

**Minutes 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008**  
**LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL**

**Present:** Cllrs T Pepperall (Chair), B Baker, J Bennett, J Holloway, A Pflieger, S Welch.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllrs S Burley, M Groom, A Harris, N Smith, and K Thomas.
2. **Housekeeping.** Emergency procedures were given to 6 members of public and 6 Councillors.
3. **Minutes of meeting 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008.** Amended on page 3 to – ‘10pm. Councillors asked if meeting should continue - all, except Cllr Harris who left’. Minutes then signed as a true record.
4. **PC Report.** None, but Chairman read from Neighbourhood Watch report, which included 3 new ‘schemes’, a spate of burglaries and ASBOs at Xmas in Wootton Bassett. Cllr Baker warned of a spate of thefts from vehicles in Purton.
5. **County Councillor's report and questions arising.** No report, but the Chairman reported that Cllr Groom is unhappy about the changes in the Electoral Boundaries as proposed by NWDC & WCC. We are one of 4 areas, to be named as ‘WBE’ or ‘WBWithout’. Cllr Groom suggests ‘The Lydiards, Broad Town & WBE’, under a re-arrangement of catchment areas. LMPC agreed to support her counter-proposal in writing to NWDC & WCC. Chair to Email response.
6. **District Councillor's report.** None.
7. **Parishioner's Question Time.**
  - a. The brick speed hump going east from the village is breaking down and soon needs to be removed or replaced. A Parishioner recommended that it be removed, as the narrowing and the road signs should be sufficient. This was debated amongst Parishioners and Councillors who were not all in agreement, as the speed hump prevents speeding, not the flow rate of the traffic. WCC to be advised.
  - b. An elderly resident requested we sweep the church bus stop shelter – this will be added to the village clean up tasks.
  - c. Residents of Chestnut Springs have been upset by 3 horse riders who have ridden on their verges, and churned up the grass. The riders were advised they should not have been there, but did not take kindly to this advice. Any knowledge of riders on pavements or verges should be reported, and names and addresses supplied to the Clerk when known. Action can then be taken.
  - d. Grit from the Bin at the bottom of Greenhill has been reportedly used to de-ice stable areas. WCC to be asked if this is proper use, and, if so, the bin may need to be refilled more frequently, to ensure that sufficient supplies remain for the road, and other residents.
  - e. Not enough work has taken place on Greenhill road surfaces - request made to chase this up.
  - f. Drainage and ditches along Greenhill were also discussed. WCC say District plans of the drains are unclear. Legal information is being sought to see if local knowledge could be used to produce a report.
8. **Councillors' reports of Parishioners' queries.**
  - a. The Chairman and Cllr Groom are investigating the fact that the sewage system in Chestnut Springs is still incorrectly classed by Thames Water as ‘private’, and residents are being charged for repairs. Originally water rates were paid to ‘Brieffels’, but after they closed down in 1989/90, records of the change appear not to have been correctly passed on in 1995 by WCC to Thames Water.
  - b. A tipper lorry has been seen along the bridleway from Stone Lane to Washpool (Millennium Trail). Information on what is occurring and why is sought.
  - c. A TNT vehicle was seen reversing out of the ‘Way In’ at Toomers, without a banksman. Letter to be sent to Toomers reminding them of such legal requirements, and requesting that they provide a banksman when necessary, and try to keep their route in the car park clear.
  - d. LMPC were asked to consider a proposal to close a short piece of right of way across Track No.46 leading to Parkside Farm, approx 20 yards, as it does not lead onto a further right of way, but behind residential property. The field gates are currently kept locked, for privacy, and to protect the livestock. Alternative access crosses the lane at that point. A new updated footpath map to be applied for.
9. **Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention.** None.
10. **Report on matters arising from 7<sup>th</sup> February not on the main agenda.**
  - 9b. Cllr Smith was not in attendance to report on the possible re-siting of the Christmas tree in the Parish Hall grounds this year. Defer to next month.

