

**LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

**Present:** Cllrs: J Bennett (Vice Chairman), S Burley, A Harris, T Pepperall.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs: B Baker, M Groom, J Holloway, A Pflieger, K Thomas, S Welch.
- 2. Safety Briefing.** Seven members of the public and four councillors were briefed.
- 3. Minutes of meeting 2nd October 2008.** These were amended at Item 11 - Planning - Bridge House. Insert "the present access" after "as" and before "is". Delete 'it'. The minutes were then signed as a true record.
- 4. Co-option of a Councillor to fill the Vacancy.** The vacancy has been advertised, and, as there were no nominations the Parish Council is now able to co-opt a suitable candidate. It would be good if that person was female and could represent Greatfield, Greenhill, Braydon or new Common Platt. The vacancy will be advertised in the Church magazine, the Lydiards Magazine, the website
- 5. Police Report.** No representation was at the meeting; however, Cllr Bennett had spoken to Inspector Cox with regard to our request to install Flashing speed signs – see Item 11 below. Inspector Cox will try to attend a Parish Council meeting in the near future.
- 6. County Councillor's Report.** No report presented.
- 7. District Councillor's Report.** No report presented.
- 8. Parishioner's Question Time.**

**a. How** much money has been spent on the removal of the conifers in Forge Fields and the reasons for the expenditure?

**Response.** £720 (plus VAT) for the removal of the trees and grinding out the stumps to 6ins below ground level and £320 for the removal of the large amount of chippings produced to the JCH drive edge as mulch, plus spreading of topsoil and grass seeding; a total of £1040 (plus VAT). The Parish Council had received £750 when it took on the trees from the builders of Forge Fields. The expenditure had been approved by the Council because of the risk that the trees posed to No3 Forge Fields where the Council would have been liable for the cost of any damage caused by the trees. Removal of the trees was more cost effective than trimming which would require significant ongoing expenditure and the distinct possibility of producing an eyesore.

**b. What** is the cost of the Parish Christmas Tree?

**Response.** The provision of an electricity point for the tree lights was £548 plus VAT. Thanks were given to the 4 Councillors who dug the initial trench for the power cable. The other costs to be approved are: £35 for a 15' tree and the materials for the tree holder which councillors will construct.

**c. Had** there been any feedback regarding the Chestnut Springs drainage system?

**Response.** Cllr. Groom had been in contact with Thames Water but there had been no update recently.

**d. Did** the council know the future of Bailey's Piece?

**Response.** Cllr Bennett has thanked Mr. Bailey for clearing the ground but was unaware of Mr. Bailey's intentions regarding the plot. Mr. Bailey also owns a large field beyond the hedge line which people in the village would like to buy should it come on the market. The Parish Plan does support building on the land next to The Street although it is outside the Parish building line, but any planning applications would be subject to the usual NWDC procedures.

**e.** Road sweeping has been done in The Butts; however, the drains are now full up.

**Response.** Wiltshire Highways Partnership (WHP) have advised that there is a breakage or blockage in the drains between the Butts and the Beeches but have yet to advise when remedial work will be carried out; the Parish Council will continue to progress this matter with WHP. .

## **9. Councillors' Reports of Parishioners' Queries.**

**a.** A letter had been received from Mr.D Poulton, of Meadow Springs, noting that the finger post sign at the Church roundabout needs repair, that the base of the door of phone box in The Street is rotting and that the post box by old Post Office needs repainting.

**Response.**

The WHP signpost craftsman has the restoration work on his list and WHP has been reminded regularly of this long outstanding task. They have been asked to give a forecast for completion of the work and, if the timescale is lengthy, to consider authorising the Parish Council to arrange for Mr Poulton carry out the work; his quote is £150. This matter is to be discussed at the December Parish Council meeting. A request has been sent to BT for them to repair phone box or agree that Mr. Poulton can carry out the work free of charge and the Royal Mail will shortly be asked to repaint the pillar box.

**b.** Cllr. Harris complained about the overgrown verge in Washpool.

**Response.** WHP are due to carry out verge cutting in the near future; however, the Vice-Chairman agreed to task the Parish Steward to have a go at the offending area.

**c.** Cllr. Harris complained that the additional 7½ tonne weight limit sign required at the start of the Washpool road near Tewkesbury Way had still not been erected.

**Response.** The Vice-Chairman advised that the request for the extra sign had not yet been submitted to WCC because of higher priority tasks.

**d.** Cllr. Harris advised that the Bridle path off Stone Lane) is being used as a toilet.

**Response.** It was suggested that lorry drivers who sleep outside Toomers may be the culprits. The Clerk again asked that anyone who sees drivers sleeping outside Toomers, needs to telephone the police. In the meantime the Clerk will contact the police and inform them of the problems arising on the Bridleway; additionally the Vice-Chairman will alert Toomer's to the problem.

