

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Thursday 6th February 2003

Present: Cllrs TH.Pepperall Chair, E.Quartly-Bishop, A.Cole, P.Cole, P.Brimacombe, J.Bennett, and J.Holloway.

1. **Apologies** Cllr Saunders, Groom, and Revere.

2. **Confirm Minutes** No amendments; the minutes were signed as a true copy.

2a **Co-option** of Mr J.Holloway and Mr J.Bennett was proposed by Cllr E.Quartly-Bishop and seconded by Cllr A.Cole; approved unanimously. Both new councillors had signed the declaration of interest and Code of Conduct forms in presence of clerk. A seminar for new Cllrs was mentioned, 7-9pm, 13 Feb, Malmesbury.

3. **County Councillors Report**

Cllr Groom sent her apologies and notes from which the Chairman read out the salient items:

a. Wiltshire Police Authority report - Development plans guided by three essential elements.

1. What the people of Wiltshire say and want, 2. Government guidelines, and 3. Setting a balanced spending plan with value for money.

2003/4 plan and budget aims: 37 extra police officers on high visibility policing; newly created Police Community Support Officers; better use of technology to release paperwork burden; experimenting with trained civilian staff to work custody duties; a new Regional Crime Unit; improving call handling service; increased investment in forensic expertise and analytical capability; all for an increase in council tax of an average 40p per week.

b. WCC recommended a budget of M£362.9 which will result in council tax increase of 10.8%. Services that will benefit include those for older people, those with learning difficulties, and physical disabilities by providing more care to more people.

Cllr Groom also provided 7x WCC news releases - please see Clerk for a copy.

4. **District Councillors Report -**

The recommended increase in Council tax for NWDC is 3.84% for the coming year.

Extra - £30,000 on concessionary fares; £20,000 on removal of abandoned vehicles, £21,000 on leisure centres £54,000 on the state of the District debate which highlighted the need to clean up the streets of chewing gum etc.

Net savings of 250,000 has also been proposed to help support the above rises.

NWDC is still working hard to have the Rural Buffer Zone excluded from the Principle Urban Area Study (Swindon). An interesting discussion was held on the meaning of Rural Buffer Zone.

5. **PQT**

- a. Mrs J Willies - enquired about the legality of cars parking on the grass verges and banks; A - Illegal -she will note the registration numbers and has already informed the school. Clerk to make PC Saunders aware of this situation.
- b. It was reported that the hedge belonging to Orwell House has overgrown the pavement - a letter had already been sent to Mr Gray.
- c. Mrs Redford resubmitted a request that three trees be planted, one to replace a previous tree for Mr , and two to celebrate the long years service of Mr Payne and Mr Woolford.
- d. Mr Ricketts - G.Hiscocks,WCC, had promised a year ago they would re surface roads in LM and suggested LMPC badger WCC more regularly about the poor state of the roads.
- e. Mr New - concerned about the effect on Parish Hall bookings if the Jubilee Clubhouse was to be hired out in a similar way. The Chairman acknowledged this and confirmed that this would be taken into account when setting the hire rate.
Mr New also wanted assurances that a drinks licence would not be applied for at the Jubilee Club House. - Chairman said a licence would not be sought. Mr New made a suggestion that this ought to be stipulated in Standing Orders to prevent future Chairmen reversing the decision.
- f. Taking into account a recent tragedy whereby a tree fell onto a school playground, it was requested that the trees along The Butts and school grounds be checked regularly.
A - WCC do regularly check their School trees; as does the land-owner in The Butts.
- g. It was noted that the Parish Council send regular letters, requesting hedges be kept under control. Could anything be done about the land owners whose trees drop leaves and subsequently block up drains, causing the Local Councils and WCC to spend out tax payers money to clear.
- h. Mr Wicks again requested that Greenhill road be resurfaced, as was promised in 1998.
- i. The replacement of the Saunders' bungalow in Greenhill has caused the churning up of the grass verge opposite. Parish Council to ask the Builders to make good the verge.
- j. Clark's yard and the Caravans in Greenhill. When is eviction due? Clerk to check.
- k. Hedge between Blackfords and the Nursery is still in need of trimming back.
- l. Ditch at the bottom of Greenhill, the land owner had cleared some of the sludge out, but has not completed the job satisfactorily.
- m. Mr Ricketts reported a tree had fallen in The Beeches during the high winds of late, and one more tree is in danger of falling.

6. **Councillors Reports** of Parishioners Queries. None.

7. **Report on Matters Arising.**

- a. The Bicycle has been taken away from Ch.Springs bus stop.
- b. Salt bins are now in place in Greenhill, top and bottom of the hill.
- c. 'No through sign' has been placed at Buryfield entrance but not at The Crescent.
- d. Community Transport meeting was attended by Chairman - see item 15.
- e. BT Manhole, - unsatisfactory reply.