## 11. Planning Applications

**08/00238/FUL** Erection of four detached dwellings and two semi-detached dwellings with associated parking/garaging and access. **Walnut Tree Gardens**, Lydiard Millicent **Opposed**  
Application 07/02427/FUL Walnut tree gardens was refused by NWDC 26.10.07:

1. They had not included any public open space nor financial contribution, and is contrary to Policy CF3 of the North Wiltshire Local Plan 2011.

2. They had not provided the 50% affordable housing to meet the policy H6 of NWLP 2011. Adding another affordable property to a different development is no good to this village.

The Parish Council continue to object to this application and the same reply will be sent as previous together with notes indicating that NWDC own reasons for refusal have not yet been met.

Five objections and two District councillors are required for this to be taken to Committee to decide.

### Amended Planning Applications

**08/00063/FUL** Erection of first floor extensions, external alterations and self contained annexe at **7 The Crescent**, Common Platt. Information only – 106 agreement to be added.

**07/02947/S73A** Continued use of site at **Barrett's' Yard**, Stone Lane **Opposed.**

No apparent change except for a Google site map photo, showing the siting of buildings etc..

It was noted that the 10m turning circle would not be sufficient for the large delivery Lorries.

**08/00384/FUL** Single storey side and rear extension **46 Chestnut Springs**. Amended - now single storey. Owner will replant to green boundary. No objections from neighbours. **No adverse comments.**

## 12. Accounts (\*incl. VAT) £'s

Mrs R Leckie	Wages	249.75
L.M.P.H.	Hire of Hall for meeting	20.00
S.F.C.	White Lining of pitches	100.00
Mr J E Frost	Electrical work at JCH	68.09*
Mr T Pepperall	Website host fee	17.95*
Lydiard Magazine	Annual Subscription	5.00
Mr E Bedwell	Re-write Footpath group cheque, no group a/c.	50.00

New councillor course had been fully booked, therefore, our cheque 105.75 was returned.

Income February 2008 Admin £10, SFC £258, Cemetery £25.

Cllr Bennett proposed and Cllr Baker seconded Accounts - there were no objections.

As the Post Office intends to close the Post Office the following Resolution was agreed:

'It is resolved to arrange for the cancellation of the Licence dated 14<sup>th</sup> August 2006 from John Toomer & Sons to LMPC, and the Sub-Licence from LMPC to Mr. N. Stone, with immediate effect, subject to the agreed three month period of notice, which will end on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2008'.

(Final payment on 1<sup>st</sup> May will go directly from Mr. Stone to Toomers).

## 13. Committee Reports:

Recreation Field - nothing to report.

JCH - more bookings for JCH.

The contract with Scottish and Southern Electricity is due for renewal. Cllr Bennett to seek alternative quotations.

Play areas - Rubbish bins are full, but Groundsman asked to clear these & cemetery.

Report for February OK - next month's report by Cllr Baker.

Cemetery - Floral rubbish to be cleared by Groundsman. Wheelie bins had previously been discounted as being unviable. New consideration to be given to the brown (green waste) wheelie bins, and enquiring of NWDC of the cost of joining the scheme.

Lydiard Plain - renewal due in April. The Council has not yet received the 2007 grant from the Rural Payments Agency. Mr. Meredith has asked for the keep again, and would pay a similar rental as last year. Whilst the Parish Council need to achieve a reasonable rental, grazing land is not in demand, and Mr. Meredith has been an excellent tenant, who maintains the Plain well during his lease, and does not seek any re-imburement.

Highways Sub Committee - Notes of a meeting with Mark Stansby re signage.

1. Pond cottage - Owner had requested a sign. Mr. Stansby proposed to renew and extend the central white lines, add slow signs and some '30mph' roundels on the road. If these do not help then a sign will be re-considered.

2. No Balls Games sign at Buryfield - WCC are happy for us to order our own sign locally, after checking whether NWDC planning approval is required.

3. Greenhill crossroads 7.5 ton signs are to be reviewed as there is no such sign to the Greenhill road. The CulDeSac sign is confirmed as correct, although it is often overlooked because of its size.

It was agreed that a private sign indicating Blackfords entrance (with an arrow) and 'No Through Road Ahead' can be sited on the left hand side of the road, subject to NWDC planning regulations.

