

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 7th August 2008

Present: Cllrs. J Bennett (Vice Chairman), B Baker, S Burley, A Harris, A Pflieger, N Smith, K Thomas, S Welch

1. Apologies for absence. Cllrs. T Pepperall, M Groom (representing Parish at a WCC/NWDC Area Boards work shop) and J Holloway.

2. Safety Briefing. All present were briefed on the procedures in the event of an emergency.

3. Minutes of 3rd July 2008. These were corrected to show that Cllr Burley was not in attendance.

4. Police Report There was no police officer in attendance.

5. County Councillor's report and questions arising. No report received.

6. District Councillors report and questions arising. No report received.

7. Parishioner's Question Time.

a. A resident reported that the Parish Steward had cut down the nettles at the school bus stop but failed to dig out the roots, and then proceeded to trim the nettles along the fence on the Butts which were growing from private property.

Response. The Vice Chairman advised that the Parish Steward is new and whilst willing, needs local direction; to that end Cllr Bennett will try and meet him when he visits the village to ensure he has received correct instructions. The previous month the Parish Steward had also cut a grip in a field gateway near the junction of the Washpool road with Tewksbury Way and cleared patches of mud on the adjacent footpath.

b. A resident of The Street expressed concern over road safety particularly at the Park Lane and Holborn end of The Street, but also in the village generally. Traffic is not respecting the 30 mph limit and accelerates away from the traffic calming "hump". There are no paths along part of The Street and some that do exist are too narrow for prams forcing people to walk in the road. Additionally, vehicles exceeding 7.5 tonnes are observed entering the village and it is suspected that they are not delivering in the village.

Response. The Vice Chairman advised that the police had been asked to operate speed cameras in the area. Additional road markings would be requested to reinforce the extended 30 mph limit around Holborn. A Parish Council project was underway to construct a footpath from The Paddocks/Badger's Brook to join the existing footpath at Tewkesbury Way. However, the footpath in The Street from the Chestnut Springs roundabout needed to extend down to the bus stop. It was also suggested that the road narrowing around the hump could be extended to permit a wider footpath extending to level with the bus stop on the opposite side of the road. The hump could be removed and replaced with traffic lights. This and other highway issues will be discussed by the Highways Sub-committee when they next meet. Residents were also encouraged to contact the school governors about safe routes to school, and to write down registration numbers, owner/operator details and phone numbers, date and time, and description of vehicles suspected of breaching the 7.5 tonne limit and pass the details to the police (0845 4087000) or the Parish Clerk.

c. Mr Robinson of No1 Forge Fields, stated that he was still unhappy about the decision to remove the fir trees in Forge Fields. He continued to object to the way the issue had been dealt with at, and prior to, the July 2008 Parish Council meeting. He asked if the Councillors would re-consider their decision and opt for compromise by managing the trees.

Mr. Akers of No2 Forge Fields also raised objections to the decision to fell the trees and the manner in which the Parish Council had reached the decision. He stated that letters expressing residents' concerns were not read out on the night. He noted that the trees shield and absorb the noise from the sub-station.

Mr Day of No3 Forge Fields then spoke and outlined the original situation. Mc Leans expected that he would take the trees on for free when he purchased his house, he asked for £2,000 to maintain the trees which McCleans refused, and they subsequently persuaded the Parish Council to take them on for £750. BT had cut the trees 6 years ago, to stop interference to phone lines, but the trees had subsequently grown back. He disagreed about the noise from the sub-station and said that there is so much pine drop that the SSEB regularly bring in blowers to remove the debris from the top of the sub-station. He pointed out that Leylandii hedges were covered by Anti Social Behaviour legislation;

however, rather than taking that route, he has asked the Council to deal with their trees. Mr Day urged the Councillors to continue with their agreed course of action.

Response. Cllr Bennett explained that in making the decision to remove the trees the Council had followed the correct procedure as per Parish Council Standing Orders and the guidance for Parish Councils issued by the Government. The options had been discussed and the council by a majority had decided to remove the trees and replace them with wildlife friendly shrubs. Parish Council Standing Orders state that a decision made by the council cannot be reversed within 6 months unless a special written resolution is made which bears the names of at least 3 councillors. Cllrs N Smith, A Pflieger and S Welch said they wished to re-consider the decision. It was agreed that they needed to put this in writing to the Parish Clerk by midnight on Wednesday 13th August 2008. Cllr Bennett then explained that if these three letters were received then he would resign from the council. Cllr Thomas then advised that he has a forestry qualification and he had looked at the trees. He did not feel that they were screening the sub-station anymore and that the trees ought to be removed as many of the big roots are actually coming out of the ground. He also advised that plants can be re-established in the ground afterwards if the tree roots are ground out.

