

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 5th February 2009

1. **Present:** Cllrs T Pepperall (Chairman), B Baker, J Bennett, M Groom, A Harris, A Pflieger, B Quant, K Thomas, and S Welch.
2. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Simon Burley.
3. **Safety Briefing.** Was given to 13 public and 9 Councillors.
4. **Resignation and vacancy.** Cllr J Holloway had given in his resignation, which was regrettably accepted. A vote of thanks was recorded for his service to the Council. This vacancy will now be advertised by NWDC.
5. **Minutes of meeting 8th January 2009.** The incorrect set of minutes was sent out and signing the minutes was deferred until March.
6. **Police Report.** – Apologies were given due to the bad weather.
7. **Presentation by Headmistress of Lydiard Millicent School.**

Apologies were received from the Headmistress, who was stranded in Cirencester. The Chairman of the Governors, Phil Head, attended in her place. He introduced the speakers Richard Pearce, the WCC project manager, Martin Kemble, the architect, and Ray Lamb from the consultancy firm.

Mr Head explained that they were hoping to achieve 2 goals - 1st to provide the best environment, and 2nd to create the very best community building. This consultation was the beginning, with further consultations with the residents and local groups.

The architect provided details of the proposed plans and explained a number of the details. The new school will be all on the existing site and will be built around the oak trees at the heart of the area. The old victorian building will be upgraded for the use of the Pre-School. There will be independent access for community use during the day and evening. A kitchen will be built to enable the school to cook meals on site. Environmental aspects will include sedum roofs, wind power, and rain water harvesting / recycling.

Careful consideration will be needed on the construction sequences, with minimum obstruction, particularly to the residents of The Butts.

Q1 How confident that planning will be agreed – A. Informal meetings have taken place with the County planner and they are quite confident. However, it is hoped the re-organisation of the Wiltshire Council will not complicate the process.

Q2 What is the time scale? - A. Approx 15 months, once started.

Q3 Could a farmers track be used as access to the site to minimise disruption to The Butts
 A. They admit some hedgerows may need to be uprooted to achieve adequate access.

Q4 How much parking is to be provided - a working kitchen will increase staff numbers. It will need to work with the school's travel plan. A. It will be broadly much as there is today.

WC Highways and Planning will be fully involved.

Q5 Will the oak trees be a circle for cars – A. No - pedestrian gate only to this area.

Q6 Run off from the Gym currently diverts to the pond to keep it sustainable - will this continue? – A. A sustainable water drainage system will be established, but there was no plans to change the run off from the car park.

Q7 Concern was raised over the care and health of the oak trees in the future when all the permanent structures are in - space for future growth is essential. - A. All care was being taken to ensure the future of the oak trees, in accordance with County guidelines, and the roots will be covered with temporary matting to protect them during the building work.

8. County Councillor's report and questions arising.

a. The new Unitary Council representatives elections are on 4th June. From April 1 until then, planning queries can be made to Cllr Groom. A single telephone number has been issued for the public to contact the Unitary Council from 1st April - **0300 456 0100** – the existing WCC numbers will also for a time connect directly to Wiltshire Council. The new website will be HYPERLINK <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk>.

b. The 2009/10 Gov't grant to Wiltshire will be the lowest grant given to any new Unitary Authority- 1.6% compared to up to 4.6% given to some other authorities. Our precept is therefore expected to be a 3.5% increase. A number of Parish Councils are asking WCC to approach Gordon Brown on this point. One Cllr has personally offered to deliver any protest.

c. Mr P. Binley of WCC has been advised of our concerns regarding the dangerous situation in freezing temperatures of the spring in Forge Fields flowing on to The Street. He has also been made aware of concerns regarding the rising water table in this area. Mr Batten of WCC was also asked 'how robust was the EIA for the Southern Dev't Area of Swindon?' and 'what was the WCC/NWDC response?' He responded asking Cllr Groom to contact the Environment Agency.

9. District Councillor's report and questions arising.

Just a reminder that NWDC will cease to exist on 31st March, 2009.

10. Parishioner's Question Time.

a. Pot holes were reported by 6, The Beeches, beside 7 Chestnut Springs, Park Lane – in middle of road by Badgers Brook, Stone Lane by 40mph just before Barretts, Washpool, and Common Platt corner near The Foresters still not repaired correctly.

b. Drains between Beeches and Manor Farm still not repaired. Chase WCC for it to be on the budget, also the blockage at the bottom of The Butts.

c. Manor farm trees were reported to be top heavy. Write to Mr Hoare.

d. During recent icy conditions, a 30mph sign - corner of Chestnut Springs, adj. to no 17 - was flattened by a vehicle - report to WCC.

e. Request for an official bus parking bay at Church layby.

f. Road markings at the church bus stop. WCC Highways placed luminous stickers on only some bollards at Church calming. Write for similar stickers for the remaining bollards.

g. Update requested on the salting of Manor Hill and Purton - WCC were adamant that they would not salt this road, even though buses use the route.

h. Mr Steve Mowbray, representing some of the residents of Lydiard Green, presented a list of traffic calming requests:

Drain loose at 12 Lydiard Green.

Pavements - high on his agenda - it was explained that land purchase would be necessary.

Street lighting - some residents in favour, majority are not.

Speed bumps - also considered, but can only be achieved with full calming measures and associated costs, including street lighting.

