

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

Present: Cllrs: J Bennett (Vice Chairman) J Holloway, T Pepperall, A Pfleger, K Thomas,

1. Apologies for Absence. Cllrs: M Groom, A Harris, S Burley, S Welch and B Baker.

2. Safety Briefing. The public were briefed on emergency exits. It was pointed out that if the building was to catch fire then people might have to pass the fire to reach the assembly point. The Clerk would raise the matter with the Parish Hall Committee Secretary.

3. Minutes of meeting 6th November 2008. These were signed as a true copy.

4. Co-option of a Councillor to fill the Vacancy. Interest was received from three members of the public in this vacancy: Val Phillips, Andy Wakeley, and Brian Quant who was present at the meeting and confirmed his willingness to serve. Because of the low turn out of councillors, a decision on filling the vacancy was deferred to the January meeting.

5. Police Report. PCSO Andy Singfield attended the meeting and reported that there had been a spate of shed break-ins in the area recently and extra patrols had been added to deal with this problem: the public were advised to be vigilant. There had been a few minor accidents, one of which involved a horse in Stone Lane. A parishioner had queried the impact on road safety caused by the accumulation of notices on the verges and in the fields adjacent to Greenhill Crossroads; the Vice-Chairman would email PCSO Singfield with details. PCSO Singfield was also informed of the dangerous hole in the road as you enter Common Platt from the Foresters and was asked to erect a warning sign or traffic cone; and he was also asked to remind the Bobby Van to advise on security at the JCH.

6. County Councillor's report and Questions Arising.

Cllr Groom was attending a meeting of the Wiltshire Federation of Community Partnerships, but had sent in a report:

- The Boundary Committee have agreed to retain Broad Town with the Lydiards and part of Wootton Bassett East as the new Division for the Wiltshire Council.
- Councillor Groom serves on the Customer Access Task Group for the new Council which is on target to meet all 400 requirements.
- New arrangements for the purchase or supply of services or goods to the new council have been introduced – information is available from PaulSmithDOR@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Cllr. Groom serves on a new School Food Task Group to investigate all such aspects .
- Cllr. Groom had attended the final meeting of the Health Task Group “Reforming Community Services”; the Task Group has for the last three years ensured the equitable provision of services across the county.
- Cllr. Groom, who serves on the Police Authority, reported that council members on the Authority were determined to retain the Wiltshire Air Ambulance despite financial problems.

7. District Councillor's report and Questions Arising. No report.

8. Parishioner's Question Time.

a. Confirmation was requested that the BT telephone boxes to be removed were not subject to a conservation order.

Response: It was confirmed that neither of the BT boxes to be removed are subject to conservation orders; it was also advised that BT have been requested to repair the phone boxes on The Street and in Common Platt.

b. The signs on the field at Greenhill Crossroads are still causing a distraction for drivers.

Response. The Clerk is still seeking clarification of planning regulations regarding signs at the crossroads; the matter was also referred to the PCSO (see Item 5).

c. The Manhole cover on the footpath by the roundabout has now been fixed; however, Thames Water has left a frame on site, which needs returning.

Response. BT would be advised.

9. Councillors' Reports of Parishioners' Queries.

a. Several councillors reported that the drain at the corner of Common Platt on the road from the Foresters has completely collapsed and the hole is very dangerous.

Response. Vice Chairman will report to Clarence as soon as possible; PCSO advised of hazard see Item 5.

b. Cllr Thomas reported on a training course for new Cllrs that he had attended last month. He said the course was excellent and he had learnt a lot, he has handouts from the course and would be happy to pass these to other Cllrs. It was good to meet others who have very different issues to deal with in their Councils.

c. The culvert near Badger's Brook is blocked, as are the drain gullies in The Butts, and road drains near The Firs in Common Platt

Response. WHP to be requested by the Vice-Chairman to jet the subject drains.

10. Clerks Report on Matters Brought to her Attention. Nothing to report.

11. Report on Matters Arising from 6th November not on the Main Agenda.

a. The pothole in pavement by the car sales area had been reported to Clarence.

b. No new information had been received regarding the closure of the old cemetery.

c. Wiltshire Highways Partnership had been hastened for a forecast date for the repair of the Finger Post sign at the Church roundabout, and has also been asked if the Parish Council could arrange the repair; it was confirmed that WHP would not reimburse any such expense.

d. Cllrs were thanked for their work preparing the site for the Christmas tree for which no expenses claimed.

12. Planning Applications:

NWDC Development Control Meeting, 26th November 2008.

08/02352/s73a - Change of use of land to form a two-pitch gypsy caravan site at Purdys Farm, Wood Lane, Braydon. There was a good turnout from the residents of Wood Lane, who strongly objected to the application - several of them spoke at the meeting as did Cllrs Groom and Bennett. The Development Committee was minded to grant temporary permission for 3 years whilst the new Wiltshire Council determined how many sites it was required to provide and also to find locations for such sites. However, the application was delayed for 2 to 3 cycles, to permit the investigation by Wiltshire Wildlife of the presence of greater crested newts.

Planning Applications:

08/02644/FUL 14 The Mews. Two storey rear extension.

