

Lydiard Millicent Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting
29th May 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

AGENDA

Apologies - Mollie

1. Welcome and Introduction. Was given to the Councillors and Parishioners who numbered 21 in total.

2. Guest Speaker – Paul Darby of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Mr Darby works on the Braydon Forest Project under the landscapes for wildlife, which is a charitable organization. They work with land owners and farmers and help to manage and restore wildlife into Hedgerows and woodlands, to maintain a typical English landscape. They are also looking at climate change and are estimating what will happen to wildlife in the future, with a special interest in Barn Owls, Brown Hares, Great Crested Newts and Orchid's

The group gives advice, grants, training and even has their own large machinery for working on the land. To date they have recreated 1 acre and are restoring 44 acres, including 1,582m of hedges.

Questions were asked about a local stream which flows to Lydiard Park, as to whether or not it has been surveyed. Response, this would be Swindon's section of the organization, however, it is worth asking for surveys on land in our area as interesting finds could help prevent inappropriate development of the land.

Other questions included what type of seed to plant and where they could be purchased, when to cut the grass in a wild meadow and whether or not it is appropriate to graze cattle or sheep.

Various leaflets and information guides were left on the stage for parishioners to take away with them.

Mr Darby was thanked for coming and the meeting broke for refreshments at 8.00 p.m.

3. Annual Report by Chairman – was read out by Cllr Bennett.

Welcome and thanks were given to Parishioners, who help us to keep up-to-date with the state and wishes of the Parish.

One of our longest-serving Cllrs Liz Quartly Bishop left in October, and our grateful thanks are due to for her many years of duty to the Parish.

This left us with two vacancies, which we were delighted to fill in February with the co-options of Mr Kenley Thomas, and Mr Simon Welch.

Thanks were given to the continuing Cllrs for all the hard work they do. Special thanks are due to Cllr. John Bennett for his able support as Vice-Chairman, and also to Cllr Mollie Groom, also our County and District Cllr, for the many hours of work she puts in.

Special thanks also to our Highways sub-committee who are working hard to organise improvements to road safety. Flashing speed signs have been denied to us by WCC, but we have managed to gain some extensions to our speed limit areas.

Park Lane was treated with better drainage and a new road surface last summer, but we are still chasing regularly for improvements for Greenhill.

Thanks also to those who work for us, especially Rosemary Leckie, our Parish Clerk, whose continued contributions are invaluable.

We have re-employed Groundsman Steve Keye, following his period of business difficulties, and hope that he will now continue to provide us with a well kept Cemetery and village. We must also thank him, and Teds Electrics, for their help in the provision and lighting of our Christmas tree last December.

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; also to Cllr Brian Baker as Trustee of the War Memorial Clock Fund, who also works with 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 continuing to look after it so well.

We are sad to hear that Cllr Geoff Yates, who for many years was Chairman of Lydiard Tregoz PC, has recently moved to Wootton Bassett, and retired from the Council – we wish him well in his retirement

The precept was retained at £14,000 for this last year 2007/8, but increased to £15,000 for this current year 2008/9 to reflect the increased cost of Ground Maintenance and the possibility of caring for the Old Cemetery.

There are still for sale Millennium Maps at £15 or framed at £25, and a few copies of the original and new Walking Guides at £1. All sale proceeds will still be used towards improving the Parish - e.g. trees and bushes, etc.

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 for grass cutting during the summer, as the facility is a great asset to the Parish.

The Clubhouse has been used by the Committees of the Shaw F.C., the Lydiards Link, 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 it as you would wish it to be – the facilities belong to the Parish - you are our most important ears and eyes.

Many parishioners were sad to see the eventual demise of our Post Office after much work to achieve its re-opening, but there was little response to encourage the PC to try to save it.

We are still working hard on the footpath project from The Paddocks to the Washpool turn. We are now seeking quotations for the work, and then grant funding of around £100,000 to make it possible. We also raised most of the cost for plans for a footpath from The Moors to Toomers, but cannot even consider proceeding with this task until the Holborn Path is complete.