He pressed for more to be done, but was pleased to see our traffic plans. Coffee sessions have taken place, and he has spoken to local police. He was willing to join steering groups. Cllr Bennett said he would be welcome at the next road safety meeting, open to the public. Wire speed check - done opposite entrance to The Beeches, more needed. Average speeds had since fallen. Normal monitoring times of 9-5 miss the busiest times.

i. £2,500 in our budget for Lydiard Green to have flashing speed signs but WCC policy was not allowing many of these signs. It was agreed to pursue Wiltshire Council on future policy.

j. Suggestions made that white lines be added to the edge of the road at Lydiard Green.

k. Letters have been sent out to the residents of Greenhill asking them to report if their ditches were piped. However, not all of the residents are able to check/or remedy the situation on their own, and may require a personal visit from a member of the Council to explain the situation. It was pointed out that grips would need to be cut into the ditches at some properties to allow the water to run into them from the road.

l. It was asked that the turning circle at bottom of Greenhill be cleared of mud, and the culvert cleared. WCC last did it 2 – 3 years ago.

11. Councillors' reports of Parishioners' queries.

a. Speed through Washpool - results have been issued. Traffic in excess of 65mph proved that there is a problem in this area. Set as an agenda item for next month, and invite the police. All Councillors to have a copy of the results.

b. Cllr Harris enquired if the churned up area of land at Greenhill, which was to have top soil and grass seeds in the spring, could be made into an official layby instead?

It is obviously used regularly for vehicles to pass each other.

c. Sign by Blackfords re heavy goods, in wrong place. WCC Highways are to put in extra signs around the end of Feb.

d. Much correspondence has taken place with the residents of houses 1-4 The Street, regarding the hedge, for which no one will take responsibility. Not on the deeds of the properties - it was the old boundary hedge, replaced after the homes were built. Developers

and contractors are long gone. Neither WCC nor NWDC will take on responsibility, therefore the individual owners will need to decide what to do.

e. Spring Clean this year is to be on the 26th April 2009. This will be advertised in the Lydiard Magazine and it will be made clear that this is for the whole village to participate in, not just the Councillors and their families.

f. Parish Improvement Grants for kissing gates, etc - cash only £300 per gate, to order and erect ourselves. Except for Cllr Harris who has offered to supply materials, no volunteer had so far volunteered to run the project. Without such a volunteer, the project will therefore not take place. Thanks to Cllr Harris for his offer.

12. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention.

An email of complaint had been received from Mrs Byrne of Lydiard Green, as she considered that we had incorrectly printed information about her property. Copy of email to be attached to these minutes.

The Council having heard the details from the email, concluded that the information printed in the minutes was correctly recorded, and had not implied that she had constructed new buildings on her land. A suitable letter of reply is to be sent to Mrs Byrne.

13. Report on matters arising from January 8th 2009 not on the main agenda.

a. It was agreed to offer the Parish Hall £10 per year to cover the cost of Christmas lights and the hall's exterior lighting.

b. Cemetery notices have not been agreed upon. Prices for 'hurdles' (delineating the Garden of Rest) to be sought for next meeting.

c. Greenhill ditches survey. Report on the survey to be considered at the March meeting.

14. Planning Applications

09/0003/FUL 28A Stone Lane, Lydiard Millicent. Proposed New Double Garage and Ground floor alterations. **No adverse comments.**

08/0033/FUL 2 Park View Drive, Proposed Detached Garage. **No adverse comments.**

Report on 08/2352/S73A Change of use of land to form a two pitch gypsy caravan site at Purdys Farm, Wood Lane. This application originally went to NWDC Planning Committee on 28th January, attended by Cllr Bennett. At the subsequent Committee meeting Cllr Pepperall put the Parish response to oppose the application, but **temporary permission** was nevertheless approved for a 3 year period. A study group is to be set up looking at whether gypsy status should be forfeited after 5 years of residential status.

NWDC Permission Granted

08/02627/FUL Single storey extension at front, side and rear at 1&2 The Elms, Shaw.

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

08/02695/FUL First floor ext'n to side, front & single storey ext'n to rear at 17 The Close.

15. Cemetery request – Re A Bowler dec'd. Agreed.

16. Accounts (*incl. VAT)

Expenditure		£'s
Mrs R Leckie	Wages	255.90
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	61.49*
Inside Out	Groundsman Fee	487.33
Shaw FC	White Lining	100.00
Lydiard Magazine	Subscription	5.00
Avoncrop	underpayment – white lining materials	49.03*
Usual DDs	Utilities & Chairs broadband	

Cllr J Bennett proposed, Cllr Baker seconded the above accounts, no objections - approved.

Add to next agenda - Parish Hall – Annual Electricity payment - £10.00.

Bank of Ireland The banking situation in Ireland was discussed and it was agreed to repatriate £55,000 of Parish Council funds back to Lloyds Bank for temporary re-investment. Proposals for High Interest accounts to be advised to Chairman as soon as possible.

Income RPA re Lydiard Plain £1,302.40, Cemetery £55.00, SFC £345.00.

17. Walking Guide – original reprint? - deferred to next month.

18. Committee Reports: Recreation Field, JCH, and Play Area – nothing to report.

19. Cemetery – Request to have a willow fence around the Garden of Remembrance to be considered next month. Cemetery notices still under review.

20. Parish Steward's next visit, 17th 18th Feb– task suggestions. Turning circle, ditches.

21. Parish Notice Board for Wood Lane / Braydon. Deferred to next month.

22. Correspondence:

The Hampshire Ghost Club – request to be forwarded to Mr Tapscott (Lady Blunt), Mr T. Blackmore, Mr R. Crouch (cottage adj. Victorian school buildings), & Cllr Baker.

The Greener Living Roadshow – 8th and 25th March 2009.

Wiltshire Council Planning Policy – Consultation

Wiltshire County Council – 4ward newsletter.

Thanks were given to Cllr Brian Quant for work done on flooding situation prior to becoming a Councillor and he was asked if he would represent the Council on these matters. He was reminded that future correspondence in his official capacity would need to go via the Clerk on headed paper.

23. Date of next meeting: Thursday 5th March 2009.

Meeting closed 10.15.

Minutes approved 5th March 2009.