

MINUTES OF LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
7th July 2005 Parish Hall 7.30 p.m.

Before the meeting began The Chairman noted the events of the day, the tragic terrorist atrocities which had occurred in London. His thoughts went out to all those who had lost friends or relatives during the day; one of our own Councillors had been close by in London that very morning.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. B Baker, M Groom, and J Holloway.

2. Minutes of meeting 2nd June 2005

The Apologies were corrected, and the Report in last months Minutes regarding the accident was amended following an eye witness report.

3. Co-option Nominations

Nigel Smith, who is well known as Chair of the Parish Plan was proposed as a Co-opted member by Cllr T Pepperall and seconded by Cllr J Bennett - there were no objections. The signed declarations of acceptance were completed and witnessed by the Clerk.

4. Invitation for local PC to speak.

P.C. Hulmes was not present.

5. County Councillor's report and questions arising.

Cllr Groom was unable to attend the meeting but had sent the following notes.

Re: Planning application by Wimpey at Lydiard Tregoze

An article is to appear in The Link. A letter drop is being arranged for the new Common Platt estate. Sarah Finch-Crisp, Lydiard House's Projects Manager has been informed of the planning application.

All like-minded residents are asked to join Cllr Groom at Chippenham Town Hall on Wednesday 7th September to make the Inspector aware of our objections.

Re: Bus transport to Braden Forest School

SBC is proposing to reduce four buses to three, each of which would accommodate 80 students. However that only accommodates 240 of the 600 students from West Swindon. What happens when the remaining contracts come up for renewal.? Even larger buses? WCC have been telephoned and emailed - we need everyone around a table to discuss routes. Thamesdown Transport say routes are down to SBC; SBC make suggestions and leave it to Thamesdown Transport.

6. District Councillor's report and questions arising.

No report in Cllr Groom's absence.

7. Parishioner's Question Time.

Approx. 50 or more parishioners attended.

a. It was pointed out to the Parish Council by a member of the public that the school should ensure all new prospective parents know that parking is at a premium in the village, and that the Sun Inn has offered parking facilities. He would not be happy to see land purchased for a concrete parking lot, especially as the problem is only during term times.

b. A resident of The Street, who had heard of the proposed change to licensing hours for the Sun Inn, lodged his concerns. In his opinion, they are not currently concerned about noise pollution, and that whilst a certain amount of lag is now expected after time is called, this would become an uncertain period of time should the new licensing law be passed.

The Chairman intervened at this point and introduced Mr Johnny Johnson the owner of the Sun Inn, who had brought along his solicitor, to answer any questions that would inevitably be raised over the application to amend the licensing hours.

The Parish Council were informed that the new laws are encouraging all pubs to apply for recommended hours up to 24.00, and 01.00 on Friday & Saturdays. Nevertheless, they have amended their

application to limit Live Music to 20 times p.a., and do not intend to change the present times of opening, nor change their current theme of a quiet country pub. The later hours would only be used on exceptional circumstances. Previously pubs could play piped music, or have up to two people indoors. The new public entertainment section of the licence does not differentiate on two, or twenty-two, performers in the pub.

All the current licence applications required from Public houses have been amalgamated into a 26 page document, with operating schedules set for each individual function.

Any subsequent owners of the Pub would not need to re-apply for a new or amended licence if they wanted to change the operating schedule.

However, the new licences come with a possible 26 criminal offences on which the public can report, and a request to NWDC to review a licence can be made at any time, on reasonable grounds.

Much concern had been raised by some flyers delivered to homes in the area of The Sun. They mentioned the name of an officer of NWDC, but had not in fact been originated by NWDC.

Other local residents agreed with the earlier objection. They live with the cooking smells and the current licensing hours, but know that within half an hour or so of calling time, relative quiet is reinstated. They were also concerned that music is often played in the gardens by customers bringing their own stereos.

The owner was advised that the current managers tip glass bottles into the bottle bank after closing time, which in the dead of night is deafening. He promised the practice will cease.

Who would police all these new hours and regulations? Residents would need to contact NWDC, or the Police, if inappropriate public order occurs.

The general opinion of parishioners is that the Sun Inn is currently a lovely village pub, and a focal point, which does many good deeds for the Parish. No one wanted to see this change for the worse.

It was confirmed that the Sun Inn was not brewery owned, but privately owned, with another 17 years on the lease. The owners have six other village inns and purchased The Sun within weeks of its imminent closure. They have no intention of changing the way it is run. However, that the law has changed, and in order to continue they have to comply. The owner left his name and email address should any member of the public wish to contact him in the future. The manager will continue to be Carl.

The solicitor assured the Parish Council that if there were specific activities which needed to be changed, then she could write them into the operating schedule.

The licence will run indefinitely unless there is need for a review, or change of ownership.

