



**MELKSHAM  
TOWN COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2017/18**

**MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT 17/18**

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## **REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIENNE WESTBROOK AS MAYOR AND CHAIR OF ASSET MANAGEMENT**

I think it's fair to say that after last year's May elections we hit the ground running.

Conscious of the financial dilemma of Wiltshire Council, our corporate plan was born, we adopted a radical plan to improve our facilities, and we intend to use it to improve life for our residents.

Although it may be some time before we have a full transfer of the parks from Wiltshire Council, we now have an arrangement in place where the Town will be maintaining the play areas and cemetery.

We have appointed two more grounds staff and along with our 3 existing caretakers plus the purchase of new equipment will work together to keep the town in tiptop shape.

The Town Council is certainly looking forward to being involved in this major enhancement, so make sure to look out for our teams in the park from Spring, and please go and say hello to them and thank them for their efforts.

King George V Park is the subject of an Asset Transfer at the moment. We have started the transfer of Trustee ownership from Wiltshire to The Town Council, still a long way to go but it is moving the right way.

We have appointed Peter Baker, Landscape Architect, who will lead us through our public engagement to develop a sustainable master plan for our park. Our first public consultation and engagement took place on 24 March 2018.

My personal top priority are the parks and play areas, I feel like I have visited every park in Wiltshire, most in the West Country and even a few in Ireland. Children in Melksham need somewhere they can enjoy that's fun and safe and completely their own.

We have completed a needs analysis of all our parks and have a plan to bring them back to a minimum standard. We are just beginning to start our public consultation with young people and their families so that we can put an improvement plan in place. This will be a long term project not something that can be achieved overnight

One of the first big decisions for this council was to keep or remove the paddling pool. As all residents of Melksham will know, although much loved it had been allowed to deteriorate, where it was not only an eyesore, but probably a health and safety risk. It certainly made our park look a mess and was not conducive to families enjoying themselves in our park.

Following Wiltshire Council's decision to close the paddling pool, the Town Council took the decision to refurbish the area with a 20K investment in new play equipment for younger children. This has resulted in the park being very well used since the refurbishment.

Even in the February half Term, the park had lots of children enjoying the toddler area, whilst the older kids seemed to be enjoying the zip wire that we restored. On a recent visit to the Manor School, all the children said that the zip wire was their favourite activity.

But what of the paddling pool.? As I said I have visited many playground areas the UK. The Town Council is committed to replacing the outdated paddling pool with an all singing, all dancing splash pad. We have identified where the money can come from and we are confident that subject to all the permissions of Wiltshire Council and Fields in Trust that this will be open for the summer of 2019.

This time last year our Town Centre was being dug up, the Town found this a difficult time and it seemed to go on for ages. Wells were exposed and there is a group looking at if they can be glass topped. Work in progress.

No one will forget the trees being felled the day before South West in Bloom judging. Kathy made headlines on the Jeremy Vine Show however it turned out "alright on the night" with an amazing Gold Award at SWIB and the flag flies proudly above the Town Hall. Eventually the Market Place was finished, and I for one think it has made a huge difference to the area.

We have a commitment to developing the Melksham Assembly Hall. At the moment condition surveys are being undertaken and more public consultation will take place further down the line.

We look forward to further working with Melksham Without Parish Council, particularly on the old George Ward Playing Field site but also with the much needed Neighbourhood Plan, it's been a long time coming but we are edging nearer to it.

*Dare I say it*, we all look forward to the Campus being started on the Melksham House Site. We have the large brown sign on the high street telling us where it is. we just now want to see the physical building. Wiltshire say they are on schedule, as Mayor I will attend cabinet and Area Boards to make sure they keep to that schedule and get that campus up and running as soon as we can.

In September of last year we employed a Town Centre Warden to help with the cleaning and maintenance of the centre. This appointment has brought about a huge change in the centre with regular cleaning with our "hoover".

Litter seems to be less noticeable in the Town Centre, however the periphery of the Town is still a problem We are looking forward to having more sustainable planting in the town Centre ready for a summer full of flowers and bloom.