The Chairman will seek agreement with Blackfords, on a shared cost basis.

It was also agreed that a private sign indicating 'no turning for large vehicles' could be placed adjacent to the telephone box at the top of the hill, subject to NWDC planning permission.

4. Mr. Stansby took objection at all the advertising signs at Greenhill Crossroads and will pursue this.

5. A request for a VAS between Lydiard Green and The Beeches was refused. WCC policy is not to sanction them unless accidents have been regularly recorded and are caused by speeding.

LMPC decided to seek changes in the guidelines through WCC. Other options for speed control along this stretch of road will now need to be considered - perhaps '30mph' roundels and 'slow' signs again.

6. Stone Lane. Speed was still a concern, but the 2007 speed checks did not warrant any change.

It was agreed to review the situation after the Speed Limit changes take effect.

**14. Groundsman.** Litter from the three areas to be cleared as a one-off this month. New contract will begin 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008, Chairman to sign both copies of the contract.

**15. Spring clean.** Some response already from parishioners willing to help. Posters will be shortly be placed on notice boards. Permission to be sought again from Sun Inn to use corner of Car Park for bin bags. Cllr Bennett has also emailed Cleansing Dept requesting a litter pick through the village. There is a statutory requirement for them to do so occasionally when requested.

**16. Bench at the Mews.** Following discussions with neighbours, the Owners of No. 1 The Mews have offered to purchase and place a suitable bench themselves on their grass verge, subject to highway requirements. Mr. Collins would be happy with this site. Chair to confirm with WCC that this site and the conditions are acceptable.

**17. Old Cemetery closure.** Following receipt of the Closure Order in December, we were required to respond within 3 months. Consultation with NWDC indicated that they could assume responsibility, and maintain it with 2 or 3 cuts per year. LMPC could then supplement the cuts if necessary. This scenario was agreed in principle at the February 2008 meeting, subject to investigation of their maintenance routines. Notice of the passing on of responsibility to NWDC needed to be sent to NWDC & LMPCC by 5<sup>th</sup> March, and this has been done. The Ministry of Justice agreed we could advise them of our decision following this meeting. A Resolution was therefore approved to pass responsibility for the All Saint's Old Cemetery to NWDC when the closure notice was finalised.

**18. Cemetery fee increase.** Fees were last set in April 2005. It was agreed that an increase this year is necessary on the basis of the considerable extra cost of maintaining the cemetery this coming year due to the 100% increase in the Groundsmans contract, the cemetery charges of other authorities, and a reasonable percentage increase in accordance with inflation. It was agreed to increase the fees by 17.5% this year, subject to a 'rounding' exercise, which the Chairman will undertake. It was also agreed that these fees should, in future, be considered on an annual basis.

**19. Fir Trees - Forge Fields.** Parish Council took responsibility for the Fir Trees around the Sub Station in Forge Fields some years ago for a £750 payment from the Developers. Since then they have grown considerably, and are too large for the site, causing concern to adjacent residents. One quotation for trimming or removing has been received, but a second quote is needed. Removal would necessitate replacement with appropriate bushes. Cllr Bennett will circulate a letter seeking the residents' opinion on both alternatives. Agenda item for April for comments and further quotes.

**20. Parish Steward's next visit 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008.**

Remove brambles from area around bridge at Holborn.

Continue to keep the verge near The Foresters tidy.

There is concern re hedge growth beyond the end of the garden at The Foresters - thought to be in the Parish of Purton. Further enquiries to be made.

**21. Correspondence.**

WCC. Amendments to Parking enforcements under Traffic Management Act 2004.

The Army Presentation Team - invitation to an evening reception 8<sup>th</sup> April 2008 - no takers.

WCC - re Boundary Review - no details in the document.

Ramblers Association - news letter.

Letter re Noise Pollution from Lydiard Park, caused by a private function. SBC to be advised of our concerns. Future instances should be reported to 01793 466453.

**22. Meeting closed 9.50 p.m. Date of next meeting: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008.  
Minutes amended & approved 3.4.2008.**