

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Thursday 6th March 2003

Present: Cllrs Pepperall Chair, Baker, Bennett, Brimacombe, A Cole, P Cole, Groom, Holloway, Quartly Bishop, Revere, and Saunders.

1. Apologies - none.

One minute silence was held for the late Mrs J Vincent, and condolences were said. Letter of condolence from Lydiard Tregoze, and message from Mrs M Voaden.

2. Confirm Minutes - amended to add Mr Stiggers name to PQT c.

3. County Councillors Report

M Groom reported that the safe route to school has had to overcome a great many obstacles, in order to get a workable plan in to save the £25,000 Grant. WCC and LMPC have now produced a scheme to reduce the traffic, with 30mph through The Street and two more narrowed traffic calming sections.

M Groom is urging Lydiard Millicent, Lydiard Tregoze and Purton to organise presentations to prevent extra traffic using our roads, as it is expected that an extra 7,000 cars will be on the roads from new developments in the future.

Stone Lane is an accident black spot and M Groom lobbied hard that we were promised action on the road in 2002/3 not 2003/4. WCC are to re-look at this issue.

4. District Councillors Report -

D Cllr Packham arrived during PQT and explained that it was unlawful for him to give a personal opinion on the proposed 8 new houses. However, he could suggest pointers.

He reminded those present at the meeting to keep all objections factual, & that the NW Local Plan 2001 should be the first place to look. The most difficult area to object was inside the Village boundary, and Policy RH8, 3 and 4 might help.

Outside the boundary is RBZ and this we could challenge - see Policy RH10. Adverse affects on Amenities and Physical limits needed to be minded.

The Emerging Plan H3 - development of framework housing could also be looked at.

5. PQT

The room was packed and the Chairman asked that only 3 minutes per question and only 3 persons per subject. A Petition against the Mews planning application was handed around the room for those wishing to object, then placed in the post office for a period.

Mr Ricketts - Enquired if the state of the roads had been reported and asked the Council to keep chasing WCC.

Mr E Hayes - Reported a tree in a dangerous condition close to the Woolford boundary stone on Stone Lane.

Mr Wicks - asked LMPC to chase WCC for Greenhill Road resurfacing, and said the hedge between Blackfords and the Nursery had still not been trimmed.

Mr Woods - Brought the Council up to date on the C70, since a visit by G Hiscocks of the Highway department the hedges have been cut right back, but the promised clearing of the storm drains and ditches have not been done.

Mr Woods - Pointed out the the lack of white lines on the humps through The Street is causing unnecessary distress to public in wheelchairs, travelling in ambulance vehicles as the drivers are not seeing the humps soon enough.

Mr New - Commented on the proposed change of venue to Jubilee Club House, he enquired as to whether or not the council had tables and chairs yet and could we check the old minute books, because he felt it must be minuted that the Council could have free rental of the hall.

Mrs Blackmore - Brought the protest with regard to the proposed new 8 house development end of the Mews. The development would be partly within the RBZ, but mostly she was concerned that Cllr Packham was not appearing to be wholly against the development. She asked why the public noticee were so small, and why none of the immediate residents of The Mews had received a letter.

Answer - D Cllr Packham answered the notice was standard size and the Planning Team did not legally have to inform by letter, - the norm. is for letters to go out if the development is within 5 metres of their homes. He also pointed out that he personally knocked on the doors of the residents of The Mews to inform them of the proposed development.

Mrs Aitkin - Lives the closest to the site and did not receive a letter from NWDC.

Mr P Green - Asked of D Cllr Packham if the members would be supporting the objection.

Answer - The members would all have to make up their own minds, based on all the information to hand. The more letters of protest then the more they will note the feelings of the public.

Mr R Bath - Asked for a definition of starter home - Answer this is a debatable issue, the proposed houses appear to look similar to those built in Hook Street. It was pointed out that this is outline planning and should it be granted, the final plans may not look anything like the outline drawings.

It was asked if an extension of time could be sought from NWDC. Answer - No. However, the members room do continue to receive emails, faxes and letters up to approx. an hour before the meeting. The meeting is a public meeting and anyone can attend. Anyone wishing to attend and speak, needs to register by 6.30p.m.