With the caretaking and ground staff team enhanced we are now looking at an appointment of a Community Engagement Officer. This will be a part time appointment someone who will work with the voluntary groups in the Town, helping to co-ordinate the numerous groups who

want to enhance their areas. Making sure insurances and risk assessments are in place to protect people who give so much time to improve areas usually near to where they live.

They will also be working with other voluntary groups co ordinating and network with the amazing number of voluntary groups that we have and helping them to achieve even more.

We had 52 groups who applied for grants this year and I am pleased to say that we managed to give money to all those groups. However, there are many more groups who operate in Melksham who didn't apply for grants.

It is recognition of the invaluable work undertaken by volunteers for our community that has led the Council to put resources in to developing this area of volunteering.

This can become a major factor in delivery of services at a time of such sweeping public service cuts.

Councillor Adrienne Westbrook  
Mayor 2017-18



## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2017/18**

The council has worked with the Transport group to maintain public transport within the town and recently heard a report from A Wiltshire Council engineer about the proposed changes of the A350 and the Farmers roundabout. Requests for Metro counts have resulted in a possible speed watch scheme being organised for Sandridge Road.

The underpass on the A350 will hopefully be repainted to mark the commemoration of the Great War, this will be a community project with groups doing part of the preparation and painting. This will come under the aegis of the Town Team and the new Community Liaison officer, soon to be appointed. The Council will be able to take out insurance to cover the work that volunteers do within our town. Residents are coming forward to improve their local area, Fullers Close and Primrose Drive being good examples.

King George 5th Playing fields, the Park, has taken a lot of committee time, from protecting the line of poplars to encouraging the start of the Parkrun. The council are working with individuals to provide more benches, often in memory of somebody. This past year we have seen the installation of the new furniture in the Market Place, and the council were able to make the pale stone furniture more visible to those with sight problems, but in keeping with the overall scheme.

The council are planning to work with the Melksham Seniors to make our town Age Friendly. As this year is the 100th Anniversary of the end of the Great War, we will be refurbishing the War Memorial, having special planting around and on 11th November changing the order of the Remembrance Service, better to reflect this special event.

Progress with the redevelopment of the Assembly Hall is slow but sure, with Councillors visiting other halls and reports being commissioned. The Bloom in Melksham group work with the council and also Lackham College, to enhance the environment by planting wild flowers and upgrading the Riverside Walk.

The council took the decision to be as much as possible plastic free and also to offer the public water refills, we felt that we should take a lead in protecting our environment.

Councillor Terri Welch  
Chair, Community Development



## **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (PLANNING) 2017/18**

On the Town Council I am once again Chair of Planning, having taken over after the sad death of Councillor Hinchcliffe last September. I remain involved with plans to upgrade the play areas for children, particularly those in my ward of course, and the refurbishing of that most important town asset, the Assembly Hall. I look forward to being able to contribute to the changes and improvements planned for Melksham in the coming year.

Councillor Pat Aves  
Chair of Planning

Printed on : 28/05/2018

**Melksham Town Council 2017/18**

At: 21:29

**Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2018**

**31st March 2017**

**31st March 2018**

| <b>Current Assets</b>      |  |                |
|----------------------------|--|----------------|
| 10,552                     | Debtors                                      | 2,608          |
| 0                          | Debtors Assembly Hall                        | 8,751          |
| 0                          | Vat Control                                  | 4,787          |
| 3,364                      | Bar Stock                                    | 3,501          |
| 35,166                     | LLoyds TSB - Telepay                         | 52,096         |
| 86,585                     | Cooperative Bank A/C                         | 136,863        |
| 131,119                    | Lloyds Bank: Short Fixed Term                | 51,235         |
| 302,235                    | Lloyds TSB Fixed term Deposit                | 382,712        |
| 116                        | CCLA: Investment                             | 116            |
| 129                        | Petty Cash                                   | 236            |
| 117,774                    | Cash & Bank Assembly Hall                    | 151,744        |
| 94,880                     | Assembly Hall Bar A/c                        | 169,122        |
| 1,100                      | Assembly Hall Float                          | 1,100          |
| <b>783,019</b>             |  | <b>964,872</b> |
| <b>783,019</b>             | <b>Total Assets</b>                          | <b>964,872</b> |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b> |  |                |
| 1,349                      | Vat Control                                  | 0              |
| 21,627                     | Creditors                                    | 18,231         |
| 2,600                      | Accruals                                     | 3,100          |
| 0                          | Deposits/Receipts In Advance                 | 14,478         |
| <b>25,576</b>              |  | <b>35,808</b>  |
| <b>757,444</b>             | <b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b> | <b>929,063</b> |
| <b>Represented By</b>      |  |                |
| 301,103                    | General Fund                                 | 241,812        |
| 456,341                    | Earmarked Reserves                           | 635,802        |
| 0                          | EMR - CIL Monies 2016/17                     | 1,179          |
| 0                          | EMR - Solar Monies                           | 42,790         |
| 0                          | EMR - CIL Monies 2017/18                     | 7,480          |
| <b>757,444</b>             |  | <b>929,063</b> |