Mrs Tye wished that Riffs Bar licensing application had been as well debated as The Sun's.

c. It was noted that the hedge from No1 The Beeches to Manor Farm House needed a letter to be sent by WCC reminding the owner of their responsibility. More such letters may be sent in the future, subject to speaking directly to the land-owners first.

d. On which dates are Cemetery dustbins emptied (fortnightly)? The Spoil heap still needs clearing.

e. A member of the public requested a copy of the 2004/5 accounts. Mr Windo offered to supply this directly from the website on behalf of the Council.

8. **Councillors reports of Parishioners queries.**

a. A late night of noise and activity was reported at the JCH on a very hot evening until 1.30 a.m. Diary reports need to be kept.

b. Jubilee Club House - the bin on the entrance gate to the driveway was full, and three used disposable barbecues were left outside of the clubhouse.

c. Fly tipping at Washpool junction was reported, approx. 4 or 5 black bags.

d. Unreasonable parking was reported at the Jubilee Club House. Vehicles are being left in the gate entrance, which could cause a delay should emergency vehicles need to be called out.

e. The rear access to houses on Washpool was reported to be full of deep ruts, and some tarmac'ing was requested. Cllr Pepperall was to add it to the list when he meets with the Highway Engineer early next month.

f. Regarding the new licensing arrangements, it was asked what kind of licence Riffs Bar currently

- owns, as limiting the amount of functions to 20 per year could be reasonable.
- g. Park Lane re-surfacing and pot hole problems will again be shown to the Highway Engineer. In the meantime reporting the matter to MP J Gray and the Press was becoming a real possibility.

9. Report on matters arising from 2nd June 2005 not on the main agenda.

Probation service

The Church and School have both written to the service with a list of jobs and are waiting for their reply. It was asked of the Parish Council if they are happy for a group of young offenders to come in to do some of the jobs from the Parish Plan, under supervision. A local person can be a supervisor if they have the technical expertise for the task. The offenders can obtain certificates of competence if they learn new skills. The Parish Council will wait to see how the Church and School progress.

Bus Stop Lydiard Green.

Stone chippings have been ordered for the hard standing. The Groundsman will spread them and finish strimming the area.

Parish Hall.

The Parish Council had received a letter from the Parish Hall some months ago, regarding planning decisions made in respect of the school. The Clerk has spent many long hours searching the old planning applications, and can find nothing other than the standard approvals or rejections. Although many members may be able to remember personally that discussions would have taken place with regard to vehicle movement, nothing was documented. A reply will now be sent confirming these findings.

WCC Meet and Greet evening

The Chairman and Vice Chairman had attended - a structured event which went well. They were also to attend the **WALC AGM** on Friday 8th July.

Hedge Cutting,

NWDC has sent a number of letters to land owners, who have responded and cut their hedge. A sample letter had been sent to the Council, which is polite and helpful and explains how they start the procedure of ensuring a cut.

(The above items are for information only).

10. Planning Applications –

Hills Minerals and Waste Ltd. - disposal of hazardous waste.

Purton Parish Council are not opposing this application, no further action.

Cllr N Smith took the planning application to read.

Wimpey Homes had applied to build 60 – 80 houses on fields near Lydiard Park, in the Lydiard Tregoze Parish. It was agreed to write and object to this application in support of Lydiard Tregoze.

Speed limit Greenhill/Greatfield - A proposal has been received from WCC for a 30 mph speed limit.

05/01415/FUL Rear Conservatory 32 Greenhill - reply by 30.6.05 - No adverse comments sent. No objections were received. Decision ratified by P.C..

An HGV Operators licence has been applied for by 37 Stone Lane. A resident in the area had alerted the Parish Council. Chairman to attend the hearing - he will object on the P.C.'s behalf:-

7.5 ton, narrow road, with dangerous bend. Unsuitable site in the Countryside where the adjacent fields often have livestock. Vehicle noise pollution, with large vehicles having to use both sides of the road.

Sun Inn extra hours.

The Councillors were unable to make a decision over the licence during the meeting and an extra P.C. meeting was to be arranged for the licence application to be reviewed, and to formulate suggested amendments for the owner to amend the application..

NWDC Permission granted 05/01157/FUL 2 Park View Drive rear ext'n, but front ext'n **refused**.

11. Accounts (*incl. VAT)

Mrs R Leckie	Salary	£230.00
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	£ 47.86*
Mr R Nicholas	Groundsman	£123.33
Prof. Paddock Maint.	Weed killing at Rec. Field	£270.70
CPRE	Judicial Review of SBC's M4 tunnel	£100.00

Discussion on 3 Gateway signs by WCC £2,098.02, no VAT.

Precepted £2,000 for new signs; previous thoughts were for three signs 'Welcome to Lydiard Millicent, please drive carefully' with '30mph'. JB and TP have looked at the sites around the village. Some sites needed the speed limit separated from the message. Some councillors were concerned that the Parish as a whole was not being encompassed. New wording was agreed to read 'Welcome to Lydiard Millicent IF you drive carefully'.

When WCC Highway team erect these gateway signs, they have promised to move the 7.5 ton sign at the Washpool junction, and move the road sign which obscures the Bus Stop sign.