No adverse comments would be submitted unless concerns were received from neighbours.

NWDC Permissions Granted:

08/01889/FUL The Glen, Wood Lane, Braydon - extensions and alterations.

08/02184/FUL Bridge House, Lydiard Plain- revised access.

13. Accounts (*incl. VAT)

Expenditure:		£'s
Mrs R Leckie	Wages	305.10
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	94.84
L.M.P.H.	Hire of Hall for meeting	20.00
Inside Out	Groundsman Fee	487.33
Shaw FC	White Lining	100.00
Mazars	External Auditors	334.88*
Mrs Badcott	Winter plants and compost	50.00
SLCC	Membership 2009	72.00
D A Windows	Repair to door at JCH	246.25*
Lockmaster Mobile	Emergency repair to JCH door	99.88*
Callcut Electrical Ltd	Electricity supply to Christmas Tree	691.55*
Avoncrop	White Lining	271.00
Bank of Ireland	Deposit Account	3,000.00
The above accounts were proposed by Cllr Pepperall and seconded by Cllr Thomas.		
Income:		
SFC	Pitch Hire	387.00

14. External Audit. The Audit Completion Notice had been displayed, as required.

15. Receive Precept Considerations from Public and Councillors.

The draft precept had been forwarded to most councillors reflecting an overall decrease from £15,000 to £14,000 in the new financial year and the increase of reserves to cover higher than anticipated contribution to the cost of the Holborn path. No new proposals were submitted. The meeting was advised by Cllr Thomas, who had recently attended a training event for new Parish Councillors, that, if the Parish Council receive 10 requests for an allotment, then the Parish Council is bound to try and provide them. At present only 3 requests have been received and interested parishioners have been referred to Purton, where allotments are available. The precept will be considered at the next meeting.

16. Committee Reports:

a. Recreation Field and JCH. The draft revised agreement for the use of facilities by Shaw Football Club and the Lydiard Millicent Cricket Club still need to be finalised. The Cricket Club now has a new Chairman so it would be opportune for the Parish Council to finalise the agreement. Accordingly, the Sportsfield Sub-Committee will meet next week on Thursday 11th December at 7:30pm in the JCH. The meeting will be open to all councillors that wish to attend and to the public. .

b. Play Areas. (T Pepperall) All seems correct, but it was noted that the recent RoSPA inspection recommendations would be actioned in the Spring.

c. Cemetery. The proposed wording for new signs was considered and approved by councillors subject to Cllr Baker's agreement. The wording for the new signs would then be passed to Cllr. Burley who had offered to get them produced, and the clerk would insert the new notice in the cemetery notice board.

17. Play Area Safety Inspection Report. Covered in the November meeting..

18. Christmas Tree Update. Cllr Burley would collect the tree on Friday December 5th and hopefully it would be erected that weekend. It had been agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the electricity used by the lights.

19. Parish Steward's next visit 10/11th December 2008 - Bids for Work.

Grip to be cleared at the foot of Manor Hill.

Strimming of the verge at Washpool to be completed.

The verge near the entrance to the JCH to be strimmed and saplings removed.

Vegetation blocking the street sign near 27 The Street/Park Lane to be cut back.

Grass encroaching on the pavement between the Beeches and Manor Farm to be removed.

20. Flooding. Flooding problems in the Parish are not restricted to Holborn. Considerable areas of Common Platt are also being badly affected, and Wiltshire Highways is trying to sort out the problems there with Swindon Council - a ditch leading to the Peatmoor Lagoon has been cleared but there is more work to do. A multi-agency working group has been set up in Wiltshire and NWDC Cllr. Lay of Purton is looking after our interests; Cllr Bennett is also working with agencies to solve these problems.

21. Freedom of Information Act. The Mandatory Model Information Publication Scheme for every public authority, required by the Information Commissioner's Office under the Freedom of Information Acts, was adopted by the Parish Council. It will be published shortly on the Parish Web site after all councillors have had the opportunity to view it.

22. Provision of a Parish Notice Board in Wood Lane. At the NWDC Planning Meeting regarding the gypsy site in Wood Lane it became apparent to Cllr. Bennett that many of the residents of Wood Lane were not aware of which parish they lived in. He therefore proposed that a Parish Notice Board be erected in Wood Lane at a cost of about £100; the notice board would serve an area of about a quarter of the parish. It was observed that the number of parishioners was not comparable to the size of the area; however, it was also noted that we had a notice board at The Elms serving about half a dozen properties. In view of the low number of councillors at the meeting, it was decided to place the item on the agenda for the January meeting. Clerk to action, and Mrs Packham was to be asked about delivery of Lydiard Magazines in the area, and more exact positions for the board to be sought.

23. Correspondence.

WCC adverse weather leaflets - available from Clerk.

Wiltshire County Council November Newsletter - available on WCC website.

Flooding Update Newsletter - available from Clerk.

Letter from Secretary of Parish Hall re Christmas tree and reply from Clerk.

Victim Support - request for donation - declined.

Wiltshire Wayfarer newsletter - available from Clerk.

24. The meeting closed at 9.15pm. **Next meeting : Thursday 8th January 2009.**

Minutes approved 8.1.2009.