

**Minutes 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008**  
**LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL**

**Present:** Cllrs: J Bennett (Vice Chair), S Burley, A Harris, J Holloway, A Pflieger, N Smith, S Burley (late).

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs: T Pepperall, M Groom, K Thomas, B Baker.

The councillors joined with the Vice Chairman in sending their best wishes Cllr Pepperall in hospital for a speedy recovery.

Cllr Bennett reported that he too had to go into hospital for a minor operation on the 12<sup>th</sup> June and asked for volunteers to help the Clerk should she require assistance whilst both Chairman and Vice Chairman were unavailable. Cllrs Burley, Holloway and Pflieger advised that they would be available depending on the subject matter.

- 2. Housekeeping.** Emergency procedures were given to 9 members of the public plus 5 councillors

- 3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008.** These were signed as a true record.

- 4. Minutes of Parish Council meeting 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008.** These were amended at:  
 Item 6c delete 'as they do not own the land concerned.'  
 Item 15 line 11, the proposal to top and reduce the width of the trees was voted on. The votes should have read '2 for and 5 against'.

The minutes were then signed as a true record.

- 5. PC Report.** There was no police representation again. Cllr Harris requested that the Council try to obtain a more frequently police presence. It was confirmed that the police officer does receive a copy of the agenda and minutes

- 6. County Councillor's report and questions arising.** The Vice-chairman read out a report from Cllr Groom advising that the CPRE have filed papers on SBC for a judicial review on SBC's release of clause 99 regarding J16 of the M4; also, strong smells from Studley Grange land fill have been reported to the environmental authorities.

**6a NWDC letter to SBC re Swindon Core Strategy (sites to west of Swindon)**

Vice chairman summarised the situation. NWDC had questioned planning proposals for land not belonging to Swindon and recommended that a working group between Swindon and NWDC on the first 1000 homes needed to continue to regarding the increased number of new houses.

- 7. District Councillor's report and questions arising.** The report from Cllr. Groom advised that Wootton Bassett was to host a meeting regarding Gypsy site review on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June.

**8. Parishioner's Question Time.**

**a.** A laurel was reported as overhanging the path between Buryfield and Chestnut Springs.

**Response.** The appropriate house owner would be asked to deal with the offending laurel.

**b.** It was noted that hedges in church place, and 1 & 2 The Street are quite wide and when the dustbins are put out, walkers need to go around on the road.

**Response.** The owners would be contacted and requested to cut back their hedges as far as possible.

**c.** It was reported that a drain cleaner had been along The Street that day and other areas had been cleaned during the week.

**Response.** The Vice-chairman would ask Wiltshire Highways to advise him of their drain cleaning programme for the village, and the progress against the programme.

**d.** A resident of Common Platt who has had a 30mph sign put up on the grass verge outside their home questioned whether or not the Highway Authority had the right to do this. The positioning of the new 30mph signs and extent of the new limited areas were considered inappropriate and inadequate. The signs had not helped control the traffic; if anything the situation has got worse, and reported that they get vehicles travelling at 50 mph plus at the weekends.

**Response.** It was advised that the Highways Authority did have the power to erect signs on

verges which are considered to be part of the highway. Where signs were inappropriately located then the Highways Authority could be requested to reposition them. The Parish Council had originally requested a 30mph limit for a far more extensive area in Common Platt, Washpool and The Elms; however, WCC highways and the police reviewed the request and proposed the present arrangement. The Parish Council reluctantly accepted this proposal as it was an improvement, but reserved the right to seek the extension of the speed limit as originally requested. The Parish Council Road Safety and Highways Sub-Committee would look at this problem when it next met.

**e.** Cllr Harris expressed his frustration that the Parish Council spent too much time looking at insignificant issues in the parish and did not spend enough time pushing for something to ease the traffic situation in the village. He asked, now we have our 30 mph signs at Common Platt what will the next step be?

**Response.** Cllr Bennett has previously requested the implementation of radar checks in Common Platt and Washpool with the Safety Camera Partnership team who had explained that they could not run a speed check along Common Platt because of the winding layout of the road and lack of suitable locations for monitoring vehicles. The police and SCP are not able to use private driveways. The SCP will now be asked to install a vehicle and speed monitoring device in Common Platt or Washpool so that the volume and speed of traffic could be determined. Alternatively a vehicle count by parishioners could be set up. Requests to WCC and Swindon BC for a footpath along part of the road had been rejected because of a lack of funds. SBC had suggested that the children from the Peatmoor houses catch school buses on Swinley Drive. However, this suggestion had not yet been taken forward with the transport and education staff of SBC.

**d.** A resident of Greenhill asked again when the condition of the road was going to be sorted out and advised that the large pipe under the turning circle at the end of Greenhill is blocked and needs clearing. Likewise, a drain at Gypsy corner would appear to be broken where large lorries go over it.

