

**LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007

**Present:** Cllrs T Pepperall (Chair), J Bennett (Vice-Chair), B Baker, S Burley, M Groom, A Harris, J Holloway, A Pflieger, E Quartly-Bishop, V Saunders, N Smith.

1. **Apologies for absence** - no apologies needed.
2. **Housekeeping** Fire Alarm instructions issued to 18 Parishioners and 11 Councillors.
3. **Minutes of meeting 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007** were amended at No 15 item 4 changed 'The Street' to 'The Close'. Item 7h changed 'Walnut Tree Close' to 'Walnut Tree Gardens' The minutes were then signed as a true copy.
4. **Local PC report.** PC Steve Porter is our new Constable but was not present.

**5a County Councillor's report and questions arising.**

a. Pathways for Change Health Scrutiny.

Some constituencies appear to be receiving a larger share of the budgets than others. Health Care Teams have been installed and Cllr Groom was able to report that a patient brought to her attention received his health care package within two days of being assessed. There will be a 3 month overlap, and no services will be removed until replacement services are up and running.

b. NCAP

Feasibility Study for Broad Town is underway; involving a School, Car Park, new Village Hall, and affordable housing. The land has been given by a farmer.

Leisure Centre letters were written to all the leaders, and a Platform at the Northern Community Area Partnership meeting has been made available to discuss the issues with Carol O'Gorman, March 27<sup>th</sup> at Memorial Hall, Wootton Bassett.

Care for the Elderly open meeting to be held at Silver Threads, Purton, March 7th.

c. Rights of Way Improvement Plan WCC has embarked on a plan to improve Public Rights of way throughout the County.

d. Petitioners for traffic improvements to Common Platt and Washpool were disappointed to note that they could have missed the Regulatory Committee meeting had Cllr Groom not publicised it. They were also concerned that their petition had not been forwarded on to WCC. They were not aware of the protocol and had expected the Council to send it to the correct department.

The Chairman in response informed the meeting that the Petition been accepted by the Highways sub committee and the Content and impetus behind it has been taken forward. The recent Safety Camera Partnership survey had been a direct result of our Sub Committee efforts.

Cllr Harris apologised if he had in anyway upset the other Councillors with his direct approach to publicising his concerns over Washpool and Common Platt. He would continue to campaign for his local cause, and was sure that the other Councillors would campaign just as hard if they had a matter concerning them.

***See Note below: There has been a change in the Government's policy relating to roads in general and the speed limits were agreed at a Members' Seminar on 8<sup>th</sup> March.***

**5b WCC Motion re: Hay Lane/Croft Lane Link and Condition 99.**

Condition 99 had not been fully discharged and Cllr Groom has penned a motion to return to this issue.

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

a. The Council Tax figures were incorrect and an emergency meeting of the Council as being convened so that the correct figures can be approved.

b. Licensing for Village Halls. Hall committees are not happy and have made representations regarding being given a larger number of events per annum. It would seem that the licensing regulations were based on urban areas. It has been pointed out that rural areas rely upon the special events to generate income.

c. There is an Awards for All for funding meeting on 20th March, which may benefit Lydiard Millicent Pre-School.

## 7. Parishioner's Question Time.

a. The request for a new 30mph limit is between Nine Elms to Washpool. It was asked why not all the way to Tewskbury Way? Reply - there are statutory situations where they can and cannot place traffic speed restrictions.

b. Welcome to Lydiard sign is after the Washpool turn-off from the Swindon direction. It was asked why the sign was placed there and not before Washpool? Reply this is the boundary with Swindon and it was placed as close and as safely to the area as possible.

c. Washpool residents voiced that they would continue to complain until something is done to make the lane safer. The large vehicles are often too fast to take down their numbers. Horses and cyclists are frightened by the large and fast traffic.

d. A section of a WCC letter was read out in response to the investigations being carried out as to what the criteria was to have the road closed at Nine Elms. The letter indicated that a request to have traffic calming/traffic management assessed can be sought and any plans would be put forward for consideration as a future integrated transport scheme. Potential schemes are assessed against a number of criteria and it is not always possible to implement every scheme.

e. A Parishioner made comment that in some areas of the village where the 30mph limit had been given, the result was even more speeding, and it had not solved anything.

f. The owner of The Sun Inn expressed her disappointment that they were unable to use the Recreation Field for a charity football match in aid of the British Heart Foundation. They had needed to pay £50 to hire the Link Centre. A request was made that a certain number of dates should be made available each year for such charity events to take place, built into the match schedules of SFC and LMCC. It was also mentioned that the School could benefit from occasional use of the Recreation Field.

