

**LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2005.**

**1. Apologies for absence;** Cllr P Brimacombe.

Present were Cllrs T Pepperall (Chairman), J Bennett (Vice Chair), B Baker, M Groom, A Harris, J Holloway, A Pflieger, E Quartley-Bishop, V Saunders, N Smith, plus approx. 50 parishioners.

**2. Minutes of meeting 7th July 2005** were signed as a true record.

**3. Minutes of meeting 21st July 2005** were delayed by computer problems and deferred to the September meeting as not all Councillors had read them

**3. Invitation for local PC to speak.** PC Hulmes was not in attendance.

**4. County Councillor's report and questions arising.**

Cllr Groom informed the Council on the planning application on the Hills site at Purton, where it is proposed to accept 50,000 tons of hazardous waste. A similar application had previously been refused. Dr Richard Paget, who is a U.N. Advisor, an expert on Environmental Issues, and prior Purton PC Cllr, has written a report on the site, and advises against the planning application. Cllr Groom suggested that the Council might wish to object to this application, (see **Item 8**).

**5. District Councillor's report and questions arising.**

Wimpey proposals to build houses in Lydiard Tregoze. Cllr Groom asked members of public to support the protest outside Chippenham Town Hall 9.45 p.m. on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2005. T-Shirts and Banners available.

The Regional Spatial Strategy had not been accepted by WCC and all District Councils, and a review of the proposals demanded.

**6. Parishioner's Question Time.**

The Chairman asked that everyone limit themselves to 3 minutes each per topic to allow everyone time to speak.

The Chairman invited comments on **The Beeches/Cemetery** to begin.

Parishioners were concerned that the minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> were delayed, and Cllrs would not have seen their comments and petition before reviewing the cemetery/car park proposal.

The Chairman invited parishioners to read them on the web page, when posted, so that they could comment again in September. The matter would still be put to the Councillors (Agenda item 12), but would be discussion only, and no decisions would be made until September.

Beeches parishioners asked what developments have been made in finding an alternative site in the past 2 weeks, and had Councillors been made aware of them?

*No work had taken place on a new site.*

Questions/comments were invited with regard to the rebuild at **79 Chestnut Springs**.

There was much opposition to this application from neighbours.

1. Dormer windows would overlook bungalows opposite.
2. Height of the building would block light to the rear of the bungalow and gardens next door.
3. There were covenants in the deeds that dwellings on the estate entrance road should be bungalows only, with houses set back at the T Junction. However, it had been discovered that the covenant had expired following the winding up of the vendors, Brienfels Ltd.
5. It would create a precedence to replace a 2 bed bungalow with a 5 bed house.
6. A new dwelling would be of different materials and would look out of place.

Cllr Groom explained that this application had been 'called in' and would go to full planning committee. It was not in keeping and a neighbour would suffer extreme loss of light.

The Chairman was asked if the Council would support this. *The application will be debated under Planning (Item 9), and that all wishing to object should themselves write to NWDC.*

The Clerk could be contacted for guidelines on what constitutes a planning comment.

**Other items:-**

- Hedge is still overhanging the pavement corner of The Close/The Street.

- Can the Lengthsmen cut along hedge Park Lane to Holborn on Golf Course side *WCC only cut twice a year unless it is on a dangerous bend - this was considered so. Clerk to request urgent cut for safety reasons.*
- Can the pavement kerbs be cleared from The Beeches to The Butts?
- Could the Parish Council request a 30mph at Holborn Corner? *This is improbable.*
- Why is Holborn corner the only place without a central white line?
- Chestnut tree in Chestnut Springs – it was requested that the lower limbs be cut back to prevent children pulling on them and breaking pieces off.
- A resident who had not attended the 21<sup>st</sup> July meeting asked what the proposal was for the Cemetery/Car park. *Chairman explained that no proposal had been put to Council yet.*  
It was agreed to bring that item forward to precede 'Planning'.
- The Cemetery was reported as a mess again. *Chairman explained work was in hand.*