A Section 106 agreement was mentioned - The Public and the Parish Council, needed to consider what conditions they might wish to be placed on the development should it be granted. An agreement such as a Section 106 might state that the homes must be purchased by the local residents for a certain amount of time.

It was asked if Access to the site could be objected to on safety grounds, being that the only access route to the whole of the estate is serviced by one road.

Mrs Shimmings agreed and pointed out that developments snowball and the emergency services were against the Chestnut Springs development in the first instance.

Mrs Blackmore was concerned over the loss of the turning access at bottom of The Mews.

Answer on the Access - It was noted that Highways and the Services are always asked to give a ruling on planning applications and they may indeed object.

Concerns were raised over the ransom strip and possible future coalescence. Answer it is the norm to put in ransom strips, and although the concerns of coalescence are very real, the planning team must take each application on its own merit. Precedence cannot be taken into consideration.

6. Councillors Reports

M Groom - Mrs J Mills of Springfield has sent a complaint that she has re-seeded and turfed the verge outside her home and vehicles especially a land rover and trailer are continuing to churn it up. Could the Parish Council offer any help?

Cllr Holloway - reported 5 hours and more of scrambling of bikes at rear of old Methodist Church, - thought to be visiting family. Answer - Report to the Environmental Officers, NWDC each time, and keep a record of date and length of sessions.

Mrs Tye - has been reminded that she or others need to continue to report incidents at Riffs Bar or else the Environmental Officers will consider the matter closed.

Mrs Cole - The No Through sign has still not been placed at The Crescent, Common Platt. Notice Board in The Street is wobbling - seek quote to fix securely.

7. Report on Matters Arising.

Cllr Bennett had attended the seminar for budding councillors, which he found very useful, - Chaired by Frank Egleton of a nearby Parish, supported by Phillipa Read of Community First.

Cllr Pepperall - had re-examined the extra costs of the Jubilee Club House with the Architect and the Clerk of Works and confirmed that the excess was anticipated and duly payable.

Cllr Pepperall reported on a seminar attended on Common Land and Greens at Trowbridge.

Cllr Bennett had agreed to be the Community Emergency Volunteer for the Parish Council.

8. Planning

03/00456/OUT Outline - erection of eight semi-detached dwelling on land adj The Mews It is approx. 50/50 within Boundary Building Line and RBZ. It was agreed to object to this application, but due to its complexity and importance, it was decided to set up a sub committee of B Baker, M Groom, P Cole and T Pepperall, who will sift through the various policies and produce a strong objection on the Council's behalf.

03/00263/TCA Tree Surgery work at Honeywood House - Support.

02/02470/FUL Single storey conversion at Highlands had been withdrawn - Property sold

03/00442/FUL, 03/00496/LBC Conservatory at Priory Cottage - Listed Building - Support.

03/00484/FUL 10 Beech Drive, Common Platt - No Adverse Comment.

Pre Application Mobile Mast Consultation with Vodafone, 3 sites have been earmarked, 2 on Barretts land and 1 on Perrins land. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to draw attention to the unused site back of Toomers and share with Orange. Alternatively to share the existing site currently on Barretts land, which would increase the size. More consultation needed.

Approvals - Jubilee Club House, Store Shed.

Cemetery - Kerb Set requests - the Late Sidney and Doris Potter, & the Late Alfred and Sybil Gay. Approval given.

9. Accounts

000851 Mrs R Leckie - one month salary	£185.00
000852 Mrs R Leckie - one months expenses	£ 87.01
000853 G & C M Saunders - final payment	£110.00
000854 R A Nicholas - White Lining	£ 67.50
000855 K Manning - Keyboard for Jubilee Club House	£ 20.00
000856 T Pepperall - Common Land Seminar -Travel	£ 35.00

The accounts were proposed by B Baker and seconded by D Revere - there were no objections.

9a. Mr Meredith has asked if he can continue to rent the Grass Keep for a further year. It was agreed to allow this to continue at the same rate of £1,000 for the summer period.

10. Venue for 2003 meetings.

For two or three months now the general consensus of groups such as WALC is that Parish Halls should now charge their Parish Councils for the use of the Halls.

The argument for moving to the Jubilee Club house is: The building is ours, we can seat up to 50, to remain in the Hall will incur costs. It would be good for the Hall Committee to be able to obtain regular weekly bookings, rather than our monthly one. There would still be financial help to the Hall Committee on such items as the security lighting.