The Chairman replied that LMPC have to liaise with the nominated SFC Groundsman as to whether or not a pitch is safe to play on - the possibility of an independent referee or groundsman could be looked into. It was suggested that the best times for charity matches are May and September, as usage of the field was less critical at these times.

The Council are aware that the field was given to the Parish for recreational use. However, income from the pitches is a necessary duty to defray the running costs of the field.

A proposal was made by Cllr Harris and seconded by Cllrs Quartly Bishop that the Council donate £50 to cover the loss and match funding be donated by SFC - April agenda.

A Parishioner supported the Manager of the Sun Inn, but thought that the Council would be in breach of its rules to support a National Charity.

g. Mr P Windo thanked the Council for their help in allowing him to learn how to set up Websites, and hoped that the new recruits would soon be up to date with their tasks.

The Council thanked Mr Windo for his help in setting up the Website on their behalf.

k. A request was made that the Council find some money to fill in a hole on the entrance road to the Cemetery.

h. The road, near the corner at Nine Elms investigated for water leaks, now has a pothole by the drain cover - Cllr Smith offered to contact the Water Board.

i. Graffiti on road signs can be reported to Clarence now the police have photographed them.

j. Rubble has been reported between the bins at the entrance to the Recreation field.

The logs on the verge to the west are free for parishioners to take.

k. Mr Arnold Richards has requested some help in publishing a new Walking Guide – this was agreed in principle - April Agenda.

l. Potholes in Greenhill were reported, and will be reported to Clarence, together with the large hump at the bottom of the road, which is an increasing danger to unsuspecting traffic.

m. The Council was asked what progress was being made to have the ditches cleared along Greenhill. Reply - NWDC has been asked by WCC to supply plans of the original drainage.

m. Due to at least 2 HGV's becoming stuck at the bottom of Greenhill in the past month, Various signs need to be replaced – one at the crossroads, one opposite Blackfords to prevent vehicles missing the site entrance, and another before the road drops & narrows.

n. The issue of damaged verges was discussed, and the possibility of creating a policy to deal with such occurrences, such as whose Insurance Policies should be claimed against and who should be charged with the repairs.

o. Dogs were reported to be running loose on Lydiard Plain, which could upset our tenant's livestock. The Common Land Bylaws to be checked to establish what if anything can be done about dogs fouling the Common Land, alongside the public Bridle Way.

## 8. Councillors' reports of Parishioners' queries.

- a. Various Stiles need repairing in the area. The Footpath Officers have been in the area recently and it is hoped the repairs are in hand.
- b. Concerns were raised that vehicles delivering to 'Toomers' following the suggested HGV route are going to cause on-going distress to the Common Platt residents. The Chairman confirmed that time restrictions for deliveries have been requested. A lengthy discussion about how these HGV's should leave the village and other HGV route issues followed. Leaflets with the official HGV routes available for Councillors and Residents may be useful.

## 9. Report on matters arising from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007 not on the main agenda.

- 7h. Clock. An estimate of £10 - £15 to run clock for a year was given - April Agenda.
- 7c. Buryfield to Ch.Spr. footpath. The area needs cleaning out prior to decision about concrete or paving slab - Groundsman to be asked.
- 16.2. Stone Lane Footpath. See Committee Reports.
- 19, Late Post, 2. to be dealt with by Cemetery Sub Committee.
- 19, Late Post, 8. Bobby Van - donation deferred to May Agenda, as per last year.
- 19, Late Post. Affordable Housing consultation response by 14<sup>th</sup> March - Cllrs Groom and Pepperall.
- (The above items are for information only).*

## 10. Planning Applications

07/00274/FUL First Floor Extension at 1, The Close.

**No adverse comments.**

11a Accounts (*incl. VAT)		£'s
Mrs R Leckie	Wages	243.75
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	43.71*
Inside Out Ltd	Groundsman	260.00
LMP Hall	Rental for meeting	16.00
SFC	White Lining	100.00
Mr P Windo	Web Hosting Fee 2007	17.95*
WCC	Gateway Signs	1071.58
Splash	S137 Donation	25.00
T Pepperall	Cartridges, Website Domain charge, Key	62.98*
Spaldings	Litter pickers	162.15*
Regular S/O's and D/D's, British Gas statement – JCH.		

