

Lydiard Millicent Parish Council
Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting
31st May 2007.

1. Welcome and Introduction.

The Chairman welcomed the 21 members of public and the two Cllrs wives who were helping with refreshments in the kitchen area.

Apologies were read out from Cllr Harris, and Cllr Groom.

Present: Cllrs T Pepperall (Chairman), B Baker, J Bennett, S Burley, J Holloway, E Quartly-Bishop, A Pflieger and N Smith.

Fire Instructions were given in case of emergency.

2. Guest Speaker Mr Ray Akers on Bee Keeping

A very interesting and lively talk was given, on the types of bees in the UK and about the life cycle of the honey bee, together with slides and a small sealed hive of bees to be looked at during the talk. The Slides included diagrams and pictures showing how bees communicate, and one showing the bee dances advising distance and direction of pollen. Questions included information about a disease, which is decimating some hives in America and UK, how they navigate without the sun (*eyes on the top of their heads, which can sense sun rays even through cloud cover*), and not going out in the rain.

3. Annual report by Chairman

The Chairman's report was read out and a copy is attached below.

Welcome and thanks to Parishioners, especially to those who regularly attend, and who help us to keep up-to-date with the state and wishes of the Parish. Your information and remarks are important to us.

We are very sorry to have lost one of our Cllrs at Election time, and our grateful thanks are due to Vivian Saunders for her years of duty to the Parish. This means we have one vacancy, which we hope to fill as soon as we can find a suitable volunteer.

Thank you to all our continuing Cllrs for all the hard work they do. Special thanks are due to Cllr. Mollie Groom, also our County and District Cllr, for the many hours of work she devotes, in leading our Parish in the fight to maintain our separation from Swindon, and the many other threats that come from County, and above. Special thanks also to our Highways sub-committee who are working hard to organise improvements to road safety - Flashing speed signs are budgeted for this coming year.

Thanks also to those who work for us, especially Rosemary Leckie, our Parish Clerk, whose continued contributions are invaluable, and who puts in many more hours of hard work than most appreciate. Thanks are also due to our new Groundsman Steve Keye, to the hard work he has put in, his ready

co-operation on many tasks, and especially in the donation and erection of our Christmas tree beside the Church notice board, to help make us an even more attractive village.

Thanks also to Constance Reed and her Committee for all the hard work they still do in producing the Parish's eagerly awaited Lydiards Magazine.

Thanks to Joe Ricketts & Nigel Margetts for continuing as Trustees of the Cleobury Charity, & to

Cllr Brian Baker as Trustee of the War Memorial Clock Fund, who has agreed to act as understudy for Mr. Ricketts on the maintenance of the clock. Thanks also to the Badcott's for helping to maintain the flower beds opposite the Parish Hall, and to Midgehall Nurseries for providing such fine plants.

Thanks again also to Mr Meredith, our tenant of Lydiard Plain, for looking after it so well.

Our local bobby has changed again – we now welcome Steve Porter and Andy Singfield – they too are keen to help with the speeding and parking problems that beset our village. The latest on The Butts parking area is that, with the aid of the Primary School Travel Plan, we are seeking to move the footpath from around the end of the area, to run alongside the Honeywood wall as far as their entrance.

We would again ask parishioners to tell us of any concerns re planning, roads, hedges, footpaths, etc., and remind them that they can also phone the WCC helpline direct (Clarence) on 0800.232323.

Any dog fouling noticed and left behind on the Rec. Field should be advised to the Dog Wardens at NWDC, Environmental Health Dept on 01249 706111, with details & a photo (of the dog) if possible.

We have regular reviews with the WCC Highway engineer, Danny Everett, on our roads and verges, and he helps whenever possible, when funding is available.

Our local NWDC 'Standards Committee' representative is still Cllr Geoff Yates of Lydiard Tregoz PC - he will be doing his best to ensure that their procedures are adhered to.

The precept was increased by £1,000 to £14,000 for this last year 2006/7, and a similar figure of £14,000 was approved for this current year 2007/8. A report on our finances will follow.

There are still Millennium Maps and original Walking Guides for sale, and thanks to Arnold Richards, we have a new £1 booklet - '6 More Walks around LM' - contact Tom Pepperall on 770734.

All sale profits will still be used towards Parish projects, e.g. trees and bushes, etc.

We continue pressurising WCC to improve our roads – we are as keen as you are to see improvement

- WCC tell us Park Lane is due for a facelift this summer. We are still working on one for Greenhill.

We must also renew our thanks to Shaw F.C. and LMCC, for their help in looking after the Rec. Field & JCH, and to LMCC & Colin Richards for grass cutting, as the facility is a great asset to the Parish.

The Clubhouse has been used by the Committees of the Shaw F.C., The Link Scheme, and for occasional use for Parish Council meetings. We hope it will be used by an increasing number of parishioners, but not, wherever possible, to the detriment of the use of our excellent Parish Hall.

