



**MELKSHAM  
TOWN COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2015/16**

# MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT 15/16

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## **REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR TERRI WELCH – MAYOR.**

This past year has seen many changes, and certainly the next couple of years will see our town change significantly.

The rugby and football clubs will be able to move to their purpose built site at Woolmore Farm, the date of completion date for this is August this year.

Work will start later this year in the Market Place making the new access to the Health and Wellbeing Centre at Melksham House. Once the Rugby and Football clubs are able to relocate to their new homes at the end of the season, then work will start on the new leisure facilities at Melksham House, construction is expected to start early next year. The Town Council is looking into possibly relocating this Assembly Hall to the Melksham House site and if all goes well Melksham will have superb facilities for the future.

The Town Council works hard to enhance Melksham, and to provide for all inhabitants. An example of this is the summer flowers. Again we received a Silver Gilt in the South West in Bloom competition, the mild weather, in the autumn meant that flowers continued to bloom late into the year.

Melksham is proud to host a series of events that are enjoyed by large numbers, the Christmas Fayre which leads to the lights 'switch on' is a massive town event, the Carnival and Party in the Park, together with the Food and River Festival are all, rightly, very popular. Then we have the superb offering of comedians, films and other entertainment which take place here at the Assembly Hall.

This year we joining in the national celebrations for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday by holding a picnic in the park on 12 June. Let's hope the sun is out for us that day!!

Changes have taken place in our town, the final opening of the Link Road leading to the new Herman Miller factory has eased traffic in the Bowerhill area.

We all realise that Wiltshire Council has severe budget restrictions, and the Town Council are working with them to take over some of the services that affect our town, this will increase with time, so changes will happen.

It looks very much that we will soon be seeing movement in the plans for the Wilts and Berks Canal. All studies are now in the hands of the Planning Department at Wiltshire Council, then follows a secondary consultation period. This will have a large impact on our town, and we look forward to seeing boats along the river.

Another major incomer we look forward to is the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, I do not know the dates of their construction plans, but they already have outline planning permission. So much is due to change in the Berryfield area.

The Town Council supports groups by the annual award of grants – this acknowledges the superb work done by the voluntary sector in our town.

Mention must be made of our councillors who try hard to make the right decisions for our town, to the town hall staff, our town caretakers and the staff of this Assembly Hall for their work throughout the year.

Councillor Terri Welch  
Mayor



## **POLICY & RESOURCES REPORT 2015/16**

The main business of the Policy & Resources committee has been to recommend to Council a Precept that allows the Council to fulfil its objectives. This year has seen responsibility for a number of services transfer from Wiltshire Council to the town, this has been a major factor in the increase in Precept. It is anticipated that this trend will continue.

The work and projects of the voluntary sector add value to the town and the committee recognises that future demands from this area for funding will be a challenge. We have therefore made provision to increase the funds available from incomes in operational budgets to a maximum of £4000.

The Policy & Resources committee now incorporates the roles previously undertaken by the Staffing committee which streamlines the operation of Council.

The other key role has been in relation to policies and the committee has reviewed a range of policies to improve the Council's operations and to safeguard staff and the public.

As a standing committee Policy & Resources have reviewed recommendations from working groups which include the Assembly Hall working group and the Health working group and when needed have authorized expenditure.

I would like to thank the members of the committee and the Town Hall staff for their support and commitment.

Cllr Bruce Sanders  
Chairman Policy & Resources 2015/16



## **TOWN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2015/16**

As my first year as Town Councillor, I was elected to jump straight in with the responsibility of chairing the Town Development Committee – a role I was very pleased to accept and has also been a fast learning curve into the activities of the Town Council and ensuring Melksham continues to be a wonderful place to live for all.

The Town Development Committee has continued to work with community groups to deliver fantastic events and activities, including South West in Bloom, The Food and River Festival and Melksham Town Team

Congratulations goes to the South West in Bloom Team for their achievements once again this year. Their voluntary efforts to keep our town beautiful, alongside our Town Team with their regular Town Tidy Days is a testament to the people we are lucky to have in Melksham. Thank you to all groups involved in the continued success at the South West in Bloom competition, which includes Melksham Gardener's Society, Climate Friendly, all allotment holders, and town centre businesses who dress their store and office fronts so beautifully all year round.

A thank you is also to be extended to the joint efforts of our caretakers and Lackham College students for completing improvements throughout the town centre, as well as major works to uncover a lost pathway in the churchyard of St Michael's and All Angels Church. The Prince of Wales Gardens has benefitted from repairs to the pond, and instalment of the bird bath.

Despite the Wiltshire Council budget cuts, our caretakers continue to work tirelessly to keep on top of Melksham Town Centre's maintenance requirements. Our flowerbeds continue to be well-kept, repairs are carried out in more than acceptable timescales and they can always be seen working, and having time to keep residents and visitors informed of goings-on which is lovely to see.

Our tree wardens in the town continue to work enthusiastically and we would thank them for all their help with tree issues.