8. Councillors' reports of Parishioners' Queries.

a. A rusting manhole had been reported between Church roundabout and entrance to Lydiard Farm.

Response. The council reported this over a year ago; the manhole is the responsibility of Thames Water. Further hastening action will be taken with Thames Water.

b. A broken stile was reported at the end of The Moors, between No.2 & 3.

Response. Cllrs Smith and Pflieger offered to investigate and repair if possible.

c. A pothole on the corner of Common Platt has still not been repaired

Response. A "Clarence" report would be submitted.

d. It was reported that the positioning of the signs prohibiting vehicles over 7 ½ tons from entering Washpool Road at the junction with Tewksbury Way may be confusing.

Response. Wiltshire Highways will be requested to erect another weight limit sign on the LH side of the entrance to Washpool Road.

e. Pictures of flooding by the Foresters at a property known as 'The Firs' were shown. There is a drainage ditch which leads to Peatmoor lagoon, and a ditch on the other side of the road. It is possible that one or both of these may be blocked exacerbating flooding in the area. A suggestion was made that some of this water may be coming from Stone Lane, as natural drainage from an old quarry may have been filled in.

Response. Wiltshire Highways have been informed of the problem.

f. Graffiti had been sprayed onto the road sign on Washpool Road at the junction with Tewkesbury Way.

Response. Reported the WHP via Clarence.

9. Clerks Report on Matters Brought to her Attention.

a. Cllr Holloway had sent an email to say that footpath No 50 was blocked by a fallen fence which now has vegetation growing over it. He suggested that we ask the owner to reinstate or remove their fence. It is believed that we can pick it up the fallen fence and place it on the property, but we could be accused of further damage to the fence.

Response. Cllrs Smith and Pflieger will look at this problem and report back.

b. The Parish Steward's next visit is on the 16/17th Sept. The following tasks had been requested:

Clear around 30mph village sign on Manor Hill.

Strim the area around The Street sign opposite Badgers Brook.

Clear nettle roots from the School bus stop.

Response. Councillors and parishioners should submit further tasks for the Parish Steward to the Parish Clerk as soon as possible.

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

Mobile Speed Signs. No response had been received to our request to have the police mobile signs installed temporarily in the village.

Permanent Speed Signs. The Vice-Chairman had still to write to WCC on this matter. Cllr Pflieger advised that he had seen an article regarding Great Somerfield where they have bought and erected similar signs to the ones we were refused. He will try and find the article for next month

Greenhill Blocked Drain. The blocked drain at Gypsy Corner had been pointed out to the WHP Engineer during her recent visit but a follow up report would be made to Clarence.

Topsoil for Gypsy Corner and Sign to Blackfords. The Vice-Chairman still had to write to Blackfords to seek their assistance with topsoil to cover the unofficial passing point at Gypsy Corner, WHP would then seed the soil and erect road markers.

Action. Cllr. Harris to provide contact details for Blackfords.

Nettles at The School Bus Stop. The Parish steward had cut back the nettles.

Chestnut Springs Shrub. The occupant had cut back the offending tree.

Ramp from Buryfield onto the path to Chestnut Springs. The parishioner who had complained about the lack of a ramp confirmed that even with a ramp, wheelchairs with their occupant could not be pushed underneath the bars across the path.

Response. Wiltshire Highways would be asked for their advice as to how we can remedy the situation without leaving it open for use as a through track for bikes etc.

11. Planning Applications. Comments were made that viewing plans on the night is often not sufficient time to take in all the information on more complicated plans. The Clerk reminded the meeting that she advertises the plans a week prior to the meeting and Cllrs and public can come and view them either at the clubhouse or by appointment at the house.

08/01603/S73A Variations to conditions at Barretts Yard, Stone Lane, L.M.

It was agreed to continue to **object** to change of variations. It was pointed out that Toomers is open on bank holidays, and this may be a factor when NWDC consider this.

Amended Plans for our Information:

08/01418/COU The Lodge, Church Place.

NWDC Planning Approvals:

08/01132/TCA Fell diseased beech tree at Lydiard Farm, Lydiard Millicent.

