

# Minutes of Winterborne Zelston Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Attendance: Mr J Lynne Lewis (Parish Council Chairman)  
Mr Damian Holden (Zelston Parish Councillor)  
Mrs Susanne Whitaker (Zelston Parish Councillor)  
11 Parish residents – Mrs Della Jones MBE (Retiring Chairman)  
Ms Aileen Nicol, Mr Robert Naveira, Mrs Di Lewis, Mrs Rita Burden, Mrs Irene Kerley, Mrs Rosemary Bush, Mr Paul Humphry, Mr Richard Humphry, Ms. Helen Edwards, Flinn Sessions

Apologies: Mrs Frances Langley (Parish Clerk)  
Mrs Jane Somper (District Councillor)  
Mrs Emma Parker (District Councillor)  
Mrs Hilary Cox (County Councillor)  
Mrs Margot Ould

## 1. Minute Recording

Della Jones opened by asking if it was the wish of the meeting that Di Lewis record the minutes as the Parish Clerk was unable to be in attendance. There was unanimous agreement.

## 2. Meeting Chairman

Della went on to explain that as Retiring Parish Meeting Chairman she would be handing over the Chair to the Parish Council Chairman, Lynne Lewis, in line with the new DAPCT regulations. The Chairman thanked Della for her continued involvement in the village meeting and briefly explained the new procedure for selecting the Parish Meeting Chairman.

## 3. Minutes of Last Meeting

It was proposed by Della Jones and seconded by Rita Burden that the minutes were taken as read. This was carried unanimously.

## 4. Matters Arising

### Churchyard grass cutting

Irene Kerley asked what the outcome had been following the decision at last years meeting to try to establish a voluntary rota to cut the grass. The rota had not been implemented and ideas to try to fund raise also did not materialise. The PCC made a formal request through their Parish Councillors for the monies to be made available from the precept. Susanne had then carried out a survey which showed the village not to be in favour of adding the cost to the precept so the PCC withdrew their application. It was now hoped that a fundraising event to be organised would cover the costs for this year.

## 5. County Councillors Report – Hilary Cox's report has been previously circulated and the Chairman drew attention to some of the key points. Hilary does hope to attend the next full Parish Council meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

## 6. Parish Chairman's Report – this had been previously circulated and in addition the Chairman particularly thanked all those non-council members who kept the Parish Council so well informed.

## 7. District Councillor's Report – Jane Somper's report had been previously circulated and we look forward to her input regarding the Localism Act and the new Planning Laws. Emma Parker is in Zelston everyday and is always happy to discuss issues with residents.

## 8. Zelston Councillors Reports- Damian congratulated Susanne on completing her first year as a Councillor. He found her to be an excellent colleague with a desire to involve herself in all aspects of village life. She had also been made Vice Chairman of the Parish Council. He went on to detail several events instigated by the Parish Council during the past 12 months - the Royal Wedding Street Party and Mug presentation to the children, the October river clearance, the continued success in the Best Kept Village Award and the not pretty but much needed second grit bin at the bottom of the hill. The next 12

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months looked equally promising with a three day Diamond Jubilee extravaganza, another planned river clearance with focus on the island, the anticipation of the Best Kept Village result in September and the launch and development of the Parish Website. It has also been suggested to him that two signs are needed in the village - DEEP WATER and SLOW – CHILDREN PLAYING. The Environment Agency may be responsible for the river sign and further research will be needed to examine the implications re. insurance and the possible need for a safety ring and rope.

Susanne shared the details for the Jubilee weekend which have been organised by a village group led by Susanne – every household has already had a dates and events list – all we need now is good weather.

9. **Mobile Library** – Susanne explained that the Mobile Library service was being reviewed and the Zelston stop was under threat. Mobile Library users were asked to return questionnaires as a matter of priority.
10. **Neighbourhood Watch** – Susanne has taken over this role from Della and in order to update the contact list has circulated an information request to each household. To date 23 out of 65 have been returned so Susanne asked if we could all encourage friends and neighbours to return them so the system when needed can swing into action. Rene asked if her address could just be on one contact list as she is currently receiving news from three different sources. Susanne explained that news of crimes she receives covered a large area and thankfully Zelston has not been a crime hotspot in the past year.
11. **Village Cycle path to A31** – it has been suggested by several residents that easier access to the A31 and beyond might be possible if the existing footpaths that run from the village to Huish might be upgraded to allow bicycles/horses to use the path. Irene Kerley pointed out that secure gates would be needed to prevent cattle getting out. It was also emphasised that there would need to be considerable consultation with the respective landowners, some of whom had have some unpleasant experiences with people failing to comply to the Country Code and only using the footpaths. It was also pointed out that there were already bridleways running north to south and it was agreed that the Councillors should investigate the state of these two bridleways. Della Jones emphasised that under no circumstances should any upgrade be made to a byway as this would permit motor cycle use. It was agreed by the majority that the matter should be followed up at the next Parish Council meeting.
12. **General Discussion**
  - **Village Road Repairs** – Aileen Nicol asked what could be done about the potholes on the Street entrance to the village. Damian and Susanne explained that this was a DCC responsibility and that the service had been reduced to one man and his lorry. Any resident concerned about the state of the road should inform Damian, Susanne or Hilary so they can contact the PMU. The A31 remains the responsibility of the Highways Agency.
  - **Precept** – Paul Humphry asked why residents paid via the precept for the maintenance of a privately owned piece of land. It was pointed out the precept money also included the maintenance of the parish land and not just the privately owned land. Following discussion it was agreed that before any further action be taken the ownership of the land should be ascertained from the land registry.
  - **Estate Agent Signs on A31** – Paul Humphry stated that these can obscure the view of traffic travelling east making the junction even more dangerous. We should all keep an eye on them and if impeding our view remove them and inform the estate agent where they can be retrieved.

13. **Meeting closed 8.40pm.**