**Minutes of the Cheselbourne Parish Council**

**Held at Cheselbourne Village Hall**

**1st July 2013 at 7.30pm**

**Present;** Cllr Widdowson - Chair, Cllr Greenwood, Cllr Bere, Cllr Northover, Cllr Haynes

**In attendance:** Judy Coleman – Clerk, Mr Tom Roberts from Milton Abbey Standing Committee, Mrs Judy Cooper

**Apologies:** Tony Paul, Andy Canning – County Councillor

**Minutes of previous Meeting:** Signed and approved.

**Matters arising:** Cllr Greenwood contacted police regarding cars speeding in the village, Cllr Haynes also contacted them. Cllr Greenwood has put in an official request asking for a speed check which has been logged by the police. Cllr Widdowson has sent a letter to appeals regarding The Rivers Arms but has had no response. Cllr Greenwood can find no information regarding when bonfires should be lit but it appears that the rule should be that all bonfires should be lit after 6pm.

**Finance:** Clerk reported that the current balance stands at £2,137.88

**Planning:** Mr Tom Roberts spoke on behalf of Milton Abbey Standing Committee. He explained that they are looking at a project to provide facilities for visitors at the Abbey. The standing committee had asked Mr Roberts to assist in raising funds to repair the Abbey. The Standing committee is made up of a mixture of the Diocese and school staff. He explained that the idea is to provide facilities at the Abbey i.e. a coffee area, toilets, exhibition area to encourage and assist visitors. He will be asking Heritage Lottery for some funding and would like to see all the work completed by 2016. The Standing Committee will be asking local people what they would like in regards to new facilities. Mr Roberts is asking all the local parish councils to ask the villagers to put forward their ideas and thoughts on this matter. Mr Roberts can be contacted on 01258 880313 or mail@tra.uk.com. Cllr Greenwood suggested that signage needs to be more prominent and clear. Cllr Greenwood asked whether volunteers to assist visitors would be put in place in the Abbey apart from the holiday seasons, Cllr Widdowson also asked whether the Grass Staircase would be opened up again – Mr Roberts explained that they would like it re-opened but at present the school does not have the staff to look after areas such as the ‘steps’. Cllr Haynes asked whether the public are charged to look around the abbey. Mr Roberts explained that people spend more on post cards etc if there is no charge.

**Highways and byways:** Cllr Widdowson had received comments that the footpath above the school has become hazardous and that the hedge is very overgrown and the path is now so narrow that it is almost unuseable. Cllr Greenwood read an interesting section from a book dated from 1822 which explained how, even then paths were kept clear for everyone to enjoy. The Parish Council would like to thank to those farmers who have cleared and cut the footpaths around the village, **Woodsford Farms**, **the Besents** and the **Shaw-Porters.**

**Any other business:** Mrs Judy Cooper asked whether the Boat in the playground could be removed from the park and replaced with a slide and could the Parish Council write a letter confirming it’s removal. Cllr Widdowson said that the cost of a slide would be prohibitive, but she would look into the matter. With regards to the boat, she was under the impression that it was going to be repaired. The matter would be considered.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2013**