

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

CLERKS REPORT – May 2015

Agenda Items

Statement of Community Involvement - Wiltshire Council is consulting on an updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The Statement of Community Involvement informs the community about how and when they can get involved in the preparation and revision of Development Plan Documents (DPD) and in the consideration of planning applications. The procedures contained within the adopted SCI must be followed for consultation on all Local Development Documents (LDDs) and all planning applications within Wiltshire. The SCI outlines the standards that the Council will employ to meet the legal requirements for involving the community effectively in the planning system. The document elaborates on how the Council will use specific methods and techniques beyond the minimum standards to ensure all parts of the community are involved.

Visit from Chief Executive Officer, Wiltshire Citizens Advice - Sarah Cardy came to visit the Parish Council office on 22.4.15. the Wiltshire Citizens Advice have had their funding cut and need to think about ways in which they can continue to provide their services in a way which is convenient and helpful to users. At present, the CAB come to Mere Library one day a week but people do not have problems on one day a week and this service is often under utilised or just not convenient for users. CAB now find that much of their advice is given out over the telephone but they do not have the staff or resources to answer all telephone calls. It was suggested, at this meeting, that one way of helping the public would be to provide a dedicated telephone in the library which has a number that will definitely be answered by the Wiltshire CAB so that advice can be given over the telephone. There is also a lot of information available on their website and they have a live chat facility online. Sarah is going to put an article in Mere Matters to get feedback.