Donation to Dial-a-Ride £250.00, figure agreed in precept, being a basis for further grant applications by Purton P.C. – payment confirmed.

Donation to LMPH re New Kitchens.

Under section 137., various causes can be budgeted for to a total of approx. £5 per resident. It was generally agreed that the council should not use the full amount possible under Section 137 funds, as it would be disproportionate to our budget. Such a sum would also have an effect on the rates. Large donations need to be precepted, and the works on the kitchen are due this summer and therefore cannot wait for the precept process. Cllr Bennett proposed a donation of £500, seconded by Cllr Smith, approved.

Request by Victim Support Wiltshire for donation. – Discussed – No proposal.

Chairman's Broadband – deferred to August Agenda.

Litter Picks – Clerk to order them when Cllr Bennett passes on the details.

Computerised Accounts

Would be more professional, and save the Chairman and Clerk hours of work, on year-end accounts.

One package, cost £100, would need training in Coventry at £350.00.

Another package was a licensing agreement, at £195 p.a. Mr Windo and Cllr Pepperall have been investigating the systems, and five glowing recommendations were offered on this second package. It also offered a three months trial. The licence could be cancelled at any time, and would be updated regularly, and offers unlimited telephone support. The Council agreed to trial the latter.

The accounts were proposed by Cllr Quartly Bishop, seconded by Cllr Bennett, with no objections.

Income June 2005

JCH hirings	£125
Rec F	£300 LMCC
Cemetery	£280

10p.m. - An extension of 15 minutes or so was agreed to deal with the most urgent agenda items.

12. Committee Reports

Recreation Field - trouble with goal posts sockets damaging the mowers – LMCC offered to shorten them.

J.CH. - another booking from SFC - now 7 in total

Childs party booking, to be confirmed, and another enquiry from another party.

Question was raised about cleaning up after party - to be left clean or lose deposit.

Play Area - nothing to report other than emptying of bins.

Cemetery - Cllr Holloway to ask Mr Smith if he could remove the spoil.

Cemetery gates - Measurements to be taken as a basis for quotations.

Butts Pond - Taurus are working on the platform. School has requested CPS to do additional ground clearance around the pond - this was agreed.

13. **Cemetery Explanation Sheet** - comments required - deferred.

14. **Completed Parish Plan Priority Sheets required** - deferred

15. **Standing Orders** - deferred.

16. Post Office Update

Everyone is keen; however the Post Office is being slow responding to grant requests. All three grants need to be approved in principle before the full application is made to Rural Renaissance.

17. Parish Clerk's Office Provision - update

Agreed with clerk, period of one month trial, to be started by beginning of August, using Referee 2 room for storage and without telephone, during trial period. If trial is successful, then telephone and lockable storage would be needed.

19. **Letter from Mr Hobbs**, re verge at the rear of 18 The Close, and adjacent to 17 Chestnut Springs. A letter from Mr Hobbs was discussed regarding the ownership of wasteland at the rear of 18 The Close. Mr Hobbs had searched at NWDC and the Land Registry for the owner, and had hoped the Parish Council could shed some light on the situation. Councillors believed that the land is still owned by the developer. Mr Hobbs was present at the meeting and stated that he was having difficulties with his neighbour who cuts the area and then dumps the cuttings in his back garden. It seems this has gone on for years without comment - Mr Hobbs has reported the situation to NWDC as 'fly-tipping'. There was nothing the Council could do if the developer agreed to sell him the land; however, the Council would not be in favour of the symmetry of Chestnut Springs being spoilt in this way. Whilst the P.C. cannot sanction the adoption of land that is not theirs to give, it is essentially a civil matter. Clerk to send a letter to Mr Hobbs explaining that the Council is unable to get involved in civil matters.

20. Correspondence

The Boundary Committee for England are commencing a review of electoral arrangements of NWDC from 21 June 2005. Comments by 12th September. Further info on: www.boundarycommittee.org.uk.

No comments were offered.

NWDC Spatial Planning Team Newsletter no.1, June 2005, plus questionnaire - replies by 1 July 2005.

Emergency Planning - Newsletter Issue 1 2005 - Information only.

WCC/Swindon BC. Invitation to meetings of the Waste Development Forum, 30th June and 20th July.

Clerk to check if any Cllr wished to attend

WALC County Circular 06.05. - Various - deferred to August.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 - implementation timetable and further information.

NWDC Development Control Committee Agenda for 22nd June 2005 - no items for LMPC

Late Correspondence

Public Spaces and Local Plans Panel - 12th July – no takers.

WCC Highways - Cllrs to report any Ragwort, or Japanese Knotweed .

Councillors were asked to nominate local footpaths which were in need of attention. - back of Park View Drive, behind the Garage, and end of The Butts to Grove House, others to be sent directly to the Clerk.

**Date of next meeting Thursday 4th August, 7.30pm at LMPH, but possibly 21st July, 7.30pm at JCH
Meeting closed 10.25 p.m.**