Our Council office at JCH is normally open for any queries on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during term times, from 10am to 12noon., and has proved very useful for co-ordinating action on problems.

The Play Area is inspected monthly by a rota of Parish Cllrs, and annually by RoSPA, but please advise any Cllr, or the Clerk, if you see anything untoward. The CCTV provides useful coverage to the Play Area and part of the field area, but please do help us keep the area as you would wish it to be – the facilities belong to the Parish - you - yourselves - you are our most important ears and eyes.

Significant efforts have again been made this year on our Parish Plan projects. We are very pleased to have accomplished the reinstatement of our Post Office and village shop, and fervently hope that the Post Office will not discontinue its support under the impending closures. Please continue to give our Postmaster Neville Stone and his staff your support – use it or lose it!

We are also working hard on the footpath project from The Paddocks to the Washpool turn. The plans have been drawn up, and have been submitted to WCC for approval. Then we shall be seeking quotations for the work, and grant funding of around £100,000 to make it possible. We have also raised most of the cost for plans for a footpath from The Moors to Toomers, following the successful opening of the Post Office, and have instructed the same Highway Architects to prepare them.

Our Website facility, www.lydiard-millicent.org.uk, is now being managed by Chris Paulton of The Mews and our own Justin Holloway. We thank them both for their kind assistance, and hope that parishioners will continue to use it to check on, and contribute to, our parish efforts with comments, suggestions, and help - e.g. further work pursuing the aims of the Parish Plan, or perhaps our Parish Spring Clean-ups. This year's Spring Clean was well supported, and I would like to thank all those who kindly took part, & Cllr Bennett for its excellent organisation. We have also decided on a one-off Spring Clean for the JCH, after its first 5 years service, and we would be pleased to have any parishioners who wish to help from 10am onwards – lunch will be provided.

We are pleased to see our Lydiards Link progressing well. They are well funded for the future, their services are much appreciated, and they are often complimented for their excellent help. They are keen to receive more calls for help, and as always need additional volunteers to enable them to meet all calls – it is a very worthwhile organisation, and a very satisfying service to be part of.

Our help with the Lydiards /Purton end of the Dial-a-Ride disabled servicewas discontinued this year, as we currently have no scheme users in our parish.

Mrs Groom and myself are still involved in representing our Parish interests at various stages of the Swindon B.C. Plan and the N. Wilts District Local Plan, not to mention the S.W. Regional body.

We are lucky to have a representative at the latter, and the final and most relevant part is on now.

You can be sure that LMPC will volubly oppose those that threaten our Parish. It is so important for you to let us know your feelings, and we will still need you to write to appropriate bodies from time to time, to back up our requests / objections to unwelcome proposals. Again – please watch this space.

Cllr Groom and I are involved in our local Northern Community Area Partnership (NCAP) which is set up to provide improvements to all communities from Wootton Bassett to Cricklade, but more public involvement is needed to help local projects. Please see our Website at 'www.ncap-northwilts.org'.

I am also on the committee of the Wiltshire Forum for Community Area Partnerships (WFCAP), 'www.wfcap.org.', which co-ordinates the aims and policies of the various CAPs in Wiltshire.

The NWDC Lengthsmen team, who did small cleaning up jobs for us - not very efficiently! - has now been replaced by the NWDC Parish Steward who visits us one or two days in most months. He has proved to be a big improvement so far. We still suffer, as do most rural parishes, from fly tipping - Greenhill, Bagbury Lane, Holborn, etc - please advise the Parish Clerk, or any Councillor, immediately if you see any rubbish, and especially of those doing it - please record the time, descriptions, and registration number, if at all possible.

I have already mentioned the parking problems, especially around The Butts area at school times.

We would again ask drivers please not to park on verges, or to block the pavements with inconsiderate, and sometimes, dangerous parking. We hope such actions will not one day result in a child being injured, or worse. We will still continue to press for improvements to safety, including better signage, as called for in the Parish Plan.

P.C. minutes are available for inspection. Regular paper copies can be provided for £10 pa., or you can view them on our web-site, subject to a delay until approval at the following P.C. meeting.

Report on finances for past year 2006/7.

Our computerised accounts are printed, although there are one or two minor amendments to be made, after which they will be reviewed by the Auditors.

After allowing for our usual reserve towards a new cemetery or other projects, income exceeded expenditure by some £4,500, and within £1,000 or so of our projected Precept figures. Some is still earmarked for a new bus stop at Greatfield crossroads, and cemetery improvements, but our new Gateway signs have already been erected at the entrances to the village.

It is interesting to note that the joint costs and incomes of the maintenance of the Rec. Field and JCH, used by many parishioners, as well as the footballers & cricketers, continues to equate, more or less.

