

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 2nd of October 2008

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

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr T Pepperall,
2. **Safety Briefing.** 8 members and 9 Councillors were briefed on emergency procedures
3. **Minutes of meeting 4th September 2008.** Signed as a true record without amendments
4. **Police Report.** There was no Police representation

5. County Councillor's report and questions arising.

- a. Cllr Groom reported that she had been campaigning to get work done on Greenhill road; it had reached the point under the present criteria using risk assessment, whereby roads with the highest traffic levels are repaired first, that nothing was ever going to happen unless a special case was made.
- b. The boundary of The Lydiards and Wootton Bassett South division of the unitary Wiltshire Council was still being contested with the Boundary Commission.
- c. There had been concerns regarding the Great Western Ambulance Service who had hired ambulances from outside the area which were not provided with clot busting drugs, or even correct local maps to aid arrival within the required time limits.
- d. The County Council has agreed to instal bollards to protect the footpath from the School Bus Stop at the beginning of The Butts.

6. District Councillor's report and questions arising.

Nothing to report.

7. Parishioner's Question Time.

- a. A couple of riders are allowing their horses to foul the pavement and highway between The Beeches and Manor Farm.

Response. The Clerk would contact Mr.Hoare of Manor Farm, who may be able to identify the riders and who would then be asked to clear up the mess.

- b. A row of trees opposite 12 Chestnut Springs, which were the original hedge to that part of Chestnut Springs, were getting out of control as no one has been cutting them back.

Response. It is believed that the trees are on Wiltshire Highways land; the ownership of the land would be investigated by the Vice-Chairman, and if appropriate Wiltshire Highways Partnership (WHP) would be asked to trim the trees.

- c. The worn trench in the footpath from the Church chicane to the Church roundabout is deteriorating.

Response. The Vice Chairman explained the WHP Area Engineer had advised that the resurfacing of that part of the footpath needed to be combined with resurfacing of other paths in the Parish to make the job worthwhile. WHP would be hastened to complete all resurfacing that was needed.

- d. The Thames Water rusted and holed manhole cover by the Church roundabout had still not been repaired despite maps being sent to them by WHP.

Response. Hastening action would be taken through WHP.

- e. A large pothole has been reported by the Garage forecourt.

Response. The WHP Area Engineer had photographed the hole during her visit to the Parish; WHP would be hastened to repair the road.

- f. Vehicles are parking on the pavement opposite the Car Sales area and causing problems for pedestrians.

Response. The manager of the Car Sales has been asked to remind visitors not to park on the road.

- g. Last month when Cllr Burley's property was discussed, he should have left the room as well as declaring his interest.

Response. The Chairman apologised for this error in procedures.

- h. It was asked if the Highway Committee had met in September and what the outcome was.

Response. The Sub-Committee had met on the 3rd of September, and amongst other matters had identified 3 areas for additional traffic calming. The ideas will need to be sketched out and then be presented to the Parish Council, and then the public, to assess viability.

Note: A copy of the Sub-Committee Minutes has since been emailed to the parishioners concerned who would also be advised of the next Sub-Committee meeting which would be open to the public.

i. Residents of Greenhill are to produce a petition to stop paying their Council Tax until their road is repaired. Another resident thought that quicker results would be gained if they went to the newspapers.
Response. The Vice-Chairman agreed to write to WCC expressing the residents, and the Parish Council, frustration at the situation. The letter would be copied to residents affected and would also provide an address for them to write to.

j. A manhole that has been repaired at Greenhill crossroads still needs to be to be cleaned out.

Response. This has been reported to WHP.

k. The drain at “Gypsies Corner”, Greenhill, had still not been repaired.

Response. WHP will be hastened.

8. Councillors’ reports of Parishioners’ queries.

a. A letter sent to the Chairman regarding overgrown trees fronting 1 to 4 and 7 The Close, which was passed to the Vice Chairman for action.

Response. The Vice-Chairman believed that the trees were on WHP land but that he would investigate and reply to the complainant.

b. A large pothole on the corner just past the Foresters has still not been repaired and another pothole outside Toomers was reported to the meeting.