Our Website facility, www.lydiard-millicent.org.uk, is now being managed by our own Cllr Justin Holloway, with help from Chris Poulton of The Mews. 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.

This years Spring Clean was well supported, and I would like to thank all those who kindly took part. We also undertook a one-off Spring Clean for the JCH, after its first 5 years service, and were grateful to those Cllrs & families, and representatives from Shaw FC who gave up their time to make a noticeable improvement.

We must also thank the Smiths and the Wheelers for resurrecting our 'Open Gardens' day in July 2007 - an event much enjoyed by parishioners, and visitors from various adjacent communities.

Mrs Groom and myself are still involved in representing our Parish interests at various stages of the formation of Wiltshire Council from the shortly to be extinct WCC & NWDC

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

We are grateful for the regular visits of the NWDC Parish Steward. He has helped to tackle various maintenance work on footpaths, hedges, etc, which we would otherwise have to budget for ourselves.. 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.

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.

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.

4. Statement of the Parish Council Accounts

A copy of the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure had been circulated to parishioners and Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Bennett briefly went over the figures and answered questions on the accounts.

5. Reports or statements from representatives of voluntary and charitable organisations in the Parish:-

Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall

Cllr Smith who is the representative on the Parish Hall committee reported that the Infrastructure was solid with 50% utilization, the challenge over car parking continues.

The committee are financially comfortable and in a good state. Possible projects in next 12 months could include new tables, barbecue area, restoration of stage. Their AGM would take place on Friday 6th June, and more information would be available then.

War Memorial Church Clock Fund.

Cllr Baker was not available and had not left a report. It was hoped to get a report prior to the minutes going out.

Lydiard Millicent Lunch Club

The Lunch Club meet each Wednesday and average between 63 and 78 members per week. This year on the 2nd July will be their 20th anniversary. The bulk of the membership began in the early 60's and many are becoming frail, which means that Joe has to do three trips each way now with the minibus. Recently the village was leafleted to try and obtain some more helpers, in order that they can continue for many more years.

Lydiard Link

Lydiard Link is progressing well and is adequately funded for the future; the services are much appreciated and our drivers are often complimented for their excellent help. The most important daily work is done by the two Co-ordinators Sheila and Avril, to whom a huge thank you is given. They are keen to receive more calls for help, as always need additional volunteers to enable the group to meet all their calls. Telephone number 855842 weekdays 9 to 5.

6. Receive reports from other invited bodies:-

Lydiard Millicent Church,

The Clerk had left it too late to get a report this year and the vicar was away on holiday.

Lydiard Millicent Magazine

Price continues to remain at 40p per copy, or £5 annual subscription, delivered to the door by volunteers. Currently the postal subscription is £10 pa but the rising cost of postage, stationery and printing make it inevitable that these costs will rise.

They are financially sound and can pay some expenses incurred by the volunteers, but that may change if the price of petrol continues to rise.

The person responsible for deliveries is 74 years old, and the Tregoze correspondent is 83 the editor 84, and try as they might they will not be able to continue for ever. A possible contender to take over the magazine has postponed her retirement and is at present still working full time. The Parish Council were reminded that they should have a contingency plan in mind should the magazine personnel require help.

Lydiard Millicent C of E Primary School

The Clerk had left getting a report very late and the annual meeting had again fallen on half term. Next years meeting needs to try and avoid the holiday week.

Any other organisation that wishes to give report, please contact the Clerk prior to the meeting.

There were no other reports offered.

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

There were no resolutions set before the Council.

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

What is happening about other cemetery? Response – It may need to be re-advertised as it was called the wrong name in the newspapers. It will then have to be officially documented. The NWDC will deal with all the heavy legal work in the future.

Parking on pavement adjacent to the Garage, The Street. This prevents or makes it very difficult to safely pass without going around the vehicle into the road. It was asked if the Council would speak to the garage and car sales and request that they keep some space available for visitors or trade deliveries.

Dog mess was reported past cemetery gate along the path into the farmers' field. More signs need to be put up.

9. Date of the next A.P.Meeting - May 2009.

The meeting closed at 9.05.