

Minutes 1st May 2008
LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL

Present: Cllrs J Bennett (Vice-Chair), B Baker, S Burley, J Holloway, A Pflieger, N Smith, K Thomas and S Welch.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Cllrs. A Harris and T Pepperall.
Late. Cllr M Groom.
2. **Housekeeping.** Emergency procedures were advised to 7 members of the public and 8 Cllrs.
3. **Minutes of Meeting 3rd April 2008.** Item 7d. The word ‘cottage’ was deleted, and the minutes were then signed as a true record.
4. **PC Report.** No report received.
5. **County Councillor's Report and Questions Arising:**
 - a. **Unitary Council Ward Boundary Review.** The Boundary Commission have now received the various amendments and proposals for change including the objection from the Parish Council to the removal of Broad Town and the inclusion of an area to the East and South of Wootton Bassett with The Lydiards Ward. The Commission will view all the evidence and make a decision shortly.
 - b. **Biffa – Studley Grange Landfill.** This area should be closing in 2011; however, pressure is being placed on local land owners to sell more land and extend the landfill’s lifetime. Strong protests and representations will be made to prevent any extensions of the landfill area.
 - c. **Swindon Core Strategy.** Swindon Borough Council have prematurely issued their Core Strategy document which proposed 3,000 new houses to the North and West of Swindon including 1,000 houses at Ridgeway Farm (behind/ next to the Forester’s Arms) The areas North and South of Holborn and at Washpool were not recommended for development. A North Wiltshire District Council Area 2 Committee meeting will be held on the 7th May and Swindon Core Strategy is on the agenda.
6. **District Councillor's Report and Questions Arising:**
 - a. **Travellers Sites.** A NWDC meeting over proposed new sites did not go well as the council had not publicised or made clear the criteria for new sites.
 - b. **Progress towards the Unitary Council.** An Access Task Group has been set up and is looking at installing a system whereby receptionists will assist the main exchange in taking calls.
 - c. **The Junction 16 M4 Tunnel.** There will be a request for a Judicial Review of Swindon’s discharge of clause 99.
7. **Parishioner's Question Time.**
 - a. A parishioner queried if the Parish Council listens to and takes action on matters raised by parishioners. Fir tree cuttings have been dumped in the ditch in Buryfield and this had been mentioned at a previous meeting. Similarly, attention was drawn to the complaint made over a year ago regarding the visual obstruction caused by the bus stop sign to traffic entering the roundabout from Chestnut Springs. The council’s environmental intentions were also questioned following proposals in the previous meeting that fir trees in Forge Fields should come down, taking with them all of the wildlife that depends on the trees; and in the same meeting a suggestion was made to extend the concrete at the recreation field, wiping out another area of green land.
Response: The Chairman acknowledged that not all matters received prompt attention, however the dumping of fir tree cuttings in Buryfield would be investigated and the visual obstruction at the roundabout would be discussed at the next Road Safety Sub Committee meeting, perhaps the problem lay in the hatched “Give Way” lines being set too far back.. Parishioners were assured that the Council had no funds or intention to extend the Recreation Field Car Park.
 - b. The Church Bus Stop Shelter is still in an unsatisfactory state, even though it was reported as having been tidied during the springclean.
Response: Vice Chairman to investigate.
 - c. The BT telephone box reported as vandalised last month, was in fact broken by a Scottish and Southern Electric worker whilst erecting a new pole.

Response: Parish Clerk to advise BT and request repairs.

d. Mr. P Day of 3 Forge Fields put his case regarding the fir trees alongside his property. They were originally planted as screening and are now very mature trees in excess of 12 metres high. They have in the past interfered with telephone reception and BT cut out a 'v' shape around the telephone wire; however the trees have grown back with a vengeance. The trees touch guttering of Mr. Day's house and may well have roots long enough to affect the drainage of the property. Recently a 4ft branch fell into his garden, and Mr. Day is concerned that the trees could fall during the heavy winds frequently experienced in that area of the village, and seriously damage his house.

Response: Mr. Day's comments were noted for consideration under Item 15.

e. The Parish Council had received a letter from Purton Age Concern seeking assistance in resisting the proposed closure of the Cedars Day Care Centre in Purton.

