

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 7TH OCTOBER 2004

Amendment to Agenda

The Agenda showed the meeting to be held in the Parish Hall, this was amended to the Jubilee Club House. A notice redirecting anyone wishing to attend the council meeting had been placed on the door of the Parish Hall. Also, the date of the next (October) Parish Council meeting printed in the September Lydiards Magazine was incorrect due to a printing error. A member of the public who wished to check the date with the Clerk found the answering machine message confusing, as the message also offers the option of email, or fax. The clerk will record a simpler message.

Present: Cllrs J Bennett – Chair, P Brimacombe, M Groom, J Holloway, L Quartly-Bishop, A Pflieger, V Saunders.

Cllr J Bennett introduced himself as the Chairman for the evening as Cllr Pepperall was on holiday.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs T Pepperall, B Baker and P Cole.
2. **Confirm Minutes of 2nd September 2004.**
 - In PQT, Mr Tapscott had also asked for “grass to be cut around the flower beds” to be amended.
 - Para 9a second sentence altered to read. “The chairman spent a few minutes”.
 - Para 13, Cllr Groom’s coffee morning raised £250 plus Gift Aid, amended: WCC grant altered to £1500

The minutes were signed as a true copy. Proposed by Cllr Saunders and seconded by Cllr Holloway.

3. County Councillor's Report and Questions Arising.

Cllr. Groom told the meeting that a considerable volume of publications was being produced on a wide variety of subjects, such as: Lowering the Voting Age, Fitness for the Next Generation, Tackling Crime and Drugs, and Community Involvement.

The S.W. Regional Assembly’s Regional Spatial Strategy has been published and contains three proposals. Option 1 of the Plan proposes three Principals Urban Areas to be focused upon. There is an incentive for additional funding for infrastructure but only if accelerated growth is chosen. Needless to say, Swindon is one of the three PUAs. None of the options will help rural integrity. The only reason we have kept any rural buffer zone is due to our residents responding to previous consultations. An item will be placed on the agenda at the next Parish Council meeting. It is hoped to hold a public meeting in Wootton Bassett on 9th November at the Memorial Hall (awaiting confirmation).

4. District Councillor's Report and Questions Arising.

Although the licensing policy is ready, District Cllrs are still waiting for training on the implementation of the policy. Cllrs will need to have meetings almost nightly to meet deadlines for licensing applications. Not enough information on this new policy has yet been made available to the public.

At North Wilts Area 2 meeting, a presentation on Blake Hill Reservation at Chelworth near Cricklade took place. Blake Hill is the largest national grassed area reservation. An entrance off the road will be installed. Information such as maps and website details will be forwarded to the clerk by Cllr. Groom.

5. Parishioner's Question Time.

It was reported that another Purton boundary stone is leaning, it is on the road to Purton which passes the Pear Tree Hotel. Clerk to report to Purton PC Clerk.

The hedge at Lilac Cottage is overgrown, as are hedges between the Church and The Beeches. Also, hedges at Millicent House and 16 The Street have previously been mentioned. Clerk to write to the occupants of the properties concerned to request that they cut their hedges.

The pavement at the bottom of Chestnut Springs still needs to be levelled. **Action:** Clerk to confirm with the WHP that the pavements have been adopted and if so request that they are made safe.

The comment in the previous minutes regarding the Council possibly needing to pay for extra grass cutting on the playing field was queried. It was advised that it was an E.U. requirement that grass on playing fields had to be kept below a certain height to prevent children tripping; thus more cutting may be required if the grass grows quickly during the winter.

Several parishioners observed that matters raised during Parishioner Question Time received little attention after the meeting, and that there was rarely any feedback at the next meeting. The acting Chairman agreed with their observations and undertook to discuss with the Chairman and the Clerk, the production of a list of matters raised at meetings, noting the action required, who was to take the action and the subsequent progress to satisfactory conclusion.

A question was raised regarding use of the Dial a Ride service in the Parish. Answer. It was advised that there are approximately a dozen wheelchair users in the Parish, who cannot use the 'Link' scheme. It was agreed that the Dial a Ride service is expensive to run, but nonetheless is an essential service. The meeting was reminded that the financial information for the scheme would be covered in Item 15.