#### **7. Councillor's reports of Parishioners queries.**

- A very large number of leaflets had been dumped in Lydiard Green. Cllr Holloway had picked them up and reported it to the Post Office. They are investigating the incident. The Chairman thanked him for his prompt action.
- Litter Pickers, heavy-duty gloves, sleeveless white tabards, and black plastic bags are now available to residents who wish to borrow them to clear up rubbish near their property. Contact Cllr Bennett at 6, Forge Fields, tel 770031.  
All litter picked would need to be put into usual wheelie bins as at present.
- It was reported that the hedge at Millicent House was overhanging the traffic hump. The Clerk reported that the owners have difficulties cutting the hedge due to the traffic coming through at all hours. Cllr Pflieger offered to wear a high visibility tabard and watch the traffic for them. Clerk will try to arrange this – Chair also offered to assist.  
The wall & kerb below the hedge are scheduled for clearance by the WCC lengthsmen.
- Cllr Pflieger will also cut the hedges at the end of Park Lane, and try to repair the footpath sign uprooted at the roundabout at Chestnut Springs/ Forge Fields.
- Previous correspondence reported an electoral review, response to which which needs to be submitted by 12<sup>th</sup> September. As this is 'Item 1' on the Parish Plan, Cllr Bennett felt the Council should reiterate that they do not want any boundary changes. This was agreed - Cllr Bennett to draft a response for Chairman to send, via the Clerk.
- A report was made of an incident with 2 dogs in the Sun Inn car park. Concerns over safety were raised. The Dog Warden and the Police have been informed.
- The property 'Greensend' has two bright lights which dazzle traffic. Clerk to request they reduce the wattage, change the colour, or re-direct them.
- Noxious substances are again being burnt at Bagbury Park, Lydiard Green, report to DC.
- What action is being taken over the 'plumbing business' at 'Greensend' - a trench has now been dug from the house to the field, which needs reporting to D.C..

#### **8. Report on matters arising from 7th July 2005 not on the main agenda.**

(the above items are for information only). There were none.

#### **12. The Beeches. Cemetery and Carpark.**

Cllr Holloway asked the Chairman how many Councillors had read and understood the minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> July. As he was in the minority and the others had mostly skimmed them, it was agreed to have a Chairman's statement rather than a discussion at this point.

The Chairman remarked that the problems are several-fold. The existing cemetery is coming to the end and although will last 8- 10 years yet, it takes a long time to organize a new one. There are problems with parking around The Butts at school pick up/drop off times - extra parking is needed whether everyone in the Parish agreed or not.

When the offer of a donation of a strip of land became available, which would have provided burial provision for up to 50 years, which could have included a small par park, assisting overflow parking from school, church, and hall functions, it deserved to be given consideration.

Speed reduction through that area was also high on the public wish list. Traffic calming could have been incorporated with a view to a safe route across the road to the School or Hall. Lydiard Tregoze had already expressed an interest in sharing a site with Lydiard Millicent, as their Cemetery is now closed, and they had funds to make the proposal more viable.

Complications regarding the pipelines beneath the site were initially checked out, followed by an initial enquiry to the 7 most affected residents whose gardens abutted the field. Had the response been favourable, the intention was to advise the remaining houses in the Beeches, before putting the proposal to full Council. It is regrettable that the initial letter was reproduced and distributed to all other houses pre-emptively, causing un-necessary concern to many residents. The full council were not initially advised, as it would have needed an open meeting, to discuss the proposal, which needed to be properly prepared with some of the research work completed. Councillors will now receive copies of the initial letter and a sketch of the potential proposal, before it is discussed at the September meeting, where it will then be an Agenda item.

