

# CHILMARK PARISH COUNCIL

## RECORD OF POINTS AND DECISIONS ARISING FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2016

### PRESENT

Name	Appointment
Mr P Boyles	Chairman
Mrs E Jack	Councillor
Ms L Taylor	Councillor
Sir R Packer	Councillor
Mrs J MacDougall	Clerk
Members of the Public: 12	

### POINTS AND DECISIONS ARISING

Item	Points/Decisions	Action
(a)	(b)	(c)
1.	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllr M Lennard, Cllr K Hawkins, Wilts Cllr B Wayman	
2.	<p><b><u>Address from Dr Andrew Murrison MP</u></b>            The Chmn welcomed Dr Andrew Murrison MP, to Chilmark. The MP explained that he has been visiting a number of Parishes Councils to enable them to raise local concerns such as transport and broadband. He thanked the Clerk for advising him in advance of the matters to be raised and mentioned the following.</p> <p><b><u>The EU</u></b>            He commented on the Prime Minister's energy levels at the EU summit and has been studying the outcomes. He hopes to advance a broadly Eurosceptic position later today.</p> <p><b><u>A303</u></b>            This is a serious safety issue and the carriageway needs to be dualled throughout to minimize future risks. He expressed concern about the timing because if the Stonehenge stretch is sorted first then the Chicklade stretch will be delayed. Consequently he is in correspondence over this with the Dept of Transport.</p> <p><b><u>Broadband</u></b>            Wiltshire has succeeded relatively well in meeting the targets of 90-95% nationally. It is difficult and costly to reach areas like Chilmark and the Government is doing what it can because it acknowledges that it is impossible for business to operate properly with a poor service.</p> <p><b><u>Potholes</u></b>            The MP has seen a number of potholes in country roads but we have been lucky with the weather this winter so far. It is important they are attended to as they wreck tyres and can cause accidents. He will stress the importance of repair works to Mr Parvis Khansari, Director of Highways and Transport.</p>	

3.

### **Questions**

#### **Drains and Ditches**

The Chmn raised the matter of poor maintenance to ditches and drains in the parish. If the culverts were properly maintained there would be less flooding and therefore less road damage. As Flood Warden he checked the local drains and found them to be blocked. Once cleared, the water flowed easily. The Drainage Engineers do not always respond to the PC requests. Cllr Sir R Packer added that they did not realise that the drains were blocked and were not being properly maintained. The MP replied that spending reductions have resulted in cuts to the service. Cllr Sir R Packer said we are arguing for a change in priorities. Money spent on maintenance would have minimized the damage and caused less expenditure in the long term. The annual maintenance clearance was not properly carried out. The MP replied that anything over a basic service would need to be paid for out of the precept. Cllr L Taylor said that it would mean us paying twice. The MP said he would push harder for a better service.

#### **HGV traffic using small country roads**

The MP explained that statutory weight limits have been agreed for a number of villages and this is an option. However, it is important not to disadvantage farmers from using their tractors nor local business. PC members explained that the local wine storage, EHD vehicles have caused a problem in the village and it is not clear if the Planners or the Highways Dept look at the wider issues when giving consent.

#### **School Parking**

The Chmn explained that local schools do not allow for expansion and providing drop off zones for children. The MP agreed that this is a common problem for local schools in small villages but teachers don't see it as their role to monitor parking and there doesn't seem to be an obvious solution.

#### **The Unitary Authority**

The Chmn mentioned that South Wilts feels disadvantaged by the Unitary Authority. The MP says this is a very common cry. However it is not true and he is not in favour of a return to Salisbury District Council. Wiltshire is judged to be doing quite well. The MP is not in favour of too much local government. He is not particularly happy with Area Boards as they are poorly attended by members of the public. He hoped Area Boards would end and more functions be devolved to PCs and Town Councils.

#### **Policing**

Sarah Miller pointed out that as the Wiltshire Police are underfunded surely it is inappropriate to launch the "Heath enquiry". The MP replied that it is important to investigate child abuse although witch hunts cannot be condoned. He agreed that given the resources it doesn't seem right but it is a matter for the Independent Police and Crime Commissioner. The MP supports the modernizing of the police force. The public is more likely to be at risk on line so in future the bobby on the beat is less likely to be a major part.

#### **OpenReach**

Sir R Jack said that Openreach is a shambles and it needs to be split up. The MP replied that it is a matter for Ofcom but he believed the Government would support separating OpenReach and BT. However OpenReach is supporting BT and its model so we can only do what is possible.

#### **A303 - Stonehenge**

Mr Michael Eke asked if the Government is committed to road improvements as a decision was taking a long time and costing money. The MP said that earth would be turned by the end of the decade. Other alternatives for consideration are a bypass around Salisbury to the north via Woodford Valley and Wylve Valley

	<p>which is not likely happen. The MP agreed that it would be much cheaper to dual the carriageway and not to have a tunnel. Spending so much on this project is not right. It has always been a part of our lives to see the Stones from the road. It is English Heritage who is a powerful lobby who request the tunnel. The Government is arguing about the length of it. The MP said it would result in a huge backlog at Chicklade and he would prefer to have a new northern relief road before embarking on the Stonehenge section.</p> <p><b><u>Trains</u></b> The MP felt that the Tisbury link arrangement needs to be improved with better car parking facilities. Pressure needs to be placed on Network Rail and SW Trains. Many more passengers travel now and he suggested the single track should be made in to a double track. Cllr Sir R Packer supported this.</p> <p><b><u>Ambulances</u></b> Cllr L Taylor mentioned there is a lack of ambulances in this area. They respond quickly to a heart problem but the wait can be long for less life threatening incidents, such as a fall. In her case she had to make alternative arrangements. The MP agreed that the service is mixed. Sometimes it is superb but it is important to ensure they keep to their targets in rural areas.</p> <p><b><u>The meeting closed at 11.00am</u></b> Dr Andrew Murrison thanked everyone for attending and he appreciated how useful the meeting had been in highlighting local issues.</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>Date of next PC Meeting:</u></b> Wednesday 9 March at 7pm in the Reading Room.</p> <p>Date: _____ Chairman: _____</p>	