A parishioner considered that the cemetery was a disgrace, and that the playing field was in a better condition. It was also noted that a grave has some overhanging brambles from the wall and a request was made for them to be removed. The acting Chairman stated that the Groundsman's work schedule would be looked at with the

PC Chairman with the aim of improving and maintaining the appearance of the cemetery.

The promised filling of potholes along Greenhill and the subsequent road re-surfacing has not occurred. Vehicles are still hitting their undersides. Also the road surface along Greenhill is being damaged by the vast amount of surface water, which runs down it every time it rains. This is exacerbated by a lack of ditches. It was believed that approximately 3 years ago a survey of the ditches was carried out by the WCC and letters were to be sent to the homeowners to request that the ditches were cleared. Cllr Groom would take this up with Mr Gibbs of the WHP and advise the clerk of the outcome.

Cllr Pflieger had telephoned WHP about Park Lane resurfacing and was advised that the work should be carried out in 2005.

A telephone-based company, who claim the resident has won a prize, is targeting elderly residents of the village. One resident had a £35.00 telephone bill caused by this. Residents were advised to register with the Telephone Preference Service (which needs renewing yearly), to contact their MP James Gray, and run up the telephone bills of companies making the calls by not putting the phone down.

There is a dead tree overhanging The Butts on Mr Warren's land, which needs cutting down. It is situated beside a large Horse Chestnut Tree on the edge of the embankment. This has previously been reported. **Action:** Clerk to write to Mr. Warren and request that the tree is cut down.

6. Councillor's Reports on Parishioners Queries.

The overgrown hedge and fallen tree blocking the footpath near the Greenhill Crossroads. The WHP does not accept responsibility for any form of vegetation growing from a boundary; it is the landowner's responsibility to keep hedges trimmed and prevent them overgrowing verges and paths. However, as an exception, the WHP had advised that they will arrange for trimming of bramble bushes back to the edge of the pavement, and remove any parts of the tree that protrude. Removal of the grass growing across the pavement should be added to Lengthsmen job list. **Action:** Clerk to arrange.

Councillors observed that it has been three months since this obstruction was first reported to the Parish council and that in future, a risk assessment should be made of similar reports. Had a Risk Assessment been made following this report, then it would most certainly have been categorised as High Risk, as there is no lighting at the area and walkers could easily have been injured; wheelchair and pushchair users needed to go into the road. Appropriate action should be taken to eliminate a high-risk situation, even if it entails using Parish Council money, Cllr Pflieger asked if the Council could adopt a system to identify 'hot spots' within the Parish to help prioritise tasks. Clerk to put on the Agenda for November.

The shrubs in the grassed area at the beginning of Lydiard Green are overgrown and need attention. The Acting Chairman would discuss the matter with the Chairman to determine who should be responsible for their maintenance.

Cllr Saunders advised that the second lay-by in Greenhill is being used for fly tipping. The Clerk to arrange with WCC to have the rubbish removed.

Cllr Holloway advised that the road at Bagbury Lane corner had flooded again this month. No culvert or drainage was visible on the corner. The Acting Chairman advised that the Council Chairman's belief that the WHP had completed the repair was incorrect; the WHP had advised that the necessary remedial work was still outstanding.

Councillors noted that the Community Police Officer, PC Alex Reid had still to present himself to the parish and requested that we invite PC Reid to a meeting, as many residents wish to see him. The Clerk has received email from PC Reid indicating his willingness to attend a meeting, and has sent an open invitation for him to attend. Clerk to send further invitation.

A Parishioners speed watch was suggested, where the parishioners take the numbers of persistent offenders. Cllr Groom confirmed that the Wiltshire Constabulary discourage this, as it endangers the public.

7. Report on Matters Arising from Thursday 2nd September not on the Main Agenda.

Chestnut Springs roundabout sign. It had been pointed out that this sign is obscured from view when approaching from The Sun Inn. The problem depends on the height of the vehicle you are travelling in. The WHP will ask the Bus Company to raise the sign on the existing pole to ease the situation.

“Dangerous Animals” signs on the Millennium Trail. It was reported in September that warning signs had been placed at the trail entrances to the field between Lydiard Park and the Swindon road. The Clerk contacted the Park Rangers who reported that the signs appear to advise that horses were present and to take care. Cllr Brimacombe said that the signs had been changed since the September meeting. No further action required.

Blocked Footpath behind the old PO and Garage/ Sun Inn stile. It was agreed that this item should be delayed and considered when the Parish Plan report their proposals.

Brockhurst Farm Enforcement. A reply has been received from NWDC noting that whilst the enforcement had been quashed, a ‘line in the sand’ has been drawn and no continuum of residency could now be claimed.

Common Platt Sign. A new sign had been erected, however, the Resident on whose land it was placed has asked for it to be moved to facilitate the mowing his grass. WHP will move the sign if it can be confirmed they erected it. Clerk to progress with the WHP.

Common Platt Road Markings. WHP have been furnished with the necessary information regarding the original markings. However, they will not burn off the new

centre line but will correct the lay-by line leaving that carriageway narrower. Should this prove to be a road hazard then the Council will need to report it.

Reflectors - Road Narrowing by Church. The WHP had agreed to affix reflectors to the bollards. The work should be completed in 3 weeks to 3 months depending upon funding.

Buryfield Path Lighting. The WCC reported that they do not use the low level lights as they are prone to vandalism and had not progressed this matter. Cllr Pepperall had asked them to review their decision as there is a low incidence of vandalism in the area and we already have £2,600 in grant money. **Action:** Chairman to progress.

8. Planning Applications

- 04/022771/FUL New Barn at Four Oaks, Park Braydon Road, Lydiard Plain.
Concerns were raised over possible commercial use.
Approval recommended with the caveat that use is restricted to private vehicles.
- 04/02595/FUL Conservatory at 30 The Beeches, Lydiard Millicent
No adverse comments
- 04/02551/FUL Rear Conservatory at 62 Chestnut Springs Lydiard Millicent
No adverse comments

NWDC Permissions Granted:

Two storey and single storey side extensions at Holly House Greenhill, Wootton Bassett. (04/02143FUL)

Application Withdrawn:

Pear Tree Cottage 15 Lydiard Green, Lydiard Millicent

Advice had been received from NWDC re applications for swimming pools. No planning application is needed to build a swimming pool; however ancillary buildings and covers are subject to planning regulations.

9. Accounts (*incl. VAT)

Mrs R Leckie	Salary	£254.80
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	£31.89*
Mr R Nicholas	Groundsman	£119.16
Shaw F.C.	Line marking	£100.00
L.M. Parish Hall	Hire of Hall Parish Council	£15.00
L.M.P. School	Hire of Hall Parish Plan	£51.00
Society of Local Councils	Clerks' Manual 2004	£24.00
Midge Hall Nurseries	Autumn planting of flower beds	£30.00
Avoncrop Amenity Products	White Lining	£156.90*
T H Pepperall	Fluorescent Tube JCH	£2.76*
Southern Electric	JCH	£179.24*
N.W.D.C.	Dev. Control mins.	£28.50

(This cheque was not presented for signature as further information needed to determine if payment is for past year or the future minutes to be sent. There is the possibility of cancelling them as Cllr Groom receives the same minutes, which can be passed to the council).

LM. Pre school	Parish Plan crèche 18.9.04	£100.00
----------------	----------------------------	---------

(The Parish Plan Steering Group approved this payment from the Parish Plan funds. Cllrs comments on the amount were noted).

County Mulch	Playground bark	£83.80*
Playground Mgmnt	RoSPA Playground check	£217.38*

(This fee included the Disability Discrimination Act audit).

P Windo	Software for LM website	£100.00
---------	-------------------------	---------

(A new software package is needed to add the maps from the Parish Plan etc. A 50% split between Parish Plan funds and the Council was agreed. Agreement for the Parish Plan funding will be sought at the next PP Steering Cttee meeting).

Mr R Nicholas	Rose beds at Beeches Entrance (RH)	£40.00
---------------	------------------------------------	--------

(At the September meeting it was agreed that Dr Young could remove the roses at her expense. This was incorrect as Dr. Young wished the council to undertake the work. £40 is the Groundsman's estimate for removing the roses and turfing. However, the roses had already been removed and the ground seeded, **Action:** Clerk to check if the work had been carried out by the Groundsman and report back).

The above accounts were Proposed by Cllr Quartly Bishop and seconded by Cllr Holloway.

9a. Precept Consideration 2005/6

The Acting Chairman invited Cllrs to propose projects for inclusion in the Precept for the coming Financial Year. The following ideas were submitted:

“Drive Carefully” signs, with suitable wording, to be erected at the entrances to village.

Footpath Clearance / Hedge Trimming. The possibility of hiring contractors for specific sites e.g. Holborn was discussed. It was considered that ideally the cost should fall to the land owner or the County or District councils as council tax should already cover this work. However, because of the safety hazards involved and the delays experienced in getting work done, it was considered that funds should be earmarked for such work.

A parishioner known to Cllr Groom requires a disabled access dropped kerb outside their property. A contribution to help pay for these suggested.

The bus stop at the Greenhill Crossroads on the road to Purton needs to be extended and a path and shelter provided. (Clerk to check last year's precept)

There will be a further opportunity at the November meeting to propose further ideas for consideration in preparing the 2005/06 precept. A subsequent meeting between

Chair, Vice-chair and Clerk, will produce a draft precept for consideration in Dec/Jan. **Parishioners are encouraged to submit proposals to Cllrs for the November meeting.**

10. Committee Reports

Playground Inspection carried out by Cllr V Saunders. - Disclaimer notice - some of the words are not clear and the gate spring is broken. Chairman to arrange necessary work

Groundsman's Report. Mr Nicholas the Groundsman had sent in a report of work carried out and work pending which was summarised.

Jubilee Clubhouse - Mr Frost has repaired the outside tap, tightened the tap joints in the Gents and replaced the missing end to the gutter. The inadequate sensor for movement on the main entrance light has been discussed with Mr Frost and a replacement sensor will be sought.

11. Co-option Nomination

Miss Lindsay Wakefield agreed to stand for Co-option. Cllr J Holloway proposed and Cllr Pflieger seconded Miss Wakefield's co-option nomination; there being no objection Miss Wakefield was formerly declared a Councillor. The Council welcomed Miss Wakefield, and the Clerk will draw up the necessary paperwork and information pack for New Councillors.

12. 'Drive Carefully' Signs. Covered at 10 above.

13. Mobile 30 mph Signs. Proposal dropped.

14. New Stile at Sun Inn. See item 7.

15. Dial a Ride. Clerk has written asking for more details on the group, finance, number projections etc. However, as none were available no discussion took place. Clerk to progress.

16. Correspondence.

Copy of letter from resident re Church traffic calming. Continual bursting of tyres. - the chicane has claimed more tyres this month. Noted.

NWDC letter re confirmation of Parish Plan grant £500.00 - form has been signed and returned.

Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Area 2 Committee Agenda for 6th October 2004. Meeting attended by Cllr. Groom.

Countryside and Open Space Strategy Consultation. Comments by 18th October 2004. Cllr Groom to review and if possible send reply.

Primary School Special Needs Education Provision in Wiltshire Consultation. - Cllr Groom commented that it was a first class document - Cllr Bennett retained to review.

Lydiard Park Restoration Project – Officers would like to speak at a meeting. It was agreed to invite them to November or December meeting. **Action:** Clerk to action.
Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Local Plan Forum. One day “workshop” 15th Oct. - no volunteers.

Draft Licensing Policy - still to be approved.

Waste Issue 12 - information only. On table.

Development Control committee agenda for 29th September 2004 No items for LMPC.

Clerk and Councils Direct - Sept issue - magazine. An item of advertisement for a Multi-Sports area was spotted in the issue, the company address - Lydiard Green.

Cherry Brier Residents Association. -. A meeting took place previous week with Cllr Pepperall, Cllr Groom, and the Residents Association. The manhole for Chestnut Springs is situated in Cherry Brier Close. This is to be looked at from an Environmental Health point of view. A further report will be made in November.

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.

Date of next meeting - Thursday 4th November 2004 - L M Parish Hall

Minutes signed by Cllr T Pepperall on Thursday 4th November 2004