Response. WHP would be hastened and the new pothole reported to Clarence (WHP).

c. With reference to the path from the Church chicane to the roundabout (see above no 7), legislation now states that firms that remove road surfaces are liable for their repairs for a very long time - could the contractors involved be asked to repair the surface?

Response. WHP are aware of the rules and chase contractors concerned but often with little effect..

d. The flowers in the raised beds opposite the Parish Hall were excellent.

Response. The Parish Council voted that thanks to be sent to Mr and Mrs Badcott for their hard work and to the Midge Hall Nursery who supplied the plants.

e. An overgrown hedge along Common Platt was reported

Response. Subsequent investigation revealed that the offending area was part of the verge, which should be cut in the near future by WHP as part of their twice-yearly cuts.

f. A driver has again been witnessed sleeping in his vehicle outside Toomers, approx. 2 weeks ago.

Response. These events need to be reported to the police when spotted, especially during the night or early hours before the lorries move on. The Clerk can also be notified during daytime.

9. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention.

a. On Thursday 25th September the Clerk was advised by Cllr Gibbs of Brinkworth Parish Council that he had information that Gypsies were to move into land known as Purdys Farm, in Wood Lane, in our parish, on the 11th October 2008. Since then Cllr Groom, has asked WCC, NWDC and the Police for guidance as to what actions if any can be taken. It appears that they own the land in question and therefore cannot be prevented from entering the land. Planning breaches would have to be dealt with if any occur in due course.

Response. The Parish Council and Cllr. Groom would monitor the situation.

b. The Clerk also reported that that a field opposite Bridge Farm, off the B496, is for sale and had attracted interest from Gypsies. This piece of land is 7.2 acres and is in the middle of woodland trust area and is accessed by tracks.

Response. The agents will be approached to establish if any sale has been completed.

10. Report on matters arising from 4th September not on the main agenda.

(paragraph and sub-paragraph numbers from September minutes)

7a Blackford’s had agreed to put topsoil on the ‘scar’ on Greenhill road and the Parish Steward would spread it and seed it then add verge markers.

7b B&B sign in field at Greenhill crossroads – Clerk to request information from NWDC on rules.

7c Rusted manhole cover by Church roundabout – Thames Water still being chased by Vice-Chairman and Wilts Highways Partnership.

7d The SFC sign has been moved to a less prominent position on the JCH.

8a Pothole at Foresters Arms – had not yet been fixed.

8e Cemetery – cremation interment area – Cemetery Committee still to hold on-site meeting.

8f Leaning telegraph pole on Stone Lane – BT say it is safe.

8g Letter to Thamesdown re buses using Manor Hill – still to be written by Vice-Chair. Cllr

Groom has suggested an alternative route to WCC and Thamesdown Transport to avoid Manor Hill.

10a Inspector Cox of Wootton Bassett / Malmesbury Police area had been asked to check on the Wiltshire Constabulary's policy regarding Vehicle Activated Signs (VASs).

10b No objections had been received to Groundsman's quote for clearing chippings, covering with top soil and grass seed where the fir trees had been felled in Forge Fields.

11.Planning

Applications:

08/02184/FUL Revised Access at Bridge House, Lydiard Plain.

Parish Council **support** this application as access is now on a dangerous bend on a fast flowing road.

08/02099/FUL Agricultural/Horticultural Barn, Greens End, Lydiard Green.

There is a disparity between the documents received from NWDC and those found online. The Council was concerned that they had not been able to review all of the information. The online documents show stabling and parking for five vehicles. Although the amended application shows that the length and width has been reduced and it will now be screened by a high hedge, the PC still considered it inappropriately large and wished to obtain details of the planned internal structures of the barn. It is also not clear whether or not it will be a Market Gardening business (which needs planning permission) or a private self-sufficiency plot, in which case parking for 5 vehicles seems excessive.

Objection to be reported to NWDC and full details and an extended review period to be sought.

08/01882/FUL Sand School and Stables at 30 Stone Lane.

