

Minutes 7th February 2008
LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL

Present: Cllrs T Pepperall (Chair), B Baker, S Burley, M Groom, A Harris, J Holloway, A Pflieger, N Smith.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllr J Bennett

2. Housekeeping. Emergency procedures were given to 6 members of public and 8 Councillors.

3. Co-option of Councillors. Mr Kenley Thomas and Mr Simon Welch were proposed by Cllr Pflieger and seconded by Cllr Holloway – all in favour. They had signed their acceptance of office and filled in their register of interest forms prior to the meeting before the Clerk. All Councillors were then offered the chance to attend a training session for New Councillors on 15th March. Cllrs Burley, Thomas and Welch all showed interest.

4. Minutes of meeting 3rd January 2008. 6 Councillors attended the ‘in camera’ discussion over the Groundsman contract. This was added to Item 17 of the minutes, which were then signed as a true record.

5. PC Report. PC not in attendance, no report offered.

6. County Councillor's report and questions arising.

Planning infrastructure for thousands of extra homes has not been put in place or even considered. Cllr Groom intends to challenge these developments, and object until such infrastructure is included. Overview and Scrutiny Committee appear to have not set target dates for the Unitary process.

7. District Councillor's report and questions arising.

Cllr Groom is intending to set up a campaign to prevent Biffa extending the landfill site at J16. Geological maps of the area have been obtained, and a petition will be launched if this application becomes a reality.

8. Parishioner's Question Time.

a. Mrs Willies had produced a map showing the 14 drains in the Butts and which were blocked. Chairman will use this map to inform WCC.

b. A highway worker, possibly the Parish Steward, had spent most of a days in January attempting unsuccessfully to remove the leaves from The Butts. The leaves that had been moved were heaped to the side of the path where they would dry out and be blown back onto the path.

c. Mrs. Crawford's spoke of their planning application to rebuild Sundown, Holborn. They had been flooded 3 times in 18 months and had not been able to live in the property since July 2007.

She sought our support, as NWDC appear to be creating obstacles.

d. An objection was raised over the planning application for Barrett's Yard and the Council were asked to support these objections. It was suggested that the Council use Google earth aerial maps to try and prove what the site contained a couple of years ago.

9. Councillors' reports of Parishioners' queries.

a. A spring was mentioned near to the Garage in the Street - this area had history of springs.

b. Parishioners thought the next Christmas tree would be safer if it was sited in the Parish Hall frontage. It would also be more visible. The Parish Hall Committee two years ago had initially refused permission. The current committee to be re-approached via Cllr Smith.

c. Holes by roundabout/church have still not been repaired. BT already tasked by WCC on theirs.

d. Washpool speed reduction to 30mph - status report requested. Response: the P.Council accepted what was offered, when their revised plans threatened to delay or jeopardise the original WCC plan. The plan of the current offer is displayed on The Street notice board, and will come into action when all the procedures have been done. Cllr Groom offered to find out a possible date for introduction.

e. Response, to letter sent to Highways re the road cambers outside Toomers on Stone Lane, has been received. WCC feel there is not enough of a camber to warrant any signage. The Parish Council do not accept this decision and will enquire further as to what type of vehicle they used for the test.

f. Hedge cuttings have been left at the back of Church Place in the ditch.

g. Footpath 70 to side and rear of the forecourt on The Street is impassable. All of the units will be asked to check they do not have items blocking the footpath and ensure it is kept clear.

h. Redstone Construction, Unit 5, Lydiard Green Ind'l Est. - storage of rubbish at the back, can be seen through the hedges. Clerk to write and ask them to clear the area again.

10. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention.

A resident living adjacent to the Fir Trees and the sub station in Forge Fields is upset that the proposed lopping of these trees has not occurred. This matter was first raised in 2007. Cllr Bennett had been dealing with this and would be asked on his return from holiday.

11. Report on matters arising from 3rd January not on the main agenda.

Salt bins that had been removed, have been replaced with new ones. A map of all the salt bins had been received and the Council discussed each one to establish if they are still required where they are. Public are to be reminded via the Lydiard Magazine that they can use them to salt paths and roads themselves. The bin in The Butts is missing, and a replacement will be requested.

Item 15 last month, closure of Old Cemetery. The Chairman had been in touch with NWDC, and asked how frequently they are cut. They currently have 3 or 4 and there is one in Corsham that can be viewed. If the Parish Council devolves responsibility to NWDC, they will be responsible for the legal aspects, and will carry out maintenance approx 3 or 4 times per year. The Parish Council would be allowed to carry out additional cuts if required. It was thought this would be a good solution.

12. Planning Applications

07/02947/S73A Continued use of site for mixed use as dwelling/office, builders yard, kennels, storage, bagging and sale of aggregates ancillary to the manufacturer and sale of concrete slabs and related products and the parking of commercial vehicles at **Barrett's Yard, Stone Lane**.

The Chairman had met with several Cllrs prior to the meeting, and had produced a draft letter of objection to the Planning Department. Some elements of the application had been running for over 10 years, which gave a right to continuation. This letter was discussed, one paragraph at a time, and some amendments made. The letter would be finalised by the Chairman and checked by Cllr Baker, prior to it being sent the following day. It was unanimous to **oppose** this application.

The main objections are the proposed intrusion into the RBZ field at the bottom of the site, the 2 new buildings, the aggregate business, the parking of lorries, and Health & Safety concerns.