Our healthy General Fund, and Reserves, will enable us to carry out the Holborn footpath project, when we are ready, as such projects are usually beset by cash-flow constraints, awaiting grant monies.

Such funding will then stand us in good stead for managing further projects thereafter.

4. Statement of the Parish Council Accounts

Report on finances for past year 2005/6.

We are pleased that the accounts, thanks to our new computer system, are ready just in time for the APM, although they have not yet been reviewed by the Auditors.

After allowing for our usual reserve towards a new cemetery or other project, income exceeded expenditure by some £4,000, most of which is earmarked for the new Gateway signs and a new Bus Stop at Greatfield crossroads, which can hopefully be completed in this financial year.

Income and expenditure would have been roughly as projected, had the Gateway Signs and Bus Stop been completed and paid for, but the funds are still earmarked for those purposes.

Some are keen to ensure that we are not subsidising football and cricket, and the figures do back up that aim, especially as the costs include the maintenance of the Rec. Field, JCH, and play area, which is used by many parishioners, as well as the footballers & cricketers. The public and Councillors had a copy of the draft Income and Expenditure which the Chairman briefly went over and answered any questions. An apology was made, as the I & E sheets had not been printed until the morning of the meeting and did not balance. Updated and correct accounts will be issued as soon as possible.

5. Reports or statements from representatives of voluntary and charitable organizations in the Parish.

Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall

Two reports had been received and the Clerk read them to the meeting.

They had had a good year and had completed their two main aims which was to complete the decoration of the Hall and to raise funds for a new set of chairs in the Hall. Six fund raising events had been held. Two trustees had attended a Wiltshire Village Hall Association Training day in February 2007 – bringing the Hall up to date with all the new legislation including Food Safety and Fire/Emergency.

Hall lettings had improved and the school travel group had helped to improve the parking problems.

Future Projects – to actively market the Hall.

Further information and a full report will be available at their AGM on Friday 22nd June.

War Memorial Church Clock Fund

The type of account held was changed on 12th June to obtain a better return for the money raised. There had been 120 donations this year which was a little below normal, total in account £2753.85. The amount is climbing each year and is now becoming a decent amount. Thanks were given for the annual donations from parishioners, which are greatly appreciated.

Lydiard Millicent Lunch Club

There was no report available at the time of the meeting.

Lydiard Link

The Lydiards Link scheme is in good working order.

We transport parishioners of Lydiard Millicent and Lydiard Tregoze who have no other

means of transport with volunteer drivers to wherever locally (normally within 15 miles) they need to go. Volunteers need only undertake tasks when they are available – if they are not, then we ask another volunteer. There is no pressure.

We are a Charity, and are part of the Wiltshire Link Scheme, which is run through Community First in Devizes, and who look after almost 50 schemes.

Our most recent year's figures showed that we made 141 trips in 224 hours.

We are funded by donations, and were recently delighted to receive £206 in memory of Mrs. Gladys Parker dec'd, for which we were very grateful.

Our volunteer drivers are covered by our insurance, and are paid a mileage allowance. They can also take up the offers of Pebley Beach Garage (Wroughton, Cirencester, etc) for discounted motor services etc.

We are shortly to lose our treasurer, and are urgently seeking a replacement. If you, or anyone you know, may be interested in our Scheme, has a small amount of spare time, and can attend up to 4 or 5 local meetings a year – please contact Tom Pepperall, Chairman, on 770734. We are always on the look-out for more drivers – if you think you can help, please phone Diane Crawford on 772304.

6. Receive reports from other invited bodies.

Lydiard Millicent Church

There was no report this year.

Lydiard Millicent Magazine

After 20 years the magazine continues to thrive, with four of the original members still serving on the Editorial Board. Our new Treasurer, Mrs. H Poulton seems happy to continue, and we are lucky to have a further member, Mrs. T Wheeler, who is willing to take over the editorship when she retires, so may be producing this report next year.

Mr P Jinks continues to contribute his dastardly crosswords at holiday seasons, and Ms V Garside – though about to move to Purton – quite happily sets a Quiz from time to time. Sometimes the obituaries form the most interesting part of our literature: but of course occasional articles from readers are very welcome, on any subject.

The Church Mouse continues with philosophical thoughts, bringing an extra dimension to the magazine, and stimulating our printer to think up appropriate and amusing mouse logos to go alongside, always the first thing I look for myself! I must mention here Rick Dixon, that printer, because he is such a great help in every way a very knowledgeable and kindly man, and a constructive influence.

We greatly appreciate the help of Resa and Tony Collis of Hook, who organize their local reports and deliveries and even did so during this past year despite illness, tumbles, and moving house. They play a vital part in the success and sales of the Lydiard's Magazine. We thank, too, Mr Stone of the Post Office and also the proprietors of the Garage, who act as selling agents.