8. **Planning Applications - None**
NWDC Permissions Granted

02/02579/FUL Erection of store for Hay and Farm Implements at end of footpath, Greenhill.
02/02824/FUL Side and rear extension and garage extension at 8 Greatfield.

9. Accounts	(Includes VAT *)
000838 J E Frost, PC sums and extras	£12,521.97*
000840 Lydiards Magazine annual sub	£ 5.00

000841 Mazars - External audit y/e 31.3.02	£ 293.75*
000842 A R Woodward - clock chimes	£ 117.50*
000843 Thames Water - Cemetery/Sports	£ 25.59
000844 L Parsons Clerk of Works	£ 2,555.50
000845 G & C M Saunders ground maint.	£ 110.00
000846 R A Nicholas White Lines Sports	£ 67.50
000847 British Gas - Jubilee Clubhouse	£ 80.33
000848 Haines Fencing - Boundary Stones	£ 1,949.00
000849 Mrs R Leckie one month salary	£ 185.00
000850 Mrs R Leckie expenses	£ 101.49

J E Frost - 5% outstanding to be paid after six month retention period

The above accounts were proposed by Cllr Quartly Bishop and seconded by Cllr Brimacombe.

Following a brief resume of the Frost account by the Chairman, a questions was raised by Cllr Holloway as the cheque includes an amount to cover the extra foundation work which was not shown on the Plans. Should it be incumbent on the Architect to get the plans correct?. There would be no claim against the builder as he discussed the issue of the sloping land with the Recreation Field Committee prior to starting work.

10. **Venue for 2003 meetings.** This item was put back to March meeting when it is hoped more of the established Councillors will be available to discuss the issue.
11. **Ground Maintenance Contracts.** - G Saunders contract has been rewritten to remove the recreation ground tasks. It was agreed that as there has not been a competitive tender for at least three years this should be carried out. New contract begin 1st April.
Mr Nicholas's contract was commenced one year ago - waste collections to be added.
12. **Parish Lengthsmen** - various work done - strimming, cleaning signs, removing rubbish.
13. **Mrs Ricketts** request to use Lydiard Plain. - the information collected on the use of and rights over the plain have been inconclusive - further advice to be sought from WCC.
14. **WCC - Community Emergency Volunteer** - Cllr Bennett took the relevant information.

15. **Committee Reports**

- a. Clubhouse - Frost account agreed by Rec.Field committee, small reduction negotiated with Builder following review by Clerk of Works.
- b. Fire Officer report still awaited re number allowed in building - Architect chasing.
- c. Cricket Club Container - NWDC is considering enforcement action, as it transpires it

- needs planning permission. Chairman has advised NWDC of all relevant information.
- d. Store Shed - NWDC has deferred approval, & has asked for a pitched roof. This would make storing Goalposts difficult, and obscure the Play Area from the proposed webcam. Further representations made to NWDC by the Architect. Quotation for build £21,500, approved, without further quotes. Balance in hand approx. £20,000, some of which could go towards replacement of swings in the Mews - quotes needed.
 - e. Webcam - technical delays. Cllr Holloway asked about the frequency, broadband etc, & proposed viewing arrangements. Useful comments made - Rec.Field comm. to review.
 - f. Car Park - remaining white Lines still awaiting suitable weather.
 - g. Chippings are now being spread on the play area.
 - h. Play Area - RoSPA inspection report comparable with previous year - no major defects. Monthly inspection OK, but still seeking bolt. Next inspection by Cllr Revere.
 - i. Boundary Stones - now all paid. Complaint by sponsor of one stone - Chairman to reply. Regular sample wobble tests suggested to ensure the stones are secure.
 - j. Millennium bal. approx. £1,200 - tree planting now needs quick action before Spring. Agreed - Millennium Comm to be re-convened; (maps and walks now selling slowly).
 - k. Community Transport meeting attended by Chairman. Approx. 10 parishes now looking into Link Schemes, with Wootton Bassett & Cricklade running mini-buses to GWH.
 - m. Community Safety Partnership meeting Tuesday 11th Feb. Cllr Quartly Bishop unable to attend. No other offers, but Cllr Groom often attends.
 - n. Clerk reported on her NWDC seminar on Planning.

16. Correspondence.

MP Gray letter - re Vital Villages Grant - possible Parish Plan option. - Agenda Next Month.
Letter of complaint re Cemetery / general state of Parish from Mrs H Thompson. - Clerk reply.
Kennet and North Wiltshire NHS - Chairman to write about lack of parking spaces.
Seminar on Pollution and its effects, 17th March 2003 - any volunteers?.
Letter from J Hunt of The Butts re Drains - noted.
NWDC leaflets on Rural Arts - see Clerk, samples to The Lydiards.
Validate UK leaflets available.

Meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

Date of next meeting Thursday 6th March in the Parish Hall.