

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting 2nd August 2007 at Parish Hall.

Attendance: Cllrs T Pepperall (Chair), B Baker, J Bennett, S Burley, A Harris, A Pflieger, and N Smith.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs M Groom, J Holloway, and E Quartly-Bishop.
2. **Housekeeping.** Fire Alarm instructions issued to 5 members of public and 6 councillors.
3. **Co-option of Councillors** –no names put forward.
4. **Minutes of meeting 11th July 2007**, were amended to add A Pflieger to the apologies and were signed as a true record.
5. **PC Report.** No report.
6. **County Councillor's report and questions arising.**

Most will have heard of the Government being minded to grant unitary status to Wiltshire. I attended a lengthy seminar on Tuesday and the following will be of interest to councillors. Nothing is set in tablets of stone but the following is emerging:

- Planning will follow a similar format with delegation given to officers unless objections are received in the appropriate manner
- We are told that by 2012 there will be better customer services, more efficient services, more decisions, more sharing of services, locally and higher public satisfaction
- In the so-called 'Next Steps' scenario we have the Judicial Review mounted by Shrewsbury, the Bill has to be enacted and following that The Order has to be pronounced and we then learn of the date to be set for Elections and Vesting Day
- It is expected, following on from historical practice, that the Secretary of State will direct limits on what a 'dissolved' authority may do.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND BOARDS

Aims are being written around existing practice and then a broadening is proposed with the addition of executive boards.

Further details on this and GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP can be obtained on application from the Clerk.

7. **District Councillor's report and questions arising.** No report.
8. **Parishioner's Question Time.**
 - a. A request was made for the (red) dog bin locations to be placed in the Lydiard Magazine, on the website and the notice boards with a polite reminder not to place dog waste in the green general waste bins. NWDC will not empty green bins containing dog mess.
 - b. The Drain Brain has been in the village recently. There are still blockages which have not yet been addressed, specifically between Beeches and Church, Chestnut Springs, The Old Post Office, and below Park Lane. It was agreed the Chairman sends a list detailing the precise drain problems to WCC.
 - c. Grassed areas in parish were the source of many complaints - see Item 16, Groundsman.
 - d. Traffic continues to drive across the bus area at The Butts putting pedestrians at risk. Chairman reported that permission has been granted to put bollards at specific points to deter such vehicles but to still allow buses to enter and leave. The moving of the pavement to beside the wall has also been agreed. These alterations will form part of the next application by the School in their annual 'Safe Routes to School' for funding purposes.
 - e. Hedge at Holborn, on the bend overhanging the pavement. Write to Westlea Homes – JB
 - f. The likely cost of the footpaths at Holborn and Stone Lane was raised, and whether parishioners will be kept informed. Chairman explained that grant funding up to £20,000 was currently available, dependant on the work being carried out before end of February 2008. Permission for the Holborn path is awaited from WCC. Large projects usually require a contribution from the Council, which hopefully could be limited to a maximum of 10% of cost.
 - g. It should be known within 12months if our Post Office will be closed, and only then will the decision be made whether to continue with the Stone Lane footpath. All costs and proposals would need to be approved by Council when greater detail is known.
 - h. Hedge between The Beeches and Manor Farm is overhanging the pavement. Land owner Mr B Hoare to be requested to cut it back prior to children returning to school in September.

9. Councillors' reports of Parishioners' queries.

- a. Dead elms and overgrown laurel at Church bus stop, thought to be WCC land. – JB
- b. Footpath behind Park View Drive is overgrown by a few homeowners rear hedges. Letters to be sent by the Clerk requesting the co-operation of those homeowners.
A discussion was held over whether or not to roll out similar schemes through the village and caution was given that each situation should be dealt with individually to prevent victimisation. The footpath in discussion is a right of way and must be kept open, preferably by the co-operation of those involved.
- c. The Pre-School group is seeking a Chairman or Vice Chairman, not necessarily directly connected to a pupil, who is willing to undertake the post on a longer term basis.
- d. A letter has been sent to the Council re grass cuttings on the perimeter of the Recreation Field. This will be investigated. Discussion was held on the possibility of community compost bins, which would be collected by NWDC on a regular basis.
- e. Estate Agents signs are appearing on road verges, which are not specific to a property. The Agents will be asked to remove all such signs.
- f. Residents would have liked to help in the placing of the speed checks which took place in Washpool, as Cllr Harris had requested. Cllr Harris undertook his own survey on a Sunday afternoon between 4.00 - 5.30. 68 vehicles passed him including 4 vans and 3 bikes. 1 bike sped past three times, in an hour and half.
No registration numbers were taken on this occasion, but may be in future.

10. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention. Deferred to the end of the meeting.

11. Report on matters arising from 11th July 2007 not on the main agenda.

- a. Thanks were given to Jo & Nigel, and Tina and Roy, for organising the Open Gardens, and to those who opened their gardens. £300 was raised for The Prospect Foundation and £289.19 for Maggie's Cottage.
- b. 90 bags of chippings had been delivered for the Play Area. A working party was set up of Cllrs Pflieger, Bennett, Burley, Smith and Pepperall to spread the chippings on 5th August.
- c. Paul Toomer had been advised that the international lorry being unloaded by forklift from the roadside, was indeed emptied by his own staff. He would make further enquiries. The Council felt any future occurrences should be reported to the police. In the meantime it was agreed to take a note of the registration and description of vehicles over-nighting in his lay-by.
(The above items are for information only).

12. Planning Applications

07/01865/LBC and 07/01754/COU Internal and external alterations to convert stables and loft to residential accommodation at Stable Cottage.

No adverse comments other than to query if the double-glazed door should be allowed on the listed part of the building.