**e.** Cllr. Harris complimented the WHP contractors for the way in which they had carried out the road works in Greenhill, permitting road users access whilst work was carried out.

**Response.** Clerk to write to WHP and ask them to pass on thanks to the contractor.

f. Cllr. Harris considered that the recent village Art Show was splendid and the quality and variety of exhibits was very good. Thanks to the organisers.

#### **10. Clerks Report on Matters Brought to her Attention.**

The Clerk advised that Greenhill drains have been cleaned but the road at turning circle needs clearing of mud.

#### **11. Report on Matters Arising from 2<sup>nd</sup> October Not on the Agenda.**

**Item 7b,** Trimming of trees in Chestnut Springs - action still to be taken with WHP

**Item 7c** Repair of worn footpath by the Church chicane – WHP being hastened.

**Item 7d** Rusted manhole by Church roundabout – complaint made to Thames Water Customer Services – response awaited.

**Item 10-7a** Soil and seeding of Gypsy Corner in Greenhill put back to Spring.

**Item 10-9** Inspector Cox had advised that although the police had no objections to Vehicle Activated Signs (VASs), they are not willing to intervene with WCC decisions. WCC will only approve VASs at accident “black spots” and consider that drivers get used to fixed VASs. Councillors suggested we use our precept funding to purchase a mobile sign for use on 3 or 4 sites in the village approved by WCC and move the sign periodically to prevent drivers being used to them.

**Note:** Follow up at next meeting of Highways & Road Safety Sub-Committee.

#### **11. Planning**

##### **Applications:**

**08/01889/FUL** Extensions & alterations to bungalow at the Glen, Wood Lane, Braydon. Planning was previously approved, but the new application is for a much bigger property. It was noted that other houses in the area are quite large and that this development would be in keeping.

No adverse comment provided that the existing rules for countryside extensions are followed.

**08/01896/FUL** Front and rear extension, rooms in roof and raised rear patio - 5 Greenhill, Purton

No adverse comments.

**08/02352/FUL** Change of use of land to form a two-pitch gypsy caravan site with ancillary hard standing and settlement tank.

Unanimously object most strenuously to this flouting of Planning Regulations in an area of open countryside. The Parish already hosts an Authorised Site with a capacity of 11 caravans at Four Oaks, which the applicants have been using for the last 3 winters; this implies that they are not without local site facilities. The presence of an existing, relatively large, site for Gypsies discharges any perceived requirement to permit additional facilities in the parish for Gypsies. Moreover, there is anecdotal evidence of Gypsies seeking to purchase more land in the parish and in the neighbouring parish of Lydiard Tregoz; There are concerns that anything other than a prompt, firm refusal of this application by NWDC could lead to more illegal developments in our area.

**08/02364/FUL** First floor side extension and porch at 3 The Moors, amended plans.

No adverse comments.

## NWDC Approval

**08/01995/FUL** The Glen, 31 Stone Lane, demolition of existing house and replacement.

**08/01882/FULX2** Erection of stable barn and associated sand school at 30 Stone Lane.

### 13. Accounts

<b>Expenditure</b>		£'s (*incl. VAT)
Mrs R Leckie	Wages	249.75
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	69.60*
	Mobile Broadband	10.00*
	New mobile phone for office use in JCH (total of cheque £119.55)	39.95*
L.M.P.H.	Hire of Hall for meeting	20.00
Inside Out	Groundsman Fee	487.75
Inside Out	Ground Repair at Forge Fields	320.00
Shaw FC	White Lining	100.00
W.A.L.C.	New Councillor Training course	41.13*
Playsafety Ltd	ROSPA Safety Inspection report play area	141.00*
Blackfords	Catches for the Recreation Field gates	5.74
C'wold Tree Surgeons	Removal of Fir trees in Forge Fields	881.25*
Alan Garlick	Grass Cutting Rec Field	50.00
Bank of Ireland	Transfer to Deposit Account	3,000.00

The above accounts were proposed by Cllr Pepperall and seconded by Cllr Burley there were no objections.

### Receipts

SFC	Pitch Hire	621.00
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### Approve order.

Avoncrop	White lining materials	271.00
Shaws	New Burial Ledgers	200.00 approx*

The above orders were agreed.