Our circulation of about 550 is slightly higher than previously and we have no problem in getting advertisements. Getting the money out of the advertisers is, however, not always as easy!

We may appear to carry a disproportionate amount of news of Purton societies but that is because many of our parishioners belong to them: various interests and represented –

Historical Society, Gardener's Guild, WI, Tennis, Bowls, news from the Museum. Another apparent outsider is the Chiseldon Travel Club. When Di Greenaway moved to Bath, she continued to support some of our functions and to run her Christmas trip to Thursford, but not the many trips to France that we used to enjoy. This Chiseldon organization has been to some extent a replacement, and our residents gladly make use of them when traveling far distances and have recently tried a trip closer to home, to Normandy, which went very well.

An important event this year was the production of 'Six More Walks in the Lydiards', the first run of 100 sold out within days and already a reprint of a further 50 copies is selling fast. Mr Arnold Richards is to be thanked for the time he spent in doing the walks and his precision in writing them out, which must have taken a great deal of his time and concentration.

A last word of appreciation - for our helpful Parish Clerk, Rosemary, who is pushed so hard by me to produce lengthy Council minutes to meet our deadline, yet she never seems to complain. Last autumn, there being some local arguments about bonfires, in her so-called "spare time" Rosemary produced a useful comprehensive article on the subject for the magazine, and I haven't heard a whisper about the rights and wrongs of bonfires since!

Our thanks to Rosemary, and of course to our thoughtful Chairman, Tom, and to all you helpful Councillors and Parishioners who give the Magazine meaning.

Lydiard Millicent School

Report from Lydiard Millicent CE Primary School for Lydiard Millicent Annual Parish Meeting 2007

Firstly, may I send my apologies for not being able to attend tonight – it is actually half term and having spent 2 days at school, feel I must have two days break – so I am in Cornwall.

It has been a busy and productive year so far at school. Being new to the school and village, I spent the first term settling in, getting to know the children and parents, and of course the staff and school business. With 4 new members of staff at the beginning of the school year, so it was important to 'team build'.

AUTUMN TERM

We celebrated harvest in October and sent the collection of food, fruit and vegetables to 'The Green Hut' charity in Swindon. We had visits from the NSPCC and raised money for them, and two classes went on trips to find out about rivers. Ria Guest organised for the reception class children to learn how to make apple juice, and we raised money for the Red Cross on Poppy Day.

We had a visit from the Wiltshire Recycling Trust and learnt how to recycle our fruit waste – which now goes on to our gardens. We raised money for BBC Children in Need by having a non-uniform day and the Year 6 pupils organised a cake stall. The Year 6 children enjoyed a residential trip to Osmington Bay.

The Key Stage 1 pupils performed a fantastic nativity play called 'The Raggedy King' in the school hall for parents, and the Key Stage 2 children sang 'Hosanna Rock' in church. The Year 6 pupils also sang to the Luncheon Club at their Christmas Dinner.

SPRING TERM

The younger children in school had a visit from the vets and managed to come into close contact with a cat and a snake! We raised money for Christian Aid by selling cards, and our Easter service collection money in church went to Age Concern. The children arranged to send toys they did not need to Pakistan for children who did not have any and the children also organised helping with the Blue Peter Appeal collecting shoes. To embrace other faiths, we had visiting speakers from the Muslim community and Hindu community. We raised money for Comic Relief by wearing red or yellow and the Year 6 pupils organised a cake stall again. Our Tag Rugby Team entered and won an inter school rugby competition and our hockey team did well at their competitions. The school celebrated the arts in the village hall with an art and sculpture display with a collection of music and dance on stage.

SUMMER TERM

It is already busy with preparations for sports day, sports presentation evening and end of year production to be held at Wootton Bassett Secondary School – Joseph & his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Each class has organised a trip to link with their studies and local interest is included. Our school development is coming along with an extension to the reception class and seating area at one end of the school field.

All these extra events are happening as well as the day to day teaching that is going on – I am so lucky to have a fantastic teaching and support team around me!

It will be a sad end to the year as we are losing Liz Quartly-Bishop and Arthur Beltrami as governors – they have both worked hard for the school – they will be missed.

Looking to the future – I am looking forward to increasing links with the village by inviting more residents to join in with school activities and we, as a school hope to be able to pop into the village on a regular basis to meet residents, e.g at Luncheon Club events or by Carol Singing.

Carol Dougill – head teacher

7. Consider resolutions of which written notice of a minimum 7 days has to be given.

There were no resolutions given.

8. Any other items of Community Interest by Public and Councillors.

More gardens are needed for Open Gardens to be held on the 22nd July.

An Advert will be placed in the Lydiard's as there are only 4 homeowners offering their gardens at present.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and announced the date of the next Annual Parish Meeting as May 2008.

The meeting finished at 9.25.

9. Date of the next A.P.Meeting - May 2008.