## **9. Planning Applications**

### **05/01771/FUL Replacement Dwelling at 79 Chestnut Springs**

- 8 neighbours at least objecting.
- The design of Chestnut Springs is of different housing but in compatible materials and style. The entrance to the estate was covenanted to be 'bungalows only plus garages, sheds etc, approved by the vendor. This gave a pleasant appearance in this road, with houses at the far end. Regrettably, the vendors have ceased to exist, which renders the covenant invalid, but nevertheless it sets the tone for the estate, which is still valid.
- A large dwelling at 79 would be completely out of character and visually oppressive.
- The dormer windows at the front would overlook the lounges and bedrooms of the bungalows (no's 3,4, & 5) opposite.
- The high side wall would block out light and air to the rear patio doors of no. 78.
- The proposed dwelling can only be considered 'over-development' of the site.
- The gap between 78 & 79 would be only some 18 inches; it would create danger during demolition, is not wide enough for ladders or scaffolding for the construction of no.79, nor for repairs to either dwelling.
- Construction traffic would severely restrict other traffic on this only entrance to the estate – some 120+ dwellings, plus access to the Recreation Field, cricket and football traffic.
- We are also concerned at yet another small 2 bedrooomed bungalow, of which there are few left, being lost to a much larger (6 bedrooomed) dwelling.

**The Parish Council strongly and unanimously object to this application.**

**05/00940/COU Change of use to form One Dwelling and Office Accommodation at the Post Office Cottage, 7 The Street.** Wrongly stated that it was for information only. It can and does need our comments.

We still strongly object to the insufficiency of parking.

The original application was for a ground floor office, with living accommodation upstairs and in the rear wing. This office accommodation was for up to 5 people in the one room. The application is now for the whole of the downstairs and first floor, with the exception of the living accommodation in the rear wing.

- Based on the space now sought for office accommodation, and including the 'dining room', and the massive 'kitchen', it would be easily possible to find room for 20 workers in the 3 separate office areas shown. No access is possible from one area to another. Two areas would have no access to the dining room and kitchen.
- Who would prevent all three units from being fully used as office space?
- Are the regulations for washing and toilet facilities adequate for each unit?
- Is there a need for a Fire Escape for each of the three units?
- Do the proposals accord with the Disability Act?

- The need for obscure windows is still pertinent in the rear windows that look out on to the separate Living Accommodation in the rear wing, and next door.
- Why were plastic windows allowed at the front of this building with a 'listed frontage'?
- The 8 parking places shown are incorrect. The width available is insufficient for 3 cars, unless they are very small indeed. They would not comply with regulations for public car parking.
- They would be able to accommodate 6 cars, but the three at the rear would be unable to move. The cars at the south end of the space would have no room to turn and would need to back out on to the main road.
- There are currently 3 cars owned by the tenants in the back wing. Has any space been allotted to them?
- No mention of an agreement to park in the car park of The Sun Inn is made on this application. We presume this is because there is neither legal agreement nor permanency to the offer.
- Parking is not permitted on the drive – covenants in the deeds – access only.
- Has any thought been given to the additional strain on parking space from visitors or deliveries to the premises?

**The parking available for office space of this size is completely inadequate. It will create considerable obstruction in the centre of the village, this application must be refused.**

#### **NWDC Permissions Granted**

**05/00292/FUL** Erection of Building for Storage and Maintenance of Forestry Equipment at The Bungalow, Greatfield. Prior approval for this forestry related building is not required.

**05/01346/FUL** Two Storey Side Extension, Single Storey Rear Extension and New Front Porch at 25 Greenhill.

**05/01210/FUL** Creation of 2nd Vehicular Access to 30 Stone Lane. Complete Towing Services are operating from the site. Clerk to inform Enforcement Officer of the development.

**05/01296/TCA** Tree Surgery Work at Lydiard Millicent CE VC Primary School, The Butts

**Hills Waste Application**, no comment had been on 7<sup>th</sup> July, on the basis of two Purton Cllrs saying P.P.C. were not objecting. It may be they were thinking of the original application. Cllr Groom said WCC were still taking comments on this application.

The Council agreed to **object** to the application on the grounds of:-

- Transport safety, as we are in a weight restricted area.
- No provision made on the application for the safety of others while material is transported.
- No note of the fact that it must take recommended weighted routes.
- No Risk Assessment or concerns about particles of hazardous material becoming airborne.