Cllr. Burley declared his interest and withdrew from the meeting whilst the matter was discussed.

The barn will now be further away from the house, and the view from the road will be shielded by house. The inside of the barn has now been clearly marked out. **No adverse comments.**

Approvals:

08/01938/FUL Extension to existing agricultural bar at Westways Farm, Greatfield.

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

12. Accounts (*incl. VAT)

Expenditure:

		£'s
Mrs R Leckie	Clerks Wages	249.75
Mrs R Leckie	Clerks Expenses	25.23
L.M.P.H.	Hire of Hall for meeting	20.00
Inside Out	Groundsman Fee	487.75
Shaw FC	White Lining	100.00

Receipts:

Rural Payment Agency		43.49
NWDC	Second half of precept	7,500.00
Cemetery		415.00

The accounts were proposed by Cllr Burley and seconded by Cllr Baker, there were no objections.

The possibility of fixing Gas prices to 2011 was rejected as the prices may well go down.

It was agreed that we explore a dual fuel option.

13. Receive Initial Precept considerations from public and councillors.

Money for footpaths, bus shelter and VASs is still earmarked from previous budgets. We are waiting for Police guidance on VASs. and Cllr Pepperall has started to chase the quotes for the Holborn footpath which have not been forthcoming. Up to £10,00 - £15,000 could be the Parish Council portion of the footpath cost. The Highways and Road Safety Sub-Committee is looking at three extra areas for traffic calming where again we would need to contribute. The possibility of making an offer for Bailey's Piece (opposite The Close) as a village car park, allotments and a possible exchange for land to extend the cemetery was discussed. Given the state of the economy freezing or reducing the precept could be options.

Parishioners and Councillors were invited to submit proposals in time for the next meeting.

14. Committee Reports:

a. Draft agreement for Use of the Sportsfield. The draft was considered, however, not all of the changes could be agreed upon and a meeting of the Sportsfield Sub-Committee will be held to continue this debate.

b. Playground Report. The gates to the boules pitch and play area both need new catches. Cllr Burley offered to carry out the repairs.

c. Graffiti. The Groundsman had had some success at the back of JCH but needs a more powerful jet of hot water. The outside of the bus shelter at Greenhill crossroads is virtually clear but the bus shelter at Holborn is worse and the Groundsman is obtaining a more powerful cleaning fluid.

d. Jubilee ClubHouse CCTV. Cllr Holloway has looked at the CCTV situation at the Clubhouse. If the decision is made to move the camera to the front and put in a dummy at the back then this will require 20mtrs of cable and approx 1 hours work. To install a second camera it will need further costing.

Decision. It was agreed to defer a decision until the Chairman had resumed duties.

e. Cemetery. Cllr Bennett and Cllr Baker to meet and discuss the plots in the Cremation area, and the need to level many of the graves, up or down.

15. Christmas Tree. A meeting was to be held with an electrician, Mr Manning (the Parish Hall Caretaker) and Cllr Bennett, to ascertain the position of the tree and the best route for the power supply from the hall. Cllr Bennett would then seek approval of the Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee. When the electrician provided a quote and Cllr Bennett had priced a Christmas tree, then PC approval would be sought.

16. Parish Steward's next visit 14th/15th October 2008. This month he will be asked to repair the scar on the edge of the road at Greenhill.

17. Correspondence.

NCAP - Part time Administrator vacancy advertisement.

AGM Community First 8th October 2008 - Vice-Chairman will attend.

WALC newsletter September 2008 - copy made available at the PC meeting.

Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust Annual report 2007/8 - info only.

BT 'Adopt a Kiosk' or 'Sponsor a Kiosk' - see BT Website - applications by 1st October 2008 – no bids from the PC.

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service - Annual Plan 2008 - info only

WCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2008 - 2012 - Cllr Holloway to review.

Consultation on the making and enforcement of bye-laws - no comment.

Town and Parish Standard - Sept 2008 - News sheet - info only.

18. Date of next meeting: Thursday 6th November 2008.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Minutes approved 6.11.08.