### 14. Receive Precept Considerations from Public and Councillors.

The following considerations were raised:

- Traffic calm measures as discussed by the Road Safety Sub-Cttee – Need to be prioritised and costed.
- Possible purchase of land for allotments. The operation of allotments might require employing a member of staff/ contractor to supervise them. It was agreed that an article should be placed in the Lydiards Magazine to gauge support. Cllr Harris to submit the article.
- The need for adequate reserves was discussed; if the main funding for the path around Holborn corner cannot be raised by grants then we may need to look at our capital holding

## 15. Committee Reports:

**Recreation Field/JCH.** A revised draft agreement for use of the Recreation Field and JCH will be passed to Councillors in the near future and a meeting of the Sportsfield Sub-committee, which would be open to all Cllrs, will then be called to consider the revised document.

**Play Area.** (J Bennett) – nothing to report. RoSPA report received for this year.

**Cemetery.** Vice Chairman, Cllr Baker and the Clerk inspected the Cemetery which is in good order but work still needed in some areas. These are:

- a. Cremated Remains Area – some pots and plants were removed but more need to be taken away. Only flat tablets are permitted to enable Groundsman to cut grass between plots. Recommend sign to go on adjacent wall and a full version of the rules clearly placed in the notice board. Cllr. Burley offered to produce the wall sign, wording for signs to be produced by Vice-Chairman and approved by Cemetery Sub-Cttee.
- b. Graves need to be levelled up and down. Single quote to be sought from the Groundsman as he will need to maintain the results. Next of kin, if known, need to be contacted before work begins.
- c. It was considered that a letter needed to go out to the next of kin regarding planting of graves. Planting is only permitted on the East side where graves have surrounds. However, it was agreed that a sign could be placed in a suitable position to remind visitors of the rules. Cllr Burley to produce the sign after approval by the Cemetery Sub-Cttee.

**Road Safety & Highways Sub-Cttee.** Work still needed to draw up proposals for 3 new traffic calming measures in Stone Lane, Washpool and The Street. It is hoped that sub committee meeting can be held before the end of the month. Cllr Pepperall updated the meeting on the progress with Holborn Footpath, to date only one company has responded.

**16. Cemetery Closure Update.** The Parochial Council have placed the relevant notice on the Church door and the local notice boards. The Privy Council will meet on 20<sup>th</sup> November to declare the old cemetery closed.

**17. Play Area Safety Inspection Report.** A couple of minor matters need to be dealt with in the Spring, when the chippings needed to be raked and loosened after weed killing and the timbers treated with preservative.

**18. Christmas Tree Update.** The quote for £580 plus VAT for electrical supply work had been accepted after consultation with Cllrs, and the supply had been fitted. Some remedial work still needed to replace the block paving and remove large stones from the top of the trench. Cllr. Burley undertook to get the work done. The Vice-Chairman had been agreed with the Parish Hall Chairman that the tree socket should go in between the flagpole and the middle seat taking care to avoid a defunct septic tank. Cllrs Burley, Pflieger and Holloway have agreed to dig the hole and fit a mount for the tree. A 15' tree has been ordered from Greenhill Nurseries to be delivered 15<sup>th</sup> Dec at a cost of £35, delivery may be brought forward to the 8<sup>th</sup> of December shortly after Wootton Bassett lights are switched on.

**19. Parish Steward's Next Visit 11/12<sup>th</sup> November 2008 –Bids for Work.**

The Parish Steward will be asked to:

- Carry out verge cutting along part of Washpool
- Strim nettles by LM sign on Tewksbury Way
- Sweep litter at the Hump near Park Lane.
- Strim around Boundary Stones, and along the wall edge of the Sun Inn Car Park.
- Trim overhanging branches along the Beeches straight.

**20. Request from the Parish Hall Committee for a Representative from the Parish Council.** Rather than committing a member of the Council to attend and partake in Parish Hall business it was suggested that the Hall committee could approach the Parish Council when required and a Councillor could occasionally attend Parish Hall Committee meetings if required. Clerk to talk to Mrs Wheeler Secretary.

**21. Freedom of Information Act – New Model Publication Scheme to be Adopted by all Parish Councils by the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.** The Vice-Chairman advised that information regarding this mandatory action would be forwarded to councillors in time for them to discuss the requirement at the next meeting.

**21. Correspondence.**

WCC leaflet - 'Everything to play for' 2007-2012 ]  
WALC Newsletter October 2008 ] See Clerk  
Neighbourhood Priorities police newsletter June – Sept 2008 ] if interested.  
Tree Warden Scheme. - David Poulton volunteered to act for the Parish.  
Rural Facilities Survey 2008 – Chairman actioning .  
Wootton Bassett Christmas lights evening – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2008.  
DEFRA - New nitrate vulnerable zones and associated rules. – passed to tenant of Lydiard Plain  
Great Western Ambulance service – newsletter – info only.  
Splash newsletter – info only.  
The Boundary Committee – further clarification on the electoral review of Wiltshire.

**22. Date of next meeting: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008.**

**Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.**