overall cost of the 'collage' in the Village Hall was now in the order of £1100. It was agreed; proposed Robert Floyd, seconded Maureen Weston that the Council's contribution is limited to a maximum of £400 subject to match funding from other sources. The suggestion by a member of the public that a tree to mark the occasion should also be pursued. A location for a possible event to celebrate the Jubilee was also considered. It was clear that a sub-committee would be necessary to manage Atworth's activities. Effie Gale-Sides and Maureen Weston offered to form a sub-committee. The Clerk was asked, via the Village Magazine (Note no longer possible as the Editor will not accept Parish Council correspondence), to seek additional members from residents of the Parish.

#### **Correspondence:**

**Pharmamaceutical Services-Practise Amalgamation.** The Clerk drew the Council attention to a proposal from the Health Centre Bradford on Avon to additionally dispense from the Surgery at Winsley.

**Community Area Partnership, change of name; tea & talk.** The Clerk read out a letter from MCAP asking for suggestions for a more appropriate name. It was suggested that it be retitled 'Melksham and Rural Community Partnership. It was also noted that MCAP would liaise with Mrs King about attending a Tea & Chat Afternoon. Madame Chairman reported that Mrs King had resigned from MCAP and read out a letter of appreciation from them.

**Wiltshire Council, new waste and recycle collection.** The Council noted that from this autumn a plastic bottle and cardboard kerbside collection would be provided.

**Wiltshire Association of Local Councils AGM 28 October 2011.** The clerk highlighted the forthcoming AGM. If any Councillor intended to attend could they please let the Clerk know by the end of September.

**101, new non-emergency Police Number.** The Clerk reprised the earlier report of P.C Dalton that from 19 September this was the non-emergency number for Wiltshire Police.

**Reports:** Nil

#### **Planning:**

AT/11/02001 The Loose Box, Bradford Rd; reposition window & door to the pool room.

AT/11/02056 Stonar School; installation of solar panels.

The Council noted that a decision was awaited on these 2 applications.

AT/11/02274 Hay Barn, Bradford Rd; single storey lean-to extension.

AT/11/02276 ditto

The Council had no comment on this application.

AT/11/02516 Church Farm; masonry re-building, repair of trusses.

The Council considered that this was an excellent application.

**Authorisation of Cheques:**

The Consortium, Notice Board Hall.	£29.39
A W Services, grass cutting.	£95.70
Wiltshire Publications, clerk advert.	£64.80
A W Services, grass cutting.	£95.70
Society of local council clerks, professional fees.	£95.00
Majars, external audit.	£162.00
Atworth W I, caretaker Jan'-June 2011.	£316.25

The Parish Council approved these cheques; proposed Robert Floyd, seconded Bob Hole.

**Any Other Business:**

**Fibre Optic Broadband.** Madame Chairman reported that BT has installed this facility in the Parish. The Clerk was asked to suggest to BT that they advertise this new facility in the Village Magazine.

**Coronation Road.** The Clerk was asked to write to the Highways Department to ask that white lines, or some other solution, be investigated at the entrance to Coronation Road. A site meeting to be sought as a first step.

**Dates of next meetings:** 16 November 2011 and 18 January 2012 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm