

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

Present: Cllr T Pepperall (Chairman), B Baker, J Bennett, S Burley, M Groom, A Harris, A Pflieger, B Quant and K Thomas.

1. Apologies for absence. S Welch

2. Safety Briefing. Was given to 16 members of the public and 9 Cllrs.

3. Minutes of meeting 5th February 2009

8c had been amended and reprinted, this was distributed to the Councillors and offered to parishioners. 11b Lydiard Green should have read Greenhill, similarly the March Agenda item 20 should read Greenhill. Cllr Burley should be added to 'apologies' as he was not present. The minutes were then signed as a true copy.

Minutes of meeting 8th January, 2009

The amended minutes were agreed, and signed as a true copy.

4. Police Report.

Sgt Martin Alvis attended the meeting to explain the intricacies of Community Speed Watch system, and distributed printed leaflets. This would involve training Cllrs &/or Volunteers to use hand-held cameras, and reporting speeding incidents to Police, who would take action where appropriate.

If LMPC adopted 'CPW', the current system of Occasional Safety Camera Enforcement would have to cease, and the current Camera signs would be taken down. Both schemes can not operate together. Another option suggested would be traffic calming measures, agreed with W. Council Highways, but this would be expensive and require street lighting. Sgt Alvis was thanked for attending.

Questions were allowed of the Officer from parishioners, as well as C'llrs.

It was asked if the police knew the perimeters of our 7.5 ton weight limit box, as HGV vehicles are still using us as a short cut. He did not have this information to hand, and suggested the parishioner contact Wiltshire Council.

Many parishioners re-iterated how dangerous the traffic in Washpool is; they were reminded that the Local Community Boards are there for local concerns.

They also felt that the 7.5 ton limit signs on Tewksbury Way are not preventing HGVs from turning into Nine Elms, and asked if they could have another sign at that junction. Cllr Pflieger explained that a sign had been placed at the roundabout prior to the junction giving plenty of time to turn around.

Parishioners reminded the Council that two years ago they handed in a petition asking for action to be taken, to control the speed of the traffic, and the recent speeding figures confirmed the urgency.

They are still waiting for action on a proposal to close the bridge at Washpool.

One Parishioner said he had considered just parking a cheap car it on the highway as a form of traffic calming, but would prefer to work within the law - (*Sgt Alvis made no comment*).

5. County Councillor's report and questions arising.

Cllr Groom reminded the meeting that Wiltshire (Unitary) Council begins on 1st April.

3000 new houses west of Swindon proposed by the S.W. Regional Board. The NWDC Area 2 Board meeting in Purton on the 4th March discussed this proposal, and voted against this scheme.

Potential for increased flooding, higher volumes of traffic on country roads and lanes creating gridlock; coalescence likely due to lack of green lung or green infrastructure around Swindon.

Critical factors - flooding, lack of infrastructure, unsustainability and coalescence between settlements.

Councillors & parishioners were urged to complete the West of Swindon Study Update questionnaire.

NCAP (N. Comm. Area P'tnship) are about to update their Community Plan and need the help of the Community by filling in questionnaires on 3 things that are good about living in the area, and 3 things which concern them. These answers will form the basis of the new Plan. Details to Web site.

Both of the above questionnaires were available from the Clerk, or can be downloaded.

6. District Councillor's report and questions arising. No report – NWDC ceases on 31.3.09.

7. Parishioner's Question Time.

1. A Parishioner and ex-Councillor for Swindon questioned why the questionnaires had not been sent to all the homes in the area, as is the practice in Swindon. Cllr Groom offered to look into the reason. Mrs Reed also agreed that anyone without IT is left out of the loop. Suggested for future consultations that the lunch club, Church, Lydiard Magazine and the notice boards all hold information.