07/03338/FUL Erection of 2 storey dwelling, following demolition of existing bungalow at **Sundown, Holborn**. This application had received no complaints from the neighbours, only support. A previous planning application to build a 2 storey building was approved 5 years ago, which set a precedence for this application on the site. The original bungalow was built on land, approx. 2 feet lower than other properties in the area. It has flooded 3 times in the last 18 months and been uninhabitable since July. Flood area checks shows that this property is in a flood zone 3 and is highly likely to be flooded again. It is acknowledged that flood management schemes may help alleviate future flooding, and the occupants are keen to do what they can, & to reduce the height of the roof, as sought by NWDC. The Parish Council were unanimous to strongly **support** this application.

08/00063/FUL 7 The Crescent, Common Platt. Erection of first floor extensions including dormer windows and external alterations and self contained annexe extension. **No adverse comment.**

08/00165/FUL 44 Chestnut Springs. Two new dormers to front elevation; extend existing pitched roof to replace flat roof; rear two storey extension.

Cllr Smith declared an interest in this planning application did not take part in the decision. Objections had been received from neighbours who had purchased their bungalows so as not to be overlooked. The Parish Council felt this 2nd storey ext'n to be out of character with the adjoining bungalows, and voted unanimously to **oppose** the application.

NWDC Planning Permission

06/02094/FUL Erection of two storey side extension to form self contained annex and erection of rear single storey extension at 5 The Elms, Old Shaw Lane, Swindon.

07/03099/FUL First floor dormer extension to north elevation at 29 The Beeches.

07/03129/FUL Replacement rear conservatory at Brecklands, The Street.

07/03017/FUL Single storey rear extension at 22 The Mews.

07/02608/FUL Riding Arena at Brockhurst Farm Stables, Greenhill.

NWDC Planning refused

07/03202/FUL Replacement dwelling at The Glen, 31 Stone Lane.

13. Accounts (*incl. VAT) £'s

Mrs R Leckie	Wages	243.75+
	Annual increase backdated from April	54.00
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	28.86
LMPH	Hire of Hall for meeting	20.00
RA Footpath Group	£137 donation for footpath maintenance	50.00
Outside Inside	Various ground maintenance work	219.00
Re-write Cheque re Christmas tree to Steven Keye, wrongly written to his firm		67.99
W.A.L.C.	New Councillor Course x 3	105.75

Cllr Burley proposed and Cllr Pflieger seconded the accounts, approved, no objections.

Income January: SFC £77 and Cemetery £75.

14. Committee Reports:

Recreation Field, not used in January – too wet.

JCH, Security Light sensor vandalised, J Frost has repaired, bill to follow.

Play Area, Rubber matting has been placed around the spring animals in both play areas.

New volunteer needed for Playground check rota – Cllr Thomas agreed to help.

Cemetery, Paths weed-killed, & conifer hedge trimmed and weeds strimmed at base.

Next Playground check by Cllr Pepperall.

15. Spring Clean, 30th March. 2 sessions 9.30 - 12.30, and 13.30 - 16.30, meeting at the Sun Inn car park as previous years. Pickers, gloves etc will be provided; Cllr Bennett will ask if bags can be left as in previous years for collection by NWDC. Advertisement to go in the Lydiard Magazine. Cllr Harris raised a formal objection to the Spring Clean and asked how many of the public attended in the past. Why were Councillors being asked to spend more of their time on a job that we could ask NWDC to do. The event will however continue, whilst there are volunteers. It was noted that North Wilts have been seen collecting litter in Bagbury Lane - Clerk will ask if they are going to do more in the village. Cllr Burley offered to do some advertising signs for the Spring Clean; a suggestion was made that the school parents be asked to help.

10pm - Councillors asked if meeting should continue – all, except Cllr Harris who left.

16. Cemetery fees. Defer to March 2008 – lack of time.

17. Groundsman. Contract to be signed in next few days.

18. Parish Steward's next visit 17th and 21st February 2008.

19. Correspondence.

A. Wiltshire Police Authority - Public meeting 31st January 2008 7.p.m. Chippenham.

B. Consultation document re conduct of local authority members in England.

C. Draft amended Licensing Policy by NWDC.

D. Letter re late night noise pollution from Lydiard Park.

E. Consultation - Rights of Way improvement plan for WCC.

F. Flooding in North Wiltshire - remind residents they can claim Council Tax Exemption.

G. WCC One Council for Wiltshire - Invitation to attend 'Meet and Greet Evenings', April 2008.

H. Rural Payments Agency re entitlements for scheme year 2007, Lydiard Plain.

I. Best Kept Village Competition entry forms - decided against.

J. New Register of electors 2008 - clerk will circulate copies in due course.

K. LMPH - Emergency Procedure - annual update.

L. LMPH - Notification that hire charge rises to £20.00.

M. WALC newsletter - info.

N. The Clerk - Journal January 2008 - info.

O. Clerks and Councils Direct - Journal January 2008 - info.

Late correspondence.

P. Letter from Mr and Mrs Billingham, re bench provision. They are happy that we are considering an alternative site and will still pay for the bench. Details of how to proceed will be sent to them.

Q. The Audit Commission has appointed 'Mazars LLP' as external auditors for next five years.

R. WCC Roadside ditches and overgrown vegetation – two draft letters for Council to use.

S. Update on lower Greenhill: County has asked District for report on original ditches - plans were inconclusive. Legality of asking the local members if they can write a report on original ditches is being sought from WCC.

20. Date of next meeting: Thursday 6th March 2008.

Meeting closed 10.25 p.m.

Minutes approved 6th March 2008.