

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES 6th July 2006

1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Baker, Holloway, Quartly Bishop, & Smith.
Present: Cllrs Pepperall (Chair), Bennett, Groom, Harris, Pflieger, & Saunders.

2. Housekeeping – Clerk issued Fire Alarm instructions to six members of the public.

3. Minutes of meeting 1st June 2006

It was noted that 8f, Issues on Washpool, was specific, and not as recorded general to the village. The minutes were then signed as a true record. Approved by Cllr Pflieger and seconded by Cllr Harris.

Minutes of APM 25th May 2006 - these minutes will be delayed until August.

4. Local PC report.

No Police report - it was requested by Cllrs that the Clerk formally ask for a report next month.

5. County Councillor's report and questions arising -see full report at end of Minutes
Cllr Groom had attended the **South West Regional Assembly** seminar held at 'Steam'.

Due to strong representation and rallying last year, there are now 21 centres proposed for large-scale growth; in addition market towns are marked for a lesser degree of growth and some villages for small growth.

The work of the task group (on which Cllr Groom sat) on the proposed **Croft Road/Hay Lane Link**, Hay Lane, is nearly completed with a report expected shortly.

Cllr Groom reported that '**ACKnowledge**' (a new web-based database that can manage and analyse consultations) has been launched, and is being customised for Wiltshire's requirements. It will be accessible via the Wiltshire and Swindon Intelligence Network, and Wiltshire's internet and intranet sites.

Pathways for change.

The task group have spent much time questioning and challenging the PCTs on various issues and at the recent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee determined a long list of questions to be presented to the PCT on 14th July.

Clearer drawn parameters for the care packages are needed for patients leaving hospital.

Dept of Adult and Child Services

Cllr Groom reported that big changes are taking place, which will affect us all. To help the public keep up to date, there is a freephone helpline 0845 6071707, a special DACS recovery plan section on the intranet and the internet, or email dacs@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Northern Community Area Partnership has asked Cllr Groom to request the S.W.Reg. Assembly that Green Belt status is given to the existing narrow Rural Buffer Zone which separates our villages from Swindon.

6. District Councillor's report and questions arising.

The full Council is required to agree the **Gambling Act 2005**, NWDC Statement of Principles.

Parking Decriminalisation is due to come into force in September and appropriate notices are being displayed in newspapers, libraries and Council offices.

The Inspector's report relating to the **Local Plan** has been published in time to meet deadlines regarding the changeover to the **Regional Spatial Strategy** requirements for local development framework documents.

I shall be attending the S.W. Regional Assembly on 14th July, as NWDC representative.

7. Parishioner's Question Time.

Concerns were raised over the developments at No 1 The Mews. Several trees had been removed from the grass verge, a retaining wall knocked down, and fencing had been concreted in around the site encompassing the grass verge.

The Council was asked if the new owner had established rights over the land, and if building permission was required for the 6' fence. NWDC and WCC are being asked for guidance.

8. Councillors' reports of Parishioners' queries.

Update on Yellow Box for Park Lane - letter sent. To be chased after 14th July.

Walnut Tree Gardens planning application has been withdrawn.

Cllr Saunders commented that a cluster of signs were on the corner of field at Greatfield Crossroads. A new one had recently been erected advertising a DIY company - did they require planning permission? Cllr Harris replied that the DIY sign was advertising Blackfords DIY and that he had asked the field owner's permission.

Cllr Harris asked if the HGVs using the Common Platt road had been reported to the Police. The Clerk confirmed that they had, but no reply had been received.

An update on the Magpie problem in the village was requested. The Clerk had sought help from the Environmental Department and had been told there was nothing that can be done - it is a natural phenomenon.

9. Report on matters arising from 1st June 2006 not on the main agenda.

Request for a quote on a large Parish Notice Board with sliding doors - the original craftsman has declined, but another has agreed to quote.

The Clerk had been monitoring School Buses and was still awaiting a reply from some of the bus companies – deferred to next month.

(All the above items are for information only).