**Response.** Greenhill is an unclassified road and is a low priority for the Highways. Authority; they had been addressing the re-instatement of the drains so that when the road is eventually resurfaced it will not be washed away. Cllr. Pflieger suggested that the resident write to James Gray MP to enlist his aid in sorting the matter out.

#### **9. Councillors' reports of Parishioners' queries.**

**a.** The pot hole at the corner by the Foresters has been reported but had not yet been repaired.

**Response.** WHP to be hastened by Vice Chairman.

**b.** A great deal more dog mess has been noticed in the village and it was suggested that the Lydiards Magazine run an article asking people to respect their village and keep it clean and tidy.

**Response.** The Vice-chairman would draft an article.

**c.** There is a tree on the overgrown plot opposite the entrance to The Close which has branches overhanging the footpath.

**Response.** Mr Bailey the land owner to be contacted by the Vice Chairman.

**d.** Safety issues were raised over building work being carried out at Stable Cottage. Recently Cllr Holloway found a large manhole left uncovered after the workmen had left for the weekend.

**Response.** It was agreed that the Vice Chairman should contact the owner and let him know of our concerns. If no improvement is noted then NWDC building control would be contacted.

#### **10. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention.**

The Clerk said this year she had received 2 requests for allotments. It was agreed that the provision of allotments would be discussed at the July meeting.

#### **11. Report on matters arising from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008 not on the main agenda.**

**a.** Letters to the owners of 1 & 2 Church Place were being sent re hedge clippings in the ditch opposite no 15 Buryfield.

**b.** Thanks were given to Mrs J Willies for painting the inside of the Church bus shelter.

**c.** The broken panes in the telephone box had still to be reported – Action Vice Chairman.

**d.** A letter from the solicitors of No1 Forge Fields had been received querying the Parish Council's actions regarding the matter of the Fir Trees in Forge Fields. A response to the solicitor's letter had been drafted but it was the feeling of some of the Council that legal advice should be sought before sending a reply. In the interim, the quotation from Cotswold Tree Surgeon had been accepted and work will begin Aug or Sept once the bird's nests were

empty.

e. A request had been received from Age Concern Purton seeking Parish Council support to prevent the proposed closure of the Cedars Day Care Centre; Cllr Groom had assured the council that action was in hand to stop closure. Subsequently the Clerk was asked why we did not send a letter of support. Further investigation into the matter revealed that the Cedars have been prevented from taking any new day patients, which is effectively a closure notice. A letter will now be sent expressing our concerns over the loss of this service, explaining that we have no other facility near to the village. It will also point out that if a new facility is needed then we have land which was identified in the Parish Plan for possible development.

## 12. Planning Applications

**Permission to retain** single mobile classroom without toilets WCC754(98) at LM C of E Primary School. The Parish Council agreed to support this application.

**08/00927/S73A** Variation of condition no's 3, 5, & 7 and removal of condition no 4. at Barretts Yard. Cllr Groom had information that it was to be refused by NWDC and the planning was not discussed.

**08/01058/FUL 11 Greenhill, Two storey extension and garage** An objection from resident of no 9 had been received with regard to the position of the garage and asked that it be sited more sideways to prevent the loss of light to his property. The Parish Council supported the objection and recorded a no adverse comment on the actual extension.

**08/01131/TCA The Manor – Fell one diseased Oak Tree.** – N adverse comments were recorded.

**08/01132/TCA Lydiard Farm – Fell diseased Beech Tree.** – No adverse comments were recorded.

**08/01203/FUL 6 Greenhill,** extension to roof to provide loft conversion including dormer windows to front; revised conservatory and alterations. No adverse comments were recorded.

Cllr Holloway advised that a planning application was on the NWDC website for a 100' x 33' x 20' barn on land at Greensend, Lydiard Green. The application had not yet been received by the clerk but NWDC will be asked for time to review the application at the next Parish Council meeting.

### NWDC Permission Granted

**08/00238/FUL** Walnut Tree Gardens – this application was approved at Committee on 15.5.08. However, formal notification from NWDC was awaited.

**08/00851/FUL** 30 The Mews – Extension over garage; rear two storey and single storey extension and front single storey extension.