Cllr Smith had also read the report from Dr Paget and confirmed Cllr Grooms concerns on the application, he did not consider the report to be biased and recommended others to read it.

On the strength of Cllr Smiths recommendations of the report, he was asked to email relevant comments to the Chairman in the next few days.

#### **10. Accounts (\*incl. VAT)**

• Mrs R Leckie -	Salary	£230.00
• Mr R Nicholas -	Groundsman	£123.33
• Thames Water -	Sports Pavilion	£ 92.84
• Thames Water -	Cemetery	£ 12.33
• Helping Hand Co -	Litter Pickers	£ 70.31*
• LMPHall -	Hire of Hall for meeting	£ 15.00
• Taurus -	Butts Pond Platform repair	£481.75*

The accounts were proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Quartly Bishop. Sign off Annual Accounts and the Declarations on the Audit Sheets. Due to technical difficulties

and the ongoing project to computerise the accounts, they are delayed until September.

#### **11. Committee Reports**

- L.M.Cricket Club have cut off the protruding parts of the goalpost sockets, having damaged two of their five cutters. Possible repair costs could be up to £1500.
- Two local lads had camped in the field overnight, and had been asked to leave by Chairman and Vice Chairman. Camping is prohibited, on health and safety grounds.
- The padlock had gone missing from the gate and has had to be replaced again. Cllr Baker thought that there should be a documented list of comings and goings on the field.
- Cllr Pepperall had carried out the monthly Play Area check – all OK. Next check Cllr Baker.
- Web site has been kept up to date on news items in the Parish, e.g. the Sun Inn Licence.
- Cemetery sub-committee need to meet and decide on how to proceed on the gate movement, maintenance, etc. Mr Smith is happy to move the spoil but some cost may be involved in spreading and rolling the track at the bottom of Greenhill.

#### **13. Sun Inn Licence application.**

Because of the inability to get a consensus on everyone's views, it was advised that anyone interested should write in to NWDC Licensing Dept. The Letter of Intent from the owners is available should any one need to see it, and will be placed on the Web site. The Council has written a response to the licensing authority outlining their recommendations. Any residents that demand the maintenance of existing hours will force a 'Public Hearing'.

#### **14. Parish Plan Priority Sheets.**

The Chairman asked for the completed update sheets.

Cllr Holloway questioned why these were necessary and what the Council was to do with the result? *To further prioritize the topic items.*

It was agreed that the Parish Plan had its own priorities, which had been passed to the Council, and we should be working from that list. Top of the list was Holborn Corner, and what was needed is a proposal to take this forward. A sub committee will be formed with Cllrs Smith, Bennett and Pepperall, together with some outside professional advisors from local Solicitor/Lawyers, Civil Engineers, and Surveyors. If any parishioners feel competent and willing to help, please advise Cllr Smith on 771237.

The subcommittee will need clear unambiguous guidelines from the Parish Council.

**15. Cemetery Fees** - Deferred until Clerk has the comparisons.

**16. Chairman's Broadband** - Deferred until September.

#### **17. Clerk's Office Provision**

The Clerk is happy to continue to work in the JCH. The next stage is to cost some permanent storage facilities. Costings for next meeting.

#### **18. Correspondence**

- Parish Lengthsmen 15th and 16th August 2005, some items to be added to list.
- Best Kept Village Competition results for 2005 - joint 5<sup>th</sup> out of 7. Did school enter competition? How did they do?
- NWDC Development Control Committee Agenda for 27.7.05 - no items for LMPC.
- Wootton Bassett High Street Festival – posters had been displayed.
- Defibrillation. Wiltshire Ambulance Trust are trying to establish an up to date database listing all defibrillator sites. Article for 'Lydiards' - has anyone a machine they can share?

Cllr Pflieger had missed his meeting with the Chairman and Mr Everett on Park Lane. WCC is to repair the potholes and install new grips. The full report of Mr Everett's meeting with the Chairman on various Highway issues will be added to the Minutes. Meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

**Date of next meeting Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.**