08/01131/TCA Fell diseased evergreen oak tree at The Manor, Lydiard Millicent.

08/01203/FUL Loft conversion, Utility Room and Conservatory at 6 Greenhill.

08/01507/TCA Fell Leyland Cypress Hedge at Church Farm.

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

08/07012 Retention of a single mobile classroom at LM C of E School.

NWDC Planning Refusals

08/00898/COU Change of use of Agricultural land at Swindon Caravan Centre.

08/00972/FUL Erection of Agricultural Building at Greens End, Lydiard Green.

12. Accounts:

Expenditure:

Mrs R Leckie	Wages	249.75
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	33.94*
	New Laptop	453.85*
	Software	47.90*
	Mobile Broadband	10.00per month
	Mobile Phone (pay as you go)	tba
L.M.P.H.	Hire of Hall for meeting	20.00
Inside Out	Groundsman's fee	487.75

Income:

LMCC	Pitch hire	350.00
SFC	Pitch hire	195.00
Cemetery		175.00

The above accounts were proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Pflieger.

13. Committee Reports:

JCH. The broken light onto the Boules area has been disconnected.

Play Area. Cllr Baker will report shortly.

Cemetery. No items reported.

War Memorial. The account has been changed to a Treasurer Account as the existing account has been discontinued.

14. Removal of BT Payphones

Cllr Bennett asked NWDC if the payphones were listed. He was told that the phones for removal were not listed. There had been no other comments, nor response from the public to support keeping them.

15. Allotments

Purton have 3 allotment areas; the Church allotments, which do not have a waiting list, the other 2 are at the Quarry and on Restrop road. Enquiries should be directed to the Purton Parish Clerk, 771066.

16. Christmas tree

Cllr Pflieger had contacted an electrician who will submit an estimate to be discussed at the September meeting.

17. Boundary Committee Review of WCC Proposals.

The Vice-Chairman advised that WCC had proposed Ward boundaries for the new Wiltshire Council starting in April next year. The Chairman, along with the Chairmen of Lydiard Tregoz and Broad Town Parish Councils had previously written to the WCC and the Boundary Committee to express concerns about the new proposals and seeking to retain similar boundaries to the present WCC Divisions. It was requested that the Vice Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, write to the Boundary Commission, under their Appeals Consultation, reinforcing the previous request. Cllrs. with one objection, approved such action. Cllr Harris objected as he thought the inclusion of Broad Town would make the Ward boundaries too far away from Lydiard Millicent and favoured inclusion of land to the North and West of Wootton Bassett.

18. Correspondence

Letter from resident complaining about dog mess not picked up. To go in the village magazine.

WCC. Community Boards Workshop 7.8.08 at 7.30 p.m. Attended by Cllr. Groom.

NWDC Homes4Wiltshire – new scheme for affordable housing. Open days 11.8.08 – 14.8.08, 4p.m. to 7p.m., see Clerk for details if Cllrs wish to attend..

Community First AGM Wed 8th October 2008. Vice Chairman may attend.

First News – Community First Magazine Summer 2008. – info only.

Boundary Committee – draft recommendations of electoral review have been published.

www.boundarycommittee.org.uk or see Clerk to look at hard copy. See Item 17 above.

Letter from Wiltshire Democracy re proposed new electoral divisions. See Item 17.

Wiltshire Wayfarer – The Rights of Way Newsletter Summer 2008. – info only.

Youth Action Wiltshire, request donation. – Request denied.

Great Western Ambulance Service – 2007/8 Annual Review – info only.

W.A.L.C. July 2008 newsletter. – flyer from Vitalise requesting donation. – Request denied.

Regional Spatial Strategy for The South West – Secretary of State's proposed changes. Comments by 17th October 2008. Vice Chairman to review and advise PC if necessary.

Letter from Diocesan Surveyor re The Butts Pond acknowledging that the Parish Council were no longer concerned with the pond. He is going visit the pond to assess the situation and hazard warnings needed. Copy of his letter had gone to the school and to Rev Roberts.

Request for Exclusion of the Public from the Meeting for the Parish Council to debate a Confidential Matter. Cllr Harris requested a closed session to discuss something immediately after the meeting. This was denied, however, councillors were advised that they were free to discuss matters amongst themselves **outside of the meeting** if they so wished.

19. Next Meeting Thursday 4th September 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.