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Steve Milton Esq.
Head of Community Governance
Wiltshire Unitary Authority.

Tuesday, 18 May 2010.

Dear Steve Milton,

TISBURY PARISH COUNCIL and
WEST TISBURY PARISH COUNCIL.

I was delighted to read in the Draft Minutes of the Tisbury PC that there seemed to be some sort of a dialogue running concerning local Governance.

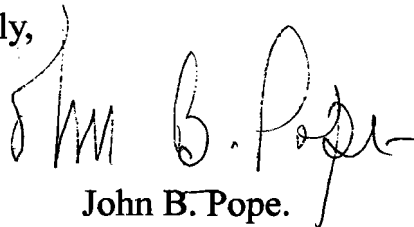
As a Tisbury Resident I would like to see Tisbury Village as but one Civil Parish, with but the one Parish Council, and one Parish Clerk, and with fewer Parish Councillors than now hold office under the two Parish System. At my last count West Tisbury fielded one councillor for every fifty electors. An amalgamated single ward Parish would need to find fewer Councillors, thereby increasing the chances of holding an election in 2013. For near eighteen years Tisbury Parish wont have had an Election, because it never had a sufficiency of candidates to precipitate one, but there is a need for us to elect our own Councillors rather than have them happen upon us.

Tisbury Village is no longer a 'one horse town', and the expansion of Gillingham will affect us too. There's no merit in retaining our status quo. When I informally raised the matter of amalgamation before a Tisbury Parish Council Meeting at the time of the last Unitary Authority Election, the only Parish Councillor against amalgamation was the West Tisbury Parish Clerk, who 'moonlights' as a Tisbury Parish Councillor. West Tisbury continuously wishes to be consulted about, and be involved in Tisbury's Governance, but resists any suggestion of

amalgamation. One receives the impression that apart from hurt susceptibilities all that West Tisbury has against amalgamation is its reluctance to contribute to the cost of those facilities that Tisbury alone pays for. It is time for change!

Whilst not sure whether you are the right man to put the proposition to, I wish to propose that from the date of the next election which I understand should be in 2013, the Parishes of Tisbury and West Tisbury become one single ward Parish, governed by a single Parish Council of circa a dozen Councillors.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John B. Pope'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'P'.

John B. Pope.