

Report for the Minutes from Jose Green 22/2/2016

Firstly, and possibly most importantly, I wish you all a Happy & Healthy New Year.

Needless to say I'm very conscious of those that have suffered from the uncharacteristic rainfall. WC is endeavouring to keep up with the work required to prevent and to manage the consequences of the volume of water.

27 Syrian refugees (8 families and individuals) are now settled in Wiltshire.

70.000 rural households and businesses in Wiltshire now have access to high speed Broad Band. A further £3:86m will enable an extra 5,000 households to be connected. Anyone wishing to check the progress, **enter your postcode at wiltshireonline.org for up to date information.** Wiltshire is one of the top performing Councils regarding their commitment towards high speed rural Broad Band.

Clean for the Queen weekend of 4th - 6th March (a special clean up weekend initiated by Country Life and supported by other notable National organisations) is being supported by the Area Board which will provide equipment if required. Please contact Stephen Harris for further information. I also hope the Waste services will be supportive in the removal of the gathered litter bags.

Keep Britain Tidy estimates more than 30 million tons of litter are collected each year, enough to fill Wembley Stadium 4 times over and about 2.25 million pieces of litter are dropped on the streets of the UK every day!!! further fines are likely to be introduced.

I am on a Task Group looking into the **Garden Waste service** (nearly 80,000 households are signed into it now) and we are taking a closer look at the Household Recycling Centre's, Churchfields is a site we will be visiting next week to see at first hand how it is operated.

Regarding efficiencies, savings and cuts....

9 part time Good Neighbour co-ordinators have been notified that there is a proposal to change the way of providing a service of accessing health and social well-being and information for those who might be prone to rural isolation. A partnership with Community First from 2010 is due to come to an end in April 2016, so a new approach is required including more involvement via the Area Boards.

A review of the under 5 yrs old children's Sure Start centres across Wiltshire means there will be changes, a suggestion has been put forward that staff might go out into the local community. There are 28 centres across Wiltshire and some could be turned into pre-schools or nurseries. The retention of the Wilton centre is being reconsidered, if, the local community are willing to support it and Tisbury will be retained also. 700 people responded to the consultation.

The last Full Council meeting was a lengthy one; 11 hours with one of the items being the Local Governance boundary review. The Budget meeting is on the 23rd February and might be just as lengthy as the proposals are to increase the WC precept by 1.99% , the first increase for 6 years and there are other proposals which I will tell you about next time.

2 new Council owned dwellings to be built in East Knoyle are to be considered in the near future at the Southern Area Planning Committee. There is still a long way to go to reduce the waiting lists!!

Unemployment in Wiltshire is at it's lowest since 2004.

The Square Café in Tisbury is open every Thursday from 5:30-8pm for 13-19 year olds. contact Zita 07444 834376 for further information.

The new Highways contract has been awarded to **RINGWAY** . The new contract will start in April and the village Stewardship will continue to be in place. All road faults should be reported via the **My Wiltshire App**. There is a meeting on the 20th April at the City Hall 6pm for Town and Parish Councils to discuss the new Highways Contract. Clerks have been informed.

Finally, **the PCC, Angus Macpherson will be increasing** the Police part of the Council Tax by 1.9%. This equates out at £3.12p a year or 6p per week on a Band D property. Band D properties currently pay £163.98p a year. Out of 43 forces across England and Wales only 2 receive less funding per head of population than Wiltshire. This proposal has been out to consultation. The Police and Crime Commissioner attended the last Area Board but do access the Police website if you want to learn more. The £769.000 would be used to protect community Policing. The SWWAB now have 4 SID cameras under their control. Please contact Stephen Harris if you want to go on the waiting list!!

I was happy to support the grant awarded to Ansty's Footpath Group for tools etc. Well done to those volunteers led by Mr Wilkinson.

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