Amended planning applications

07/01227/FUL Walnut Tree Gardens

Now to be 6 dwellings, partly to accord with local directive for more low cost housing. Some residents are now resigned to the fact that this may be approved. Nevertheless, the P.C. will continue to **object** on the grounds that it is 'over-development of site, could create further flooding possibilities, extra traffic - both during construction and afterwards, drainage not sufficient to cope with the new dwellings, and lack of privacy to adjacent dwellings. Cllr Groom will be asked to support the Parish Council objections, to ensure that the decision goes to Committee.

A general question was raised on policy regarding applications. There is no quota for the Parish, and each application must be considered on its merits.

NWDC Planning permission

07/00534/FUL Erection of Granny Annexe at 25 Greenhill.

07/01398/FUL Conservatory at 22a Chestnut Springs.

07/01465/FUL Single storey side/rear extensions for new kitchen & garage, 1 The Beeches.

07/00924/FUL Proposed vehicular access alteration at 2 Lydiard Green.

13. Accounts (*incl. VAT)	£'s	
Mrs R Leckie	Wages	243.75
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	48.93*
Mr T Pepperall	Paper and print cartridge	33.98*
County Mulch Ltd	900L Playground chippings	537.21*
Victim support Wilts	S137 donation	25.00
Mrs R Leckie	Copier toner	31.69*
Transfer from Lloyds Bank a/c to Bank of Ireland a/c		4,000.00
It was agreed to pay Clerks telephone costs at £15pm.		

The above accounts proposed by Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Baker, no objections.

Income July 2007 - LMCC £350, and Cemetery £25.

Copies of the 2006/7 Income and Expenditure, and Balance Sheet, had been given to Cllrs prior to the meeting, and these were examined and accepted. Annual Governance statement completed and signed by Chairman and Clerk ready for the Internal Auditor.

The Clerk had contacted the Bank for an up to date list of signatories, but were only able to find one dated 1995. The Clerk to re-check the files to find a more up to date copy before alterations can be made to the signatory list
Cllr Smith explained that as he was Treasurer for several local committees he preferred to remain off the signatory list to avoid any conflict of interest.

14. Committee Reports:

Recreation Field - Cricket Club cut the grass until the end of August.

JCH - bookings have been taken for meetings in August.

Play area - Wood chips delivered, Mat product quotes still needed for the spring animals.

Boules area needs weeding.

Cemetery. Spoil pile high, M Smith to be asked to clear. Grass overgrown - interim groundsman to be sought.

Thanks were given to Cllr Holloway for clearing the entrance and path edges in the cemetery.

Open Gardens - went well - a letter of thanks was received from a Wootton Bassett visitor.

15. Councillor's election expenses. Clerk to write and ask NWDC if any returns are outstanding, to prevent possible fines. Some Councillors had received letters.

16. Groundsman – Update.

Last month he was given time to get back on track. He has not contacted the Chairman, nor reported any work done. He was apparently on holiday when Chairman tried to contact him prior to meeting. It was agreed that in the circumstances to:

accept the Groundsman's resignation,

go through the contract and establish a priority order to cover the work schedule,

allocate these jobs to local contractors,

set in motion advertising the post, new contract to start 1st April 2008,

accept the new contract will be at a higher cost and costs will be incurred with advertising.

Cemetery - highest priority.

Play area - high priority but is due to be tackled by Cllrs working party on Sunday.

Collection of litter from the Play Area, The Mews and the Cemetery to be done weekly.

Raised Flower Beds - medium priority.

Greensend - grassed and shrubbed area - low priority.

Bus Stops - low priority.

Various contractors were suggested, and will be contacted by Chair, & Cllr Baker.

Councillors to review the contract and consider any alterations prior to being put to tender.

17. Highway Sub Committee Report – deferred meeting after 14th August.

18. Parish Plan Report – no other items.

19. Parish Steward – Aug WCC specified painting & weeds, Clerk to ask for Washpool Bridge to be included, next normal visit 18th & 19th Sept.

20. Correspondence

NHS Foundation Trust Consultation 9.7.07 - 29.9.07, public meetings and community events.

WALC – seeking nominations to its Executive Committee by 20th August 2007.

Photos- Lydiard Millicent winter of 1944/45 sent by Guy Tyrwhitt-Drake, Victoria, B.C., Canada, were displayed and enjoyed by Councillors and parishioners alike. Suggestion made that the Parish Hall may wish to display a copy of the photos for a short while – also that they be placed on Web site if suitable.

Community First – poster re Changing Climate Changing Communities meeting to be held Saturday 29th Sept 10, 3 p.m., at the Quaker Meeting House, Devizes.

WCC response re proposed speed limits 2007/8. Parish Council to seek assurance that current WCC proposal will still be valid, if our amended proposals are rejected. No consultation times given - Clerk to write and ask so we can follow up.

WALC Newsletter July 2007.

WCC - Low cost taxi service direct to the Great Western Hospital - concerns raised that this may directly compete with the Link. As the cost of the taxi service is higher, this is not likely to impact the Link viability.

Community First AGM

Wootton Bassett Town Council letter re consultation on J16 M4 – LMPC agreed that a similar request for consultation be sent to SBC.

It was asked why we should be concerned over the J16 tunnel. Reply was the inevitable increase of traffic travelling through the village, the likelihood of new Swindon housing encroaching on Wootton Bassett land, with the threat of direct access being sought through the village to link to the Northern expansion and the new Blunsden by-pass. Continued diligence is needed in the next year or two, prior to the new WCC Unitary Authority.

10. The Clerk advised the Council that she may need to go into hospital shortly, and that Parish Council services may be affected in September.

21. Date of September meeting Thursday 6th September 2007.

Meeting closed at 9.51.

Minutes approved 6.9.07.