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31 March 2018 and reflects its Income and Expenditure during the year.

**CIL AND SOLAR FARM MONEY RECEIPTS 1 APRIL 2017-31 MARCH 2018**

| <b>Date of Receipt</b> | <b>Planning Application/Number</b> | <b>Amount of Receipt received</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>£</b> | <b>Receipt Allocated To</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| 4.1.2018               | 16/10072 (CIL Monies)              | £66.95                            |             |          |                             |
| October 2017           | Sandridge Solar Farm Fund          | £42,188.74                        | 4.6.18      | 6,684    | Play Equipment              |
|                        |                                    |                                   |             | 13,641   | Grasscutting                |
|                        |                                    |                                   |             | 13,164   | Splash Pad                  |
|                        |                                    |                                   |             | 4,500    | Street Cleaning Equipment   |
|                        |                                    |                                   |             | 4,200    | Grants                      |

## MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

### Central Ward

|                 |                                      |              |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Kathy Iles      | 31 Coronation Road, SN12 7PF         | 07736 241876 |
| Martin Pain     | 24 Thornbank, Kings Street, SN12 6JQ | 07876 100546 |
| Hayley Spencer  | 5 Blackmore Road, SN12 7HS           | 07910 835865 |
| Michael Swanton | 2A Waterwork Rd, Trowbridge BA14 0AL | 07966166250  |
| Terri Welch     | 11 Devonshire Place, SN12 7DW        | 702800       |

### North Ward

|                   |                                   |             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Caroline Andrewes | 34 Redwing Road, SN12 7GB         | 07740583848 |
| Pat Aves          | 29 Ingram Road, SN12 7JH          | 700633      |
| Simon Hedley      | 7 Sherwood Avenue, SN12 7HH       | 700620      |
| Geoff Mitcham     | 33 Crescent Road, SN12 7EU        | 706463      |
| Richard Wiltshire | 31 Roundpond, Shurnhold, SN12 8DF | 708306      |

### South Ward

|                    |  |             |
|--------------------|--|-------------|
| Vanessa Fiorelli   | 1 Sandridge Road, SN12 7BE               | 07497185866 |
| Jon Hubbard        | 2 Sweetbriar Road, SN12 6FR              | 807969      |
| Mike Sankey        | 32 Barnes Wallis Close, SN12 6UJ         | 07842969069 |
| Tony Watts         | Berkeley House, Longleaze Lane, SN12 6QJ | 07545733857 |
| Adrienne Westbrook | 29 Sandridge Road, SN12 7BQ              | 704584      |

## Wiltshire Councillors

### Central

|                |                            |              |
|----------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Hayley Spencer | 5 Blackmore Road, SN12 7HS | 07910 835865 |
|----------------|----------------------------|--------------|

### North Ward

|          |                          |        |
|----------|--------------------------|--------|
| Pat Aves | 29 Ingram Road, SN12 7JH | 700633 |
|----------|--------------------------|--------|

### South

|             |                             |        |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Jon Hubbard | 2 Sweetbriar Road, SN12 6FR | 807969 |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------|

### Melksham Without North

|             |                           |             |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Phil Alford | 35 Woodrow Road, SN12 7AY | 07976108737 |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|