10. Planning Applications

06/01278/TCA Tree Surgery to Walnut Tree at Manor House, Church Place. **Support.**

06/01626/FUL Extension to Reception Classroom, External Hard Play Area, & Canopy at Lydiard Millicent C of E School. Cllr Groom declared an interest in this application. **Support.**

1 The Mews. The grass verges around many of the houses in Chestnut Springs belonged to the developing company 'Brieffels'. When this company ceased trading, any land (ie verges) may have reverted to The Crown. Mrs Moody was most concerned when she was informed about the fence, but now has no legal interest. The Chairman has contacted both NWDC and WCC but neither of them maintains the land in question. WCC do maintain other grass areas. It was suggested a letter be sent by the Council to the owner of No 1 The Mews, to request proof of ownership.

It was agreed by the Council carry out a Land Registry search to establish ownership.

It was also agreed to contact NWDC with reference to planning permission and the fence.

NWDC Planning Approvals

06/00937/FUL Front Side and Rear Extensions at 79 Chestnut Springs.

NWDC Planning Refusals

06/01051/FUL Erection of First Floor Extension Above Garage and Erection of Detached Dwelling to the side at 1, The Mews.

06/00971/CLE Use of Caravan as Residence, The Stable Block, Woodside End, Greensend.

11. Accounts (*incl. VAT)

		£'s
Mrs R Leckie	Wages	243.75
Inside Out Ltd	Groundsman	260.00
LMPHall	Rental for meeting	16.00
Staples	Computer Stationery	68.27*
Mr J Frost	JCH Repair of Fire Door	35.25*
Mr M Smith	Cemetery Spoil Removal	50.00
Income for June - Cemetery £100, JCH hire £152.		

The above accounts were proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Saunders.

Praise was given to the Groundsman who appears to be making a difference.

A further Dial a Ride donation was agreed, but held until further details of their financial circumstances are known for this year. Purton P.C. to be asked if they are contributing again.

11a. Discussion re Pre-School Donation

Decision had been delayed, due to concerns. A meeting had been held with the Pre-School and other agencies, which had proved helpful. They still need planning permission, and may not need the funds until December. However, they do need a letter of support confirming a donation. A Proposal of a £1,000 will be proposed next month.

11b. Approve accounts 2005/6.

Copies had been circulated previously and no adverse comments were received. The Annual Return form was approved, signed, and minuted, ready to go to the Auditors. The Internal Audit had taken place and only a few minor comments had been made. The accounts were proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Groom.

12. Committee Reports.

Recreation Field. Boules area fence had been broken for the second time in a month. The new reflectors on the Chain had been stolen, and the post reflectors broken again. JCH Fire door had been jamming and was repaired urgently for safety reasons. Cemetery Spoil removed, but new spoil from graves before new system put in place. Hedge at far end to have further attention shortly.

13. Parish Plan.

Post Office. Grant offer from Rural Renaissance still awaited. Confirmation needed that it will be front loaded, 100% upfront, rather than 25% every three months over the year. No work can start until this grant has been received and accepted. Planning application may be needed for the Post Office 'lozenge' sign on the verge. Draft licence agreements have been drawn up and sent to Toomers, for Solicitor's approval. Initial advertisement has been placed in the Lydiards Magazine for volunteer staff. Holborn footpath. The Chairman had attended an NCAP public meeting where the Charities Information Bureau rep. offered the name of an organisation called 'Prohelp'. They provide volunteer services for community projects. An application for help has been submitted and they meet on 31st July when application will be discussed. This funding will enable the plans to be drawn and tenders to be achieved. A cycle path was suggested. This had been considered and would increase the costs, but the width of the verge may not be enough.

14. Parish Notice Boards

See Item 9. It was noted that Tregoze and Broadtown have new boards, with lockable doors.

15. Highway Traffic – see mins 200605 8f and 8g.

The Chairman had spoken with several Parish Councillors since the last meeting and it was suggested that a Sub-Committee be set up to look at a wider range of highway issues. Washpool and Stone Lane suffer from drivers finding alternative routes to avoid the traffic calming in the centre of village. The Northern Development is still bringing extra traffic, and will do so for another 3 years. WCC Highways have no money for new footpaths. There are good reasons to seek funding or help from Swindon B.C. over the shared Washpool road, when we have approved proposals. There are two walkways from the Swindon housing estate in Common Platt and pedestrians and school children use them daily, walking dangerously around the blind bend to catch buses to Swindon. Similar dangers are found in Stone Lane, Lydiard Green and at Greatfield crossroads. Sub Committee to be made up of Cllrs Bennett, Harris, Pepperall, Pflieger, and Smith. Solutions could involve Truck Watch, and the new Parish Steward (Lengthsmen) scheme. Discussions should include all traffic, parking, road and footpath problems.