The argument against moving to the Jubilee Club House is: Strong feelings that public meetings such as Parish Meetings should be in a Public Place. It is the most likely place that visiting speakers would look for, it is more accessible, and the main roads are gritted in bad weather. It is central to the village and would be worth paying for. P. C. meetings are a public service.

It was agreed overall that the money was not the main issue. A vote was taken to move to the Jubilee Club House - 1 vote for, 5 against, 4 abstentions. It was agreed to remain at the Parish Hall, but use the Jubilee Club House as an alternative venue. Cllr Brimacombe to report back to the Parish Hall Committee.

11. Ground Maintenance Contracts. -

Mr G Saunders had retired as Parish groundsman. Quotations are being sought from Mr Nicholas who currently marks the Recreation Field pitches, and would be offered the remaining tasks attached to the Field. Cllr Baker suggested that Mr Steve Jeans may like to tender for the Highway and Cemetery Section of the Contract.

12. Common Land. - Cllr Pepperall had attended a Seminar on Common Land. He was able to ask specific questions of the QC who took the meeting, with regard to the possible use to exercise horses on Lydiard Plain. It was made very clear that we took over as Stewards of land as it was in 1929 and may only maintain its existing purposes. ie grazing of cattle. A letter had been drafted and sent to Mrs Ricketts explaining this. Common Land is for public enjoyment of walking and taking air etc. excepting the bridle way which can be used by riders. It was also noted that a Pond can be a village green.

13. Decision on use of Common Land for exercising horses. - see **12** above.

14. Tree Planting.- to be organised through the Millennium Committee, a meeting will be arranged and advertised.

15. Parish Plan - Purpose of plan is to plan the future of the village such as changes required, conservation, type of housing, shape of village. It facilitates the District Council when they consider planning applications, etc. It would be central to our defence against unwanted planning applications. Central figure needed to co-ordinate. Need not be a Councillor but would need to be Council lead. Cllr J Bennett volunteered to help begin the process.

Not something to be embarked on lightly - presentations could be arranged.

The Clerk asked if the Parish Council were aware of how much an appraisal will cost. Answer Grants are available, another parish had a grant of approx. £4,000, so we could be similar.

District Councillor Packham - added that Village Statements and Appraisals are not entirely the same and recommended the Parish Appraisal.

Next Step - Chair to contact Phillipa Read of Community First to arrange a presentation .

16. Committee Reports.

Club House Approval has now been given for Store Shed. Agreed Frost to start in April.. No Clerk of Works required this time, although he has offered to help with supplementary contract.

Telephone line now been installed at the Club House - 999 calls only. Chair to purchase a wall mounted telephone.

Recreation Field Contracts being renegotiated, Play area report, Cllr Revere - gate to be repaired, next inspection Cllr Pepperall.

Boundary Stones Letter from J Woolford - site visit to be arranged with Cllrs Pepperall, Revere, Mr J Woolford and the original contractor.

Open Gardens Cllr Baker has agreed to organise this event again.

The Mews Play Area Quotes for a replacement Swing will now be sought.

17. Correspondence

Best Kept Village Competition 2003 - If we entered it would enable the school to enter a poster competition. It was agreed to enter. Cllr Holloway to write a 100 words about the village.

Clerk will send details of the application to Cllr Holloway and help fill in the entry form.

Lapwing Survey - Posters to go up.

WALC County Circular - Item that would be of interest to Parish Hall Committee, - Mrs P Guest, indicated that she does not receive this circular. Clerk passed on a copy.

Mobile Library Service - Clerk to chase for new schedules in time for Magazine printing.

Freedom of Information Act - Our Schedule has been accepted - Clerk and Chair to look at what needs publishing and when and report back next month.

Help with providing Bus Shelters available again this year.

This prompted discussion on sweeping of bus shelter at Greatfield - this needs adding to new Maintenance Contract.

Vital Villages Grant - Application Forms received - Parish Appraisals / Plans included.

18. Date of next meeting Thursday 3rd April 2003 in The Parish Hall

Due to Election day on 1st May the **next Council meeting will be on Thursday 24th April 2003.**

Date of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting Thursday 15th May 2003