Melksham Food and River Festival was a new combined event, moving to King George V Playing Fields and we were treated to fantastic weather and an equally brilliant turnout. Lots of fun was had, and everyone was in high spirits, enjoying the wonderful array of food and drink, boat rides and enjoyment for the whole family. The Chilli Eating Contest was a particular personal highlight!

The market has been held again in town on a Tuesday; although only a few stalls it is quite well supported and adds to the ambience. We look forward to the Market Place redevelopments commencing later this year.

Successful Sports Road shows were held in the King George V Park in the summer and were well supported – children and parents seem to very much enjoy and appreciate something to do during the long holidays, and within walking distance of many residential homes too.

Signs have been put up in all children's play areas in Melksham, encouraging people to not smoke in these areas, in an effort to encourage a healthy family environment in our town, and also to discourage young people to take up the habit in the first place.

Town Credits continue to be used for a variety of volunteer activities across the town, and we continue to encourage them to be used.

The Melksham Christmas Lights once again brought a huge turnout of people to our town, and as always, they did not disappoint! A wonderful, albeit chilly afternoon in the Market Place was held, offering many things for families and individuals.

I'd like to extend thanks, compliments and a huge amount of appreciation to all volunteers in this town, across all events, community groups and clubs that continue to offer something for everyone. Your work does not go unnoticed and it's people like this that make up the inspiring and motivation community that I for one, am proud to be a part of.

And finally, thank you to the committee members and officers of the Town Development committee who continue to provide their time and efforts to progressing Melksham. I very much look forward to seeing what the next 12 months brings!

Councillor Hayley Spencer  
Chairman, Town Development Committee



## **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (PLANNING) 2015/16**

As a Town Councillor I have been a member of Town Development and chaired Planning. I have overseen the Boundary Review, the plans for the Canal development, the final details of the plans for George Ward Gardens and supported the residents of Shurnhold in the refusal of the Gladman development opposite.

We have welcomed plans for the developments of much needed housing at Sandridge and the East of Melksham.

Councillor Pat Aves  
Chair of Planning

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Melksham Town Council 2015/2016

At : 14:52

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2016

31st March 2015

31st March 2016

31st March 2015		31st March 2016	
<b>Current Assets</b>			
9,581	Debtors	2,703	
0	Debtors Assembly Hall	4,264	
117	Vat Refunds	0	
1,685	Prepayments	1,125	
0	Bar Stock	4,131	
40,219	Lloyds TSB - Telepay	19,845	
98,562	Cooperative Bank A/C	133,706	
50,692	Lloyds Bank: Short Fixed Term	50,926	
100,000	Lloyds TSB Fixed term Deposit	201,900	
100,000	Lloyds Bank Fixed term Deposit	0	
0	CCLA: Investment	106	
1	Petty Cash	43	
41,688	Cash & Bank Assembly Hall	73,503	
78,271	Assembly Hall Bar A/c	154,930	
<u>520,817</u>			<u>647,181</u>
<b>520,817</b>	<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>647,181</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
0	Vat Refunds	4,069	
404	Creditors	83	
0	Creditors-Assembly Hall	2,656	
3,200	Accruals	3,600	
4,809	Deposits/Receipts In Advance	5,610	
<u>8,413</u>			<u>16,018</u>
<b>512,404</b>	<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>631,163</b>
<b>Represented By</b>			
167,096	General Fund	224,758	
345,308	Earmarked Reserves	406,405	
<u>512,404</u>			<u>631,163</u>

## MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

### Central Ward

Alison Christy	6 Lambourne Crescent, SN12 7ND	705466
Hayley Spencer	5 Blackmore Road, SN12 7HS	07910835865
Claire Forgacs	41 Blackmore Road, SN12 7HT	07799538638
Chris Petty	33 Gloucester Square, SN12 7NS	709523
Terri Welch	11 Devonshire Place, SN12 7DW	702800

### North Ward

Ben Anderson	27 Pound Mead, Corsham, SN13 9HA	07824807107
Pat Aves	29 Ingram Road, SN12 7JH	700633
Simon Hedley	7 Sherwood Avenue, SN12 7HH	700620
Geoff Mitcham	33 Crescent Road, SN12 7EU	706463
Pamela Wiltshire	31 Roundpond, SN12 8DL	708306

### South Ward

Andy Hinchcliffe	9 Martigny Court, SN12 7PD	07504439065
Jon Hubbard	2 Sweetbriar Road, SN12 6FR	8807969
Bruce Sanders	38 Longford Road, SN12 6AT	07706059365
Richard Wiltshire	31 Roundpond, SN12 8DL	708306
Adrienne Westbrook	29 Sandridge Road, SN12 7DE	704584

## WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

### Central

David Pollitt	4 Bader Park, Bowerhill, SN12 6UF	703941
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### North

Pat Aves	29 Ingram Road, SN12 7JH	700633
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### South

Jon Hubbard	2 Sweetbriar Road, SN12 6FR	807969
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