**08/00812/FUL** 15 Forge Fields, Lydiard Millicent – Conservatory on rear.

### NWDC Permission Refused

**08/00682/FUL** The Glen, 31 Stone Lane.

**Gypsy Site Consultation** The consultation is from the 9<sup>th</sup> of May to the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2008 and details can be obtained from the NWDC website - [www.northwilts.gov.uk/gypsyconsultation](http://www.northwilts.gov.uk/gypsyconsultation)

## 13. Accounts (\*incl. VAT)

£'s

### Expenditure:

Mrs R Leckie	Wages	249.75
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	
L.M.P.H.	Hire of Hall for meeting	20.00
Inside Out	Groundsman's fee	487.33
T Pepperall	Stationery	86.36*
Community First	Membership fee	34.00
Scribe (Accounts Software)	Annual Licence Renewal	195.00
Lockmasters Mobile	To repair the JCH Store shed lock	99.88
Mrs P Willies	Paint for Bus Shelter	16.99

It was agreed to obtain 50 more walking guides and ratify this expenditure at the July meeting. The above accounts were proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Pflieger there were no

objections

### **Income during May 2008**

Lydiard Plain	750.00
Cemetery	385.00
Shaw Football Club	860.00
Subscription for minutes	10.00

### **13a. Audit.**

The meeting was content with the scope of the Internal Audit proposed by 'Auditing Solutions Ltd' whose services have been secured at a lower price than the previous auditors; the internal auditor will be at the JCH on the 16<sup>th</sup> June. The audited accounts will then be presented for council approval at the July meeting before despatch to the Government's External Auditors.

### **13. Committee Reports:**

- a. Recreation Field - was reported as being tidy. Revised Recreation Ground charges (attached) had already been circulated to SFC and the LMCC to enable them to adjust match fees. Increases were in line with inflation and will be reflected in the next precept
- b. JCH - An attempted break in at the Store room had been reported on the 29<sup>th</sup> May. Nothing appears to have been taken. A locksmith had been called to open the doors and make it secure. Mr Frost our builder will be completing the repair to the door locks.
- c. Play Area - Cllr Thomas was due to report on the, and his report will be given to the Clerk shortly.
- d. Cemetery – nothing reported.

### **14. Christmas tree – new site**

Cllr Smith advised that the Parish Hall Committee has agreed that the Parish Council may install a permanent site for the tree, with electricity provided from within the Parish Hall. This work will need to be fully costed; Cllr Pflieger offered to obtain a quote from the electrician we have used to put up the trees for the previous two years. This will return to the agenda when the quote has been received.

### **15. Update on Closure of old cemetery.**

The closure of the churchyard extension has now been correctly advertised in the newspapers. The Clerk will obtain the closure procedure and timescale for the hand over to NWDC so that parishioners may be informed..

### **16. Delegation to Town and Parish Councils.**

In preparation for the formation of the unitary Wiltshire Council, WCC is consulting Town and Parish Councils regarding tasks that they may wish to take on. Councillors were shown the list of possible delegated tasks and were asked if they thought the Council would want to take on any of them in the future. The Vice Chairman advised that the Chairman had indicated on the notes that he did not think there were any areas which come under Parish Council control; this view was concurred by councillors. However, before a definitive reply was sent to WCC, it was suggested that the Clerk find out what other Parish Councils think about possible delegated powers.

### **17. Update on risk assessment of Butts Pond/Cemetery.**

The meeting considered the Briefing Notes prepared by the Vice Chairman. The pond belongs to the Diocese of Bristol and is managed on their behalf by Humberts Land Agents. The Parish Council has no legal or formal agreement with Humberts regarding conservation of the pond and surrounds. Whilst the council may support individuals or other organisations in conservancy matters, the council is not a conservation body. Accordingly, it was agreed that a letter should be sent to Humberts, copy to the school governors, including the vicar advising that the Parish Council no longer has an interest in the conservation of the pond. The Vice Chairman reported that the pond was a potentially dangerous area and it was agreed that the letter to Humberts would include a request for them to erect a warning sign to the effect that the pond is a dangerous area and that entry was at individual's risk.

The Cemetery committee had not met.

### **18. Parish Steward's next visits 17/18<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

- a. Parapet of bridge at Holborn, needs clearing of weeds etc. and a drainage grip cut on the left hand side (as you exit the village) verge to permit drainage from the road into the stream.
- b. Pot holes at the Forestersto be filled if not already done by 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Various road signs, to be trimmed or cleared of vegetation.

**19. Stand at Church Garden Party 5<sup>th</sup> July.**

The Chairman is hoping to be available to sell Millennium maps. If he is not available then a volunteer will be sought.

**20. Correspondence.**

Community Area Highway Information. – Only Greenhill crossroads to be resurfaced in 2008/9.

Swindon Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation.

W.A.L.C. – May 2008 newsletter.

Wiltshire Police Authority – seeking independent members to join. Note - this is a paid position.

Paws (Participatory Arts Workshops Scheme in Wiltshire) project menu for April to Sept 2008.

The Clerk – May 2008 Journal of Local Council Clerks – info only, see Clerk for copy.

Letter from Solicitors of No 1 Forge Fields re removal of Fir Trees.

**21. Next Parish Council meeting:**

Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2008 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:50 pm.

**These minutes were signed by Cllr J Bennett on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008.**