16. Vacancy for Webmaster.

Mr P Windo has indicated he would like to relinquish his voluntary post of Webmaster of our Parish web site at the end of the financial year. His expertise, time and dedication will be greatly missed. A volunteer will need to be found to take over well in advance of that date.

Vacancy for Councillor. Notices have been advertised, and co-options could be made after 14th July, if no response has been made to NWDC. A proposal for Co-option, in case of need, will be included on the 4th August Agenda.

17. Correspondence

1. Waste and Minerals documents for consultation.
2. SBC Statement of Community Involvement - consultation.
3. SBC Local Plan 2011 - Notice of Intention to Adopt. (Cllr Groom had sent objections)
4. Mobile Library Service - any comments.
5. Splash Activities Sheet 2006 - see Clerk.
6. WCC Invitation to informal evening meeting, Parish and Town Councillors.
7. Draft Regional Spatial Strategy - Consultation Document - Sub committee to respond - Cllrs Pepperall, Bennett & Groom.
8. NWDC Dev Control Committee Agenda 28th June 2006 - no items for LMPC.
9. LMPC Cllr Casual Vacancy Notice.
10. Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Area 2 Committee – Items for next Agenda welcome.
11. CEPO update - newsletters - see Clerk.
12. Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust – ‘Thank You for £25.00’ and Newsletter - see Clerk.
13. WALC. Annual Report 2005/2006.
14. NWDC Core Strategy issues and options - comments and responses - see NWDC web site.
15. Future Area Committees Survey, & Workshops in W.Bassett 26th July.
16. Parish Steward Scheme. This will replace the Lengthsmen in due course. Jobs will be prioritised and allocated rather than finding jobs to be done in the days allotted. Some work will be carried out more efficiently with the help of one of the Unimog machines.
17. Resident had responded to Clerks request to cut their hedge on the corner of Stone Lane and Common Platt. They need support to cut hedge along the roadside - Clerk to discuss what and when help is needed, then seek volunteers.

18. Date of next meeting Thursday 3rd August 2006 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

9.50 meeting closed.

Minutes approved 3.8.06.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR's FULL REPORT

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

I attended the seminar at STEAM.

The strong points we (and others across the Region) made last year regarding not all growth and funding being concentrated at eleven centres across the Region over the twenty-six year period has been taken on board and, as a result

- i) there are now twenty-one centres proposed for large-scale growth;
- ii) in addition market towns are marked for a lesser degree of growth;
- iii) and some villages for small growth.

The subjects of sustainability and climate change have emerged with many nice-sounding words but we felt that both sustainability and climate change suggestions had to be firmed up in practical terms.

PROPOSED CROFT ROAD/HAY LANE LINK

The work of the Task Group, which I requested on the proposed Croft Road/Hay Lane link, is nearing completion, and the report is expected shortly. It was due to the pressure which our local Parish Council Chairmen, CPRE and Lord and Lady Inchcape brought to bear that I was asked to be an observer. This Task Group is the only one where the person requesting the Task Group has not been allowed to sit on it and so

have a vote. The Clerk appointed to the Group previously had worked in the Transport Department. It was useful to be able to take shorthand because the reporting was not accurate and so I sent in amended reports. However I believe that the exercise was useful and should bring in a strong report.

ACKnowledge is the new E-Consultation Tool for Wiltshire.

It is a web-based database that can manage and analyse consultations. It was originally developed for Leeds City Council as part of the ODPM funded Knowledge Management Programme. This consultation tool is currently being customised for Wiltshire's requirements and will be accessible via the Wiltshire and Swindon Intelligence Network under the Consultation tab. This tool will also be accessible via Wiltshire's internet and intranet sites.

It will be possible to conduct consultations, ask questions, download results from surveys and respond to quick online polls. ACK should help to make cost savings on regular postal consultations.

Tests and training sessions are taking place. Corporate Research aims to provide customised levels of consultation as a service across the County, depending on user requirements.

PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE

I serve on the Task Group and we have spent much time questioning and challenging the PCTs on various issues, not least of which were community hospitals, care centres and equity across the County. At the main Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee we determined a long list of questions which we intend to present to the PCT on 14th July. Locally of particular concern was that packages of care for patients leaving hospital were not being implemented. There appear to be gaps in the implementation of practice and so I have asked that we have very clearly drawn parameters for 'Health' and 'Social Care' with definite links to Mental Health and Continuing Community Care. Unfortunately I am unable to attend meeting on 14th July because it clashes with the South West Regional Assembly meeting in Exeter.