Response: Cllr Groom advised that she had already been to work on this item and it appears that some administrative errors had occurred. Visits to the Day Care Centre in Purton and surrounding areas to be made by Cllr Groom and other Officers who have agreed to revisit the whole closure issue.

8. Councillors' reports of Parishioners' queries.

a. Pot holes at the Foresters junction were still there. Cllr Bennett reported that the holes had now been identified and would be reported.

b. Rusted manhole cover by roundabout initially reported 11th July last year, is now thought to belong to Thames Water. Cllr Bennett to continue chasing repair work

c. The new speed limits are now active, but no temporary signs have been erected; Vice Chairman to query with WCC. Further alterations to the speed limited areas to be reviewed by the Road Safety Sub Committee for possible submission the Wiltshire Council's 2009 Highway Review.

d. A house for sale in Downs View is being advertising with a self contained one bed house attached. The Clerk was asked to check the records to see if appropriate planning permission was received.

e. Cllr Groom and Cllr Smith, who are both Governors of the school, explained about an initiative called 'Building Schools for the Future' which includes a 'Primary Capital Programme'. Subject to passing feasibility studies, this initiative could result in the construction of new school building on the main site.

9. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention.

Lydiard Landscapes, have twice now glued a laminated advert to the Common Platt Notice Board, which when removed takes some of the board with it. Cllrs were not aware of this company in the parish. It was agreed that the Clerk will telephone the company concerned and let them know that they are not allowed to use the Parish Council Notice Boards to advertise their business; and that legal action could be taken against them if they continue to damage out boards.

10. Report on Matters Arising from 3rd April 2008 Meeting Not on the Main Agenda.

a. Drains and Highways:

Clearance of The Butts drains to be progressed with WCC by Chairman.

Potholes reported outside Rose Hall appear to be minor subsidence, Cllr Harris to report to Clarence if he considers remedial work required.

The new 30mph limit now in force but needs reinforcing with road markings and new speed limit warning signs. WCC to be contacted by Chairman.

b. Lunch Club. Leaflets have all been distributed.

c. HGV's through Village.

Blackfords and Barretts yard still to be sent the HGV routes by the Chairman.

The Police are stopping and questioning all Irish delivery vehicles in the area especially the Nolan Transport vehicles.

d. Christmas Tree Siting. Deferred to June meeting.

e. Recreation Field Charges. Deferred to June meeting or before next years precept review.

f. Risk Assessments

Council responsibility for Butts pond still needed to be confirmed. The Clerk passed relevant paperwork to the Vice Chairman for review.

The Cemetery Sub Committee will need to report any risks in the new cemetery prior to June meeting.

11. Planning Applications

08/00682/FUL The Glen, 31 Stone Lane, Replacement of dwelling, amended access, and landscaping. The Parish Council **supports** this application.

08/00238/FUL Walnut Tree Gardens, increase to 7 from 6 additional dwellings.

Cllr Burley considered that following repeated applications, development of the site appeared inevitable; therefore should not the council work with the developers to explain what is acceptable. In reply, the Chairman advised that the role of Parish Councils cannot include aiding or abetting developers. The Parish Council continues to object to this development and observed that NWDC had refused the previous application on grounds of lack of green space; therefore the extra home would exacerbate the situation. The Parish Council continues to strongly **oppose** this application.

08/00812/FUL Conservatory on Rear of 15 Forge Fields. **No adverse comments.**

08/00851/FUL Extension over garage; rear two storey and single storey extension and front single storey extension at 30 The Mews. This application as it is too big for the site, and will lead to loss of light to neighbour on left. The Parish Council **objects**.

08/00842/COU Change of use of agricultural land to garden at Lydiard Towers, 3 Lydiard Green.

This application is retrospective as a fence has already been moved and it omitted to record that a public right of way borders the property. A swimming pool has been built in the garden and a small brick building adjacent to the pool has also been constructed (which possibly may require planning permission), necessitating the move of the paddock fence.

The council has previously objected to the proposed loss of agricultural land to gardens in Lydiard Green and Greenhill to needed to be consistent, application opposed.

08/00778/FUL 6 The Crescent, Common Platt. Erection of side extension to enlarge garage and enlargement of roof with provision of 6 dormer windows.

