

Christian Malford Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting – 3rd September 2013

The following represents a précis of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting.

Those present included Councillors Calthrop, Hines, Mortimer, Pepper, Read and Watson.

Allotments

The search continues for an allotment garden site for the village. However, the Parish Council have now endorsed a series of papers prepared by Kevin Watson as the basis for consultation and procurement of land for an allotment garden in the village.

Malford Meadow

Since the last Parish Council meeting, a meeting has taken place in the Meadow with representatives from the Parish Council, the Friends of the Meadow and Wiltshire Council (the landlord) about future ambitions for the Meadow. The outcome of the meeting and the results of the village questionnaire will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting to be held on 1st October 2013.

A Neighbourhood Plan for Christian Malford

Wiltshire Councillor Howard Greeman explained to the Parish Council the risks to future village development of not having an adopted Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. it could mean ending up with “development where the community doesn’t want it” or, perhaps, “not having development where the community does want it”). A well-written Neighbourhood Plan would empower the local community, the Parish Council and the planning authority (Wiltshire Council) to resist unpopular development proposals and support development opportunities.

It was therefore agreed that Parish Councillors will approach all local organisations to ensure that their views/representations are included in a draft Neighbourhood Plan for the village.

This is a very important task, and an opportunity to shape the future of our village. It needs residents/organisations who are prepared to partner the Parish Council (or even take a lead role).

The Mermaid

Concern was expressed, both in the Public Forum and in the Parish Council itself, that an important listed property is rapidly deteriorating. The Parish Council will therefore be contacting the Enforcement Officer at Wiltshire Council to express its concerns. The Enforcement Officer can serve a legal notice requiring the owners of listed properties to carry out works of essential maintenance.

Vandalism at All Saints Church

By now, many residents will have heard about the act of vandalism at the All Saints Church and many of you will have already made your own voluntary donations. The Parish Council also resolved to make a donation of £100.

Burial Ground

The works to improve the river frontage from the edge of the Burial Ground has been completed with the leveling of the ground and erection of a fence.

Highways and Transport

The first Community Day has been arranged with Wiltshire Council for 26th September. "Community Days" are Wiltshire Council's new scheme to support community-led priorities: the idea being for residents to identify local issues and then work in partnership with the Council (and its contractors) to resolve them. The Clerk and Councillor Fawcett have already met with a Wiltshire Council officer to agree a number of priority items for 26th September (overhanging trees, road/footpath patching, repair of bins, etc) and your input in identifying future priorities would be most welcome.

The Dauntsey Vale Link Scheme has made critical comment regarding Wiltshire Council's proposals to amend the timetables of subsidised bus services from April 2014. The Parish Council will be passing these comments to Wiltshire Council. If you, too, wish to make comment, details of the consultation are on the Wiltshire Council website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk) and will be appearing at the bus shelter in the village.

Flood Prevention

Retired Chairman and Councillor, Ray Stockall, will shortly be resigning his position as the Parish Council's representative for flood prevention. Ray has served the village in this role since 2007, during which time Christian Malford became pioneers in the County, with the adopting a Village Flood Plan. The Parish Councils appreciation and best wishes are extended to Ray.

Next Meeting of the Parish Council

The next two meetings of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 1st October and 5th November starting at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.