

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 4th September 2008

Present: Cllrs J Bennett (V/Chairman), B Baker, S Burley, J Holloway, K Thomas, S Welch.

1. Apologies for Absence/ Resignation.

Cllr Bennett informed the meeting that Nigel Smith had resigned from the Council and also from the Parish Hall Committee and the School Governing body. His hard work and dedication to the Council would be missed; he became a Councillor following on from his work leading the Parish Plan Committee which he had kept alive and brought it forward on many occasions to remind the council of what the parish require. A vote of thanks was recorded to Mr Smith.

Cllrs. M Groom, A Harris, T Pepperall, and A Pflieger were unable to attend the meeting.

2. Safety Briefing 7 members of the public and 6 Councillors attended the meeting.

3. Minutes of 7th August 2008. The minutes were amended at page 2, 8b changed to 'A broken stile was reported in The Moors between No's 2 & 3. Clerk to insert planning number for Walnut Tree Gardens and the phone number for Purton Parish Clerk.

The minutes were then signed as a true copy.

4. Police Report: No report. Cllr Bennett had met the new Inspector in Cricklade

5. County Councillor's report and questions arising. Various seminars taking place - they have been encouraging. Many have dealt with the issue of how the public will contact the new Council.

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

7. Parishioner's Question Time.

a. A resident of Greenhill was exasperated at having been told that re-surfacing work would be carried out this year and we are now 8 months through this year with no action. He is concerned that as in previous years he will now be told it is too late in the year to carry out road repairs. It was also stated that some hedges were obstructing the view along the road

Response. Cllr Bennett advised that he had recently been to the bottom of Greenhill, which is still a disgrace. WCC had mended the broken drain cover at the crossroads but had not cleared the drain. The new Highways Engineer has been shown all of the relevant areas that need attention and had indicated they would patch the road. He would keep raising the matter and may ask our MP for assistance. He also reported that Mrs Smart of Blackfords had agreed to move their sign nearer the road and cut back the hedge on the approach, to make the sign more visible. Further, they have agreed to place topsoil on the passing place, locally called 'Gypsy Corner', and WCC will seed the area and erect marker posts. Cllr. Bennett to liaise with Blackfords and WCC to coordinate the work. Regarding the overgrown hedges, Cllr. Bennett to check the hedges, and, if necessary, letters will be sent to residents concerned

b. A 'B&B' sign has been placed on private land near to the Greenhill crossroads.

Response. The Parish Council will try and establish if this requires planning permission.

c. WCC have been sent Thames Water a map, showing the position of the rusted manhole cover near the roundabout, which was reported over a year ago.

Response. The Council will check to ensure Thames Water replaces the cover.

d. The new sign on the JCH can be seen clearly from houses in Meadow Springs.

Response. The SFC will be asked if it is an extra or replacement sign, and whether it could be sited lower down the building.

8. Councillors' reports of Parishioners' queries.

a. Pot hole at The Forresters has still not been repaired.

Response: To be reported to "Clarence"

b. An Accident occurred on 23rd August outside Perrins.

Response. Clerk to put on a list of reported accidents, for future reference.

c. A fire was also reported at Flaxlands which burnt down an old Nissen hut which was home to the Gun Club who are lodging a £10,000 insurance claim. Residents need to be aware that there are some determined criminals causing damage in the area.

d. Cllr. Bennett had recently attended a Task Group meeting in Cricklade developing the Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area Board, The Area Board will be complimentary to the NCAP and replace NWDC Area Boards. The Area Boards would influence funding and be worth attending.

e. A verbal complaint has been received regarding untidiness of the cremated remains interment area in the cemetery.

Response. The Rules as to placing of flowers/pot plants or other ornaments on or near the interment stones need to be reviewed and made clearer. Decisions on how to proceed with the complaint will be looked at by the Cemetery S/Committee

f. A leaning telegraph pole end of Stone Lane has been reported to BT.

g, Cllr Groom had met a Thamesdown bus going down Manor Hill. She stopped and asked the driver about his route. He informed her that he had been using this route for over 2 years. She was under the impression that the Highways Act requires that roads used by buses need to be wide enough for them to pass two side by side.

Response. The council will investigate the matter with Thamesdown Transport and WCC

9. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention (Including tasks for next Parish Steward Visit 16/17th Sep). The Clerk read out the list of items for the September visit. Cllr Bennett will meet the new Steward and give him a tour of the tasks required. Future Parish Steward visit dates: 14/15th Oct, 11/12th Nov, 10/11th Dec 2008.

The Clerk thanked the Council for allowing her to have the overtime during the summer and reported that she had got a long way with the tasks she had planned to do.