The proposal to donate to the British Heart Foundation will be deferred until the S137 rules are checked - April Agenda.

A similar suggestion to sponsor the LM Cricket Club Race Night was withdrawn.

Income for February 2007 - SFC £215, LMCC £350, Cemetery £100, Post Office £75.

Accounts proposed by Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Groom, no objections.

## 11b Groundsman – increase of fees from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007

The Groundsman's request for a 3% increase as from 1<sup>st</sup> April was agreed.

## 12. Spring Clean – 11<sup>th</sup> March

Event has been advertised, Volunteers needed.

## 13. APM – Speaker – 31<sup>st</sup> May

Cllr Bennett would request Mr R Akers presence at the APM, as it was confirmed that Rev Knight cannot return to the Parish and do a speech until two years had lapsed.

## 14. Committee Reports

**JCH** – Fire Safety Assessment to be carried out shortly to comply the new regulations.

**Rec. Field** – SBC have cut the field but not up to standard, may need another cut shortly.

**Play area**, various pegs are a trip hazard - Groundsman asked to remove.

**Mews Play Area** – the black and white sign has become illegible.

**Cemetery.** – Cllr Baker thought that new surrounds for graves had been stopped; the Clerk has continued to sell surrounds in the full side. Confirmation of rules needed - April Agenda.

**15. Highway Sub Committee Report.** No report.

**16. Parish Plan Report.** Holborn footpath plans are to be discussed with WCC shortly. Stone Lane footpath of feasibility study from the same firm costed at £2500. Offer of 50% grant from NCAP, but project must be completed by end of June or grant (£1250) will be lost. Application to Solve for £500 has also been applied for, with a further possibility of a grant from Awards for All. Project approved, max £750 cost to LMPC, subject to an alternative quote for the Feasibility Study from WCC contractor.

**17. Parish Steward – next monthly visit 13/14<sup>th</sup> March 2007.**

Add to list in Mins200702: Lay-bys in Greenhill, and Dip outside Rose Hall, Washpool.

**18. Parish Notice Boards.** No further news – ongoing.

**A fifteen minute extension to the meeting was agreed, Meeting closed at 10.15.**

**19. Correspondence.**

NWDC - North Wiltshire Employment Land Review - invitation to comment by 31.3.07.

NWDC - Draft Protocol for dealing with major planning applications - feedback by 16.3.07.

Celebration pack for St Georges Day 23.4.07.

Communities & Local Government - Consultation - amendments to Model Code of Conduct.

WALC – Newsletter – items re Fire Safety Order 2005, New Audit Fee Scale, Elections Pack.

NWDC Development Control Agenda for 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2007 - no items for LMPC.

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Ltd – fundraising event, Sarsen Trail 26<sup>th</sup> May - see Clerk for details.

NWDC Area 2 Agenda for 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

Letter from A Orr-Ewing re: cutting of overgrown hedge – to be done soon.

SBC Draft Backland & Infill Development Supp. Planning Doc. - consultation 19.2.07 to 2.4.07 - no response to be given.

SBC Draft Nature Conservation Guidance Notes - consultation 19.2.07 to 2.4.07 -no response

Communication from Mr Meredith, seeking reduction in rent for Lydiard Plain grass keep - Cllr Burley offered to provide a price comparison for April Agenda.

**20. Date of April meeting Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in Parish Hall.**

Minutes amended and approved, 5.4.2007

#### **NOTE TO PARISHIONERS LIVING IN WASHPOOL AND HOLBORN**

Dear Parishioner

You will see from the enclosed paper that the speed limit of 30 mph is one of 12 in the County to go forward to be implemented during the course of the next 9/12 months, after a number of statutory procedures have been gone through.

This is the first time we have been advised of such recommended speed limits during a members' seminar. The whole area has been the subject of a Government review and no longer are we required to formally approve such lower speed limits at a Regulatory Committee.

The full details are to be finalised with the Police and then plans will be sent to the Parish Council. I understand it is envisaged that:

- 1) the 30 mph limit will take in part of Stone Lane and start near The Crescent and extend south to the Washpool bridge;
- 2) the 30 m ph limit through The Street will be extended to include the cottages at Holborn.

Mollie Groom, County Councillor