No adverse comments.

08/00964/FUL 5 Park View Drive Single storey extension to rear, side and front.

Cllr Smith declared an interest in this application and abstained from voting.

No adverse comments.

Amended 08/00633/FUL Erection of double detached garage following conversion of existing integral garage to kitchen at 59 Chestnut Springs. **No adverse comments**

NWDC Permissions Granted

08/00165/FUL New dormers and extensions at 44 Chestnut Springs.

07/02947/FUL Continued use of site for mixed use at Barretts Yard, Stone Lane. This permission came with many conditions.

08/00384/FUL Amended plans/subsequently approved. Single storey side and rear extension at 46 Chestnut Springs.

12. Accounts

Expenditure (*incl. VAT)		£'s
Mrs R Leckie	Wages	249.75
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	39.98
L.M.P.H.	Hire of Hall for meeting	20.00
SFC	White lining of pitches	100.00
Inside Out	Groundsman's fee	487.33
WALC	Parish Council Insurance annual premium	822.57*
WALC	Annual Subscription 2008/9	486.46
Avon Fire Ext'rs Ltd	Servicing of extinguishers	82.98*
Data Protection Act	Annual Renewal	35.00

Cllr Groom proposed and Cllr Smith seconded the above accounts, there were no objections.

Income

Lydiard Link	10.00
SFC	541.50
Cemetery	30.00
Walking Guides	10.00
First half of Precept	7,500.00

Internal and External Audit of Parish Council Accounts.

Ross Brooke Chartered Accountants had virtually doubled their fees for the Internal Audit of our accounts this year to £450 plus VAT; the Clerk would attempt to find a cheaper company or get the price reduced. However, the Internal Audit is required to be completed in June and be available for public scrutiny before being dispatched to the Government appointed External Auditors (Mazars) by the 31st July 2008.

13. Committee Reports. Recreation Field and JCH nothing to report, Play Area report by Cllr. Thomas reported no problems. Cemetery, Chairman to remind the Groundsman to shut gate after working in the cemetery.

14. Christmas Tree – New Site. Deferred.

15. Fir Trees in Forge Fields. Discussion took place over whether or not the trees would look brown and ugly if trimmed and whether or not replacement plants would grow, also the environmental impact of removing the trees and the risks to the neighbouring house were discussed. The cost of replacement plants were estimated at £100 maximum based on prices at Blooms Garden Centre. A series of votes were then taken:

Proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Pflieger that every other tree be removed, beginning with the one nearest the house, and that thereafter ongoing management of the site be undertaken.

Vote taken - 4 votes for and 5 votes against. Not carried.

Proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Pflieger that the top and width of the trees be reduced and maintained.

Vote taken 2 for 5 against and 2 abstentions. Not carried.

Proposed by Cllr Holloway and seconded by Cllr Groom that the trees be removed and replaced with shrubs such as Berberis or Pyracantha.

Vote taken 6 in favour and 2 against. **Vote carried.** Note was taken that this work cannot be carried out until approximately September when the birds have finished nesting.

15a. Swindon Borough Council – Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and “Call for Sites”. Covered in the discussion of the Swindon Core Strategy under Item 5.

16. Discuss review of Parish Plan. Deferred.

17. Update on risk assessment of Butts Pond/Cemetery. Deferred.

18. Parish Steward’s Next Visits. In May all Parish Stewards are all deployed to verge cutting; tasks for usual services on 17/18th June 2008 to be considered at June meeting.

19. Closure of Cedars Day Care Centre in Purton. See Item 7e.

20. Correspondence.

LMPH Require a representative from LMPC to join committee at their AGM on 6th June.

Cllr Smith would attend.

LMPH Invitation to put on a display at the Church Garden Party on 5th July 2008. – Chairman may wish to sell Millennium Maps.

WCC Road traffic act 1984 - new speed limits came into force 18th April 2008 - noted.

NWDC Clean Neighbourhoods Act - Stray Dogs. Poster advising new responsibilities to be displayed on main board.

21. Dates of next meetings:

Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday 29th May, 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

Speaker from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

Refreshments will be served.

Monthly Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 5th June 2008 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m. Minutes signed by Cllr Bennett 5th June 2008.