DEPARTMENT OF ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The following helpful and informative message has been compiled by John Thomson - WCC deputy leader, and the cabinet member responsible for adult and community services:

You are no doubt aware that this is a period of great change in DACS - and it is affecting us all. We appreciate it is a very unsettling time and we are very keen to make sure you are kept up to date with everything. You are our much valued and vital link with our service users and it is really important that you know what is going on so you can help spread that message.

Keeping in touch

To help you keep up to date with changes we have set up a number of ways to help you keep informed:

- Free phone helpline 0845 6071707 - you or your service users can call this for the latest information
- Special DACS recovery plan section on the intranet and the internet. There are links off the home page. These are regularly updated.
- Questions and Answers - we know you have got lots to ask - we have done our best to answer them.

Send us more and we will share them on the intranet.

- Face to Face sessions. These really do give you a chance to ask politicians and officers about the progress of The recovery plan - and what it might mean to you. We have lots organised - and there is bound to be one near you. You will be getting an invite very soon.
- We now have a dedicated e-mail line - and we want to hear your suggestions as well as your queries. Just send to dacs@wiltshire.gov.uk

Your questions

Q. So why are we changing?

The short answer is that we just cannot carry on providing adult care services in the same way as before - the cost is just too high. So we have to start looking at the way we provide services and see if we can do it differently in a way that will work for our users now and in the future. That might mean providing alternative services in the community - e.g. swapping meals on wheels for a cheap and tasty pub lunch.

Q. But why now?

Changes to the way we provide services were already being planned over the next five years but a substantial shortfall in our budget - partly due to the NHS funding crisis - means we have to start those changes now. We are currently overspending at the rate of £160,000 per week! The new policy on how we assess people for care is now in effect and all managers should be using the new policy when assessing new clients and reviewing existing ones at review.

Q. But what about those people who really need our services?

Our priority is to provide or fund services to those at greatest risk. The council will be working with carers, service users and voluntary organisations to determine how services will be delivered in the future and ways that alternative services can be provided in the community. And remember - no changes will take place without proper notification

Q. How can I help shape the future and get involved?

We will be looking for staff with the experience of working in the service areas affected. While doing nothing is not an option, what is put in place instead and how that will be done will need your knowledge and ideas. Over the next few weeks and months:

New DACS director plans for the future

New interim Director Ian Davey, 54, will be with WCC from the beginning of July for six months. He is currently interim director of adult social services and housing at the London Boro. of Sutton where he has been for more than two years. Mr Davey said he is looking forward to working in Wiltshire. "The main thing I'll be working on is to get social services on the road to financial recovery.

I appreciate it is a challenging task in terms of the financial position facing the department but WCC has a great reputation on which we can build and I am confident we can do it. I have already had the chance to meet some of you and I know I will be working with a good team". I will be establishing staff reference groups and holding workshops. Information will be made available nearer the time for individual services. However if you are impatient to get involved in shaping the future, ideas and commitment are always needed. Information about getting involved is available on the website.

Case histories

There are already instances where we are changing the way we deliver services. For many people it can really improve their lives and open up new opportunities. Below are just two examples from DACS.

Daisy's Day Care.

Daisy is in her 80's and feels strongly that she has reached this age due to her belief in exercise and health living. Rather than opting for day care she attends her local

swimming pool once a week. The swimming pool has facilities to enable older people or people with disabilities to get into the water safely and this was built into her care plan. Benefits paid for her transport to and from the pool. She could manage the personal parts of her dressing and undressing and pool staff did the non personal bits until recently. Once this became difficult we agreed some care to help her as this was personal care and we felt justified.

Pub grub proves a winner

Men particularly find the concept of day care difficult and historically many of the activities at day centres lean towards making things or playing games. In a South Wiltshire village there was a small group of men who were appalled at the idea of day care, but due to bereavement, loss of mobility, and poor motivation needed some social outlet and a mid day meal. A local pub came to the rescue - set the day, cooked up a low cost meal and provided mini bus transport for the men to have a pub lunch, - to socialise with each other and increase motivation.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Click onto the DACS recovery plan website, email us at dacs@wiltshire.gov.uk or call our helpline on **0845 6071707**.