2. Objections were raised on **08/02822/OUT, land adj. to 16 Lydiard Green** - see Item 11. NWDC had only written to two industrial estates opposite, and 2 adjacent dwellings (one of which was empty) but not to dwelling to the east. LMPC to complain. The site is in a conservation area, the application would be over development, and cause extra traffic and parking on a dangerous road. One adjacent neighbour was concerned about damage to her property as the outbuildings planned to come down are partially joint walls with her building. She was given basic advice and was also advised that any such damage would call for civil action.

3. The verges in Stone Lane are being eroded and the residents again asked what can be done. Kerbs and bollards are being considered at present by the Parish Council.

4. An overgrown hedge in Stone Lane was identified, and it was agreed that a letter should go out requesting that it be cut back before the nesting period.

5. A drain has dropped outside 12, Lydiard Green – advise Clarence.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the CLARENCE number is for the public to ring in and report highway issues. The calls are monitored and they are given a log number for the job. It does not matter if the same issue is reported by more than one person. No is 0800 232323, or for Mobile users and outside Wiltshire 01225 777234.

8. Councillors' reports of Parishioners' queries.

A letter re footpaths was received from Mr Burnett – this was passed on to Cllr Pflieger, our footpath representative - Agenda next month.

Ditches in Greenhill - responses still to be analysed. Many homes have not responded and will need to be re-contacted. Mrs. May has been called upon and re-assured.

9. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention.

This is for 'last minute items', which may have come in since agenda was posted. There were none.

10. Report on matters arising from 5th February 2009 not on the main agenda.

1. 10d - sign on corner of Chestnut Springs has been stood up, but not repaired. Report to Highways.

2. 11c – new Greenhill 'no through road' signs have been erected by crossroad, and just past G. Nursery a 'no turning ahead for HGVs' sign added.

The Parish Council would still wish to have an extra sign opposite Blackfords. The site Secretary had previously been contacted. It will not need planning permission if it is back 3 ft from the road.

Cllr Harris offered to meet Cllr Bennett at the site to see what could be done.

Signs at crossroads still there. Enforcement to be asked what action they are taking.

3. 11f, Kissing Gates for footpath to Lydiard Park. Mr P Minett has offered to oversee this project on our behalf. Advise landowner, then meet contractor to obtain costings. Metal gates are approx.£240 each. Grants available from WC. Final costings to be brought to PC. Suggestion made that costs may be able to be kept down using the Groundsman to help him carry the equipment to the sites.

11. Planning Applications

09/00159/TCA Fell one horse chestnut & one acacia at Honeywood House. **Supported.**

08/02822/OUT Erection of two 3 bedroom dwellings on land adj. to 16 Lydiard Green.

Concerns re over-development of site, Conservation Area, bus stop, Parking issues.

See also Item 7.2.

Unanimously opposed.

12. Accounts (*incl. VAT)

Expenditure		£'s
Mrs R Leckie	Wages	255.90
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	54.75
Inside Out	Groundsman Fee	487.33
L.M.P.Hall	Hire of Hall	21.00
Shaw FC	White Lining	100.00
L.M.P.Hall	Electric	10.00
34SP.Com (THP)	Domain and Hosting Registration renewal	27.95*
Timpson (THP)	Keys for storshed	10.00*
SBC (late post)	Grass cutting	130.00
Usual DDs	Utilities & Chairs broadband	
Bank of Ireland	Ratify adjusting transfer from Lloyds Bank	2,000.00
Income SFC - £345.00.		

Treasurer accounts are hard to find, and those available are offering very poor rates - it was agreed to leave the money in the Lloyds Bank account for the time being.

Accounts proposed by Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Baker, no objections, so approved.

13. Walking Guide – original reprint?

Some of the walks have changed - Cllr Bennett will discuss amendments with Mr Richards. Quote received for £60 for 50 copies, for photocopying only.

14. Committee Reports:

Recreation Field - nothing to report.

JCH - needs some interior maintenance. Quotes required.

Play Area - an original retainer strip is causing a trip hazard. Cllr Bennett offered to deal with this.