10. Report on matters arising from 7th August 2008 not on the main agenda.

a. The Highways and Road Safety Sub-Committee met on 3rd September and went through all the current projects. Minutes of the meeting will be circulated to councillors and a copy will be placed on the village web-site. A copy of the minutes will be held by the Clerk at the JCH for perusal by parishioners. Once projects have been sufficiently refined, they will be presented at a Parish Council meeting for approval. Then public support will be sought and any planning or funding action initiated. It was asked if we are still pursuing Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). It was advised that we were still pursuing the provision of VASs but that we needed to find

out who had declined our initial bid and what the justification was for the refusal. It was suggested that it might prove useful if the view of the new Chief Constable on VASs was sought prior to contacting WCC.

b. Fir Trees in Forge Fields. Only one councillor had requested that the decision to fell the trees be rescinded; as three such requests were required, the original council decision still stood. Additionally, the NWDC Landscape and Environment Officer had inspected the trees and confirmed that they needed to be felled, commenting that Leylandii offer poor habitat for birds and that the trees could grow to three times their present size. Accordingly, the tree surgeon has been contacted and requested to begin the work. Two letters have been received since the last meeting - one from Mr Robinson which had been sent to all the Councillors as it arrived, and the other had arrived in the past week from Mr. Thomson who confirmed that the trees may well have been there prior to the sub-station.

11. Planning Applications:

08/01896/FUL Front/rear extensions, rooms in roof & raised rear patio at 5 Greenhill.

No adverse comments.

08/01995/FUL Demolition of existing house and erection of replacement dwelling with associated landscaping and re-sited vehicular access at The Glen, 31 Stone Lane.

Noted that original property was not of standard brick construction. **Supported.**

08/01910/FUL Two storey extension and detached garage at 11 Greenhill.

No adverse comments.

08/01938/FUL Extension to existing Agricultural Barn at Westways Farm, Greatfield.

No adverse comments.

08/01882/FUL Erection of Stable Barn and Associated Sand School at 30 Stone Lane.

Cllr S Burley Declared interest as it is his property, all Councillors were informed of this prior to the meeting.

No adverse comments.

NWDC Permission Granted:

08/01439/FUL Single storey side and rear extension at 20 Greenhill.

08/01418/COU C O U Residential to meeting room at The Lodge, Church Place.

08/01603/S73A Barretts Yard change in conditions approved.

08/00238FUL **Update on Walnut Tree Gardens.** The Clerk reported that she had telephoned the Planning Department as she had not received the official permission notification. The NWDC Legal Team are still in discussion with the applicants, and as at the present time the planning permission has not yet been granted.

12. Accounts for August 2008

Expenditure:

Mrs R Leckie	Wages	249.75
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	49.53
	Mobile Broadband	10.00pm
	Clerks Overtime 22 hours	182.00

L.M.P.H.	Hire of Hall for meeting	20.00
Inside Out	Groundsman's fee	487.75
J Bennett(Hampshire Flag Co)	2 Union Flags	103.75
Income:		
Scottish & Southern Energy.	Wayleave payment	6.90
Cemetery		200.00
LMCC	First half payment	350.00

Accounts proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Burley, no objections, and approved.

13. Committee Reports:

Playgrounds Report : Cllr. Thomas reported that the equipment was in good condition, but the gate had a broken stave - Cllr Burley offered to repair it. The clerk advised that the ROSPA inspection of playgrounds was due in September.

Jubilee Club House: Cllr. Bennett advised that both Shaw Football Club and the Cricket Club were unhappy about conditions that the clubhouse has been left in at the beginning of their respective seasons. An updated contract is required specifying exactly what actions and cleaning were required when using the JCH. The revised contract will be drawn up by Cllr. Bennett for approval by the council before discussion and hopefully agreement by both clubs. The inside of the clubhouse needs decorating in the not too distant future.

There was also a need for the removal of graffiti at the rear of the JCH and at the bottom of the storeroom door. This would be added to the list for removal by the Groundsman who will start with graffiti on the Greenhill bus shelter.

The security camera needs to be re-deployed to cover the driveway and be protected by a cage; it was also recommended that a dummy camera be installed in the existing location. Cllrs. Holloway and Burley offered to review and cost the necessary work and report back to the Council.

Sportsfield : It was considered the Groundsmans contract should be extended to include clearing the back of the car park adjoining the Meadow Springs houses, and strimming the front of car park and the back of JCH and playground. SBC had cut the grass on Sept 5th.

Perrins Piece: More bark chippings were needed at the area - Cllr Burley offered to approach Toomers.

Cemetery: See paragraph 8e above.

14. Electrical Connection for the Christmas Tree. Item deferred..

15. Correspondence:

Letter from Mr. Robinson, No1 Forge Fields re Forge Field Firs.

Letter from Mr Thomson 17 The Street re history on the trees.

Purton and Lydiard Charity Fund - AGM 12/09/08 at 7 p.m. and

Summer Fete 13/09/08 11 a.m.to 5 p.m.

Wiltshire Magazine Summer 2008 - info only.

Great Western Forest - magazine - info only.

Community First AGM - Wed 8th October, 5 p.m. Devizes Corn Exchange.

NWDC letter regarding Play Area Equipment Fund for children with disabilities – no requirement identified in the parish.

Citizens Advice Bureau - request for donation - declined. .

Hills Waste - Annual Service Review 2007/8 - info only.
Email from Sian Penning re highway issues.

16. Next Meeting Thursday 2nd October 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Meeting closed 9.10 p.m.