

## CLERKS REPORT – September 2014

### Agenda Items

**5. Casual Vacancies – to fill the two casual vacancies by co-option** – personal statements attached – We currently have 5 candidates for the 2 casual vacancies. I am attaching the personal statements as a separate folder.

**7c) The future of Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Service – Public Consultation (expires 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014)** – see: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/strengtheningourfrs>

**8b) Draft proposals for Revised Settlement Boundaries** – see:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/wiltshsgsiteallocationsplan.htm>

**8c) Government consulting on making Neighbourhood Planning easier**

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The Government is seeking views on proposals that will make it easier for residents and businesses to come together to produce a neighbourhood plan. These proposals draw on the experience gained from over 900 neighbourhood areas which have already been designated by local authorities and are making use of their new right to produce a neighbourhood plan or Neighbourhood Development Order. The proposals are designed to speed up the process to encourage more to follow suit.

New measures include requiring local planning authorities to decide whether to designate certain neighbourhood areas within 10 weeks and removing the minimum six-week consultation period. Parish and town councils and neighbourhood forums would, however, still need to consult and win a local referendum on the final neighbourhood plan or Order.

The neighbourhood planning proposals are part of a wider Technical consultation on planning. DCLG would like to hear the views and experience of SLCC members on Neighbourhood Planning.

Full details of the consultation and an on line survey can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/technical-consultation-on-planning>

**12b) Community Signboards in Mere and at Willoughby Hedge** – letter from Mere & District Chamber of Trade  
“As you may be aware Mere Chamber of Trade is currently receiving some funding from South West Wiltshire Area Board for initiatives we are undertaking through Project Sunrise-Mere. One of these initiatives is to update the Community Signboards in Mere and the Tourism signboards at Willoughby Hedge.

Our Project Leader for the Signage Project has had conversations with Visit Wiltshire regarding the Tourism signboards at Willoughby Hedge to see if we can update them to prove more beneficial for visitors approaching Mere and to advertise the businesses and services within Mere. The response from Visit Wiltshire was that they had no further interest in the signboards and Mere Chamber could decide what they would like to do and how to take forward.

We therefore propose to begin work on updating the signboards, unless there is any objection and would like Mere Parish Council's support in doing so. We would obviously recognize the Parish Council for their support. George Jeans advised us that it may also be appropriate to communicate with West Knoyle Parish Council and we wondered if you have any contact details and would be able to communicate on the Chamber's behalf. The Chamber would also like to begin work on updating the information signboards within Mere.

The funding is for a limited time only and we are therefore keen to proceed with the work as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you.”