RoSPA report - deferred from September, now needs to be dealt with. Treat timbers, rake and top-up chippings. Order more chippings to top-up Perrins piece. Cllr Baker offered to cut back the bushes first. Spring horse still needs refurbishing or replaced - quotes required.

Cemetery - box hedging discussed for around the Garden of Rest area. The previous idea of hurdles may be in the way of grass cutting and would require regular maintenance. Box hedging is slow growing and only needs trimming annually. Sufficient box hedge plants for 20 metres is £169.

Raised Flower Beds (opposite LMPHall) - Mr & Mrs Badcott have been tending these beds for 12 years plus, but have said they will 'retire' after the summer. Thank you letter to be sent. A replacement volunteer will be needed to facilitate the continuance of this fine feature of the village.

Closed Cemetery will receive first cut in March. WC wish to inspect the shed roof for safety reasons. If the shed needs to be demolished, it was suggested we could donate the 'byre' to Purton Museum.

War Memorial clock, £200 donation just banked, full report at the APM on the 28th May 2009.

15. Parish Steward's next visit - 17th & 18th March, task suggestions needed.

Holes at Common Platt, Chestnut Springs, & The Beeches, Holborn bus shelter graffiti, etc.

Graffiti at the rear of the JCH is still there - it was agreed to leave it ftb.

16. Wiltshire Council, West of Swindon Study, Public Consultation.

This was covered in County Councillor report. Questionnaires available from Clerk or Website.

17. Washpool – Speeding discussion was held during Item4.

The Metra Count had shown that this road had traffic reaching 55-60 mph. Calls were made for the Parish Council to admit that this is the worst road in the parish. It was agreed that all the current Metra Counts, (cost £600 each) need to be examined and compared, and one done on Stone Lane. Many requests have been made by residents, and the Highway Sub-Committee need to be review all areas in depth, with costings, and recommendations brought to the Parish Council.

A decision will need to be made by the Parish Council whether or not to continue with the existing Safety Camera Partnership scheme, or whether to take up the Community Speed Watch (see Item 4). A quick show of hands was done to see if any of C'llrs would be prepared to undertake training for the scheme - several raised their hands. The recommended speed guns are approx £2,000 each.

It was agreed that in the meantime a request would be sent to the Police asking them to site a police vehicle along the Washpool road during peak periods to monitor the traffic.

The Parish Council is still waiting to hear if they can purchase their own mobile flashing sign and have some sites agreed by Wiltshire Council and the Police.

A Highway Sub-Committee meeting is to be set up as soon as possible. This meeting will be open to the public and will be advertised.

18. Parish Notice Board for Wood Lane / Braydon

Only 2 responses to 11 letters have been received, one of which was concerned over the weight limit, the other had general issues. Decision was made to proceed with obtaining a board for the area, as we had previously done for Nine Elms. Site for the board still to be agreed – Wood Lane Nursery owner to be contacted.

19. Weight limit for Wood Lane, Braydon.

It is said that there used to be a weight limit. Wiltshire Council to be asked to check, and if so question why it was removed or lost. Defer to next month.

20. Greenhill – Layby or grass over.

WCC have said previously they do not do lay-bys, but they do kerbing. It was thought that the larger HGVs are too long for current lay-bys, and this could be why they abuse the verges. LMPC to proceed with grassing, as previously agreed, and to monitor the result. The alternative then would be the extra lay-by, if County funds permitted.

21. Correspondence:

Letter from Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall re Christmas Lights payment.

Wiltshire Wayfarer newsletter re rights of way - given to Cllr Pflieger.

Rural Payments Agency - Changes to cross compliance guidance - info only.

WALC newsletter, training for new councillors, training on accounting issues, training on involving young people. Cllr Quant to confirm, then Clerk to see if place still available.

Area Boards Roadshow dates - too late!

Best Kept Village competition - decided against.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 2nd April 2009.

Meeting closed at 10.10

Minutes approved 2.4.2009.