

Minutes signed as a true copy on 2nd December 2004
By Cllr T Pepperall Chairman

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 4TH NOVEMBER 2004

Present: Cllrs T Pepperall - Chair, B Baker, J Bennett, P Brimacombe, P Cole, M Groom, J Holloway, A Pflieger, V Saunders.

1. Apologies for Absence Cllr L Quartly Bishop.

2. Confirm Minutes of 7th October 2004. No alterations to the minutes, but the next S W Regional Assembly's Spatial Strategy meeting had changed to 12th Nov, Cross Keys, WB, 7.30 p.m.

The minutes were then signed as a true copy. It was noted that the revised Agenda, circulated to Councillors, was wrongly numbered.

3. Visiting Speaker re: Lydiard Park House Restorations.

The Chairman introduced the second speaker of the evening Mrs Sarah Finch Crisp.

She was pleased to offer us, a close neighbour linked by history, paths, roads etc, a brief resume of the major works soon to be carried out on the parkland of Lydiard House.

The Project is £5.3M Heritage supported lottery scheme to upgrade the parklands surrounding the house. Georgian modelling of 1700's created a naturalistic lake out old fishponds, etc. and routes via grand avenues.

The landscape has been in decline for over 100 years. Swindon Corporation has restored the House as a Museum and the Church also is famous for its monuments.

Jan 2004 saw the first stage of lottery funding to do the development work, which will underpin the whole project, which is being worked on by Swindon Council and a team of volunteers, together with partners English Heritage, The Countryside Agency, DEFRA, N Power and key Swindon businesses.

Detailed engineering plans are being put together to re-instate the big lake to its former glory, various architectural works, and a stable building, which will be used for school trips etc.

Mrs Finch Crisp brought with her some leaflets, but had underestimated the interest shown by the general public who attend our Parish Council Meetings.

The Plans show that out of the 260 acres of park, only a fraction of park is used. The visitors centre and the House seem to be of most public interest, and the vast parkland is often ignored.

She had recently attended a meeting of our Parish Plan committee, who were looking at the path network. Plans for Lydiard House include the upgrading of the

footpaths, to enable better travel from Lydiard House to Lydiard Millicent and the two should be joined up.

Questions and answers.

Q. What stage has the funding reached? A. The funding for stage 1 is agreed. A financial review was carried out last year, which proved it to be achievable and affordable.

Q. When will the work begin? A. The visual impact work will begin by the end of summer 2005, and the lake will have been re-instated by September 2006. It will take approx. 4 years to complete with the biggest bulk of the work-taking place in the first two years.

Will the Park remain open? Yes but areas may have to be cordoned off while work takes place.

Q. Will trees be taken down? The self-seeded scrub and various seedlings will be taken out, as they are detrimental to the biodiversity of the park. Many of the trees lost over the past years will be replaced and the avenues will be replanted - this part of the project is strongly supported by DEFRA.

Q. Why is the house in the park called Lydiard House rather than Lydiard Mansion as it causes confusion to fire fighters etc. A. Separate parishes are involved and there should be no confusion. The Bolingbroke family usually referred to it as Park, but for over 100 years has been called Lydiard House. The word Mansion was only introduced after Swindon B.C. took it over. To help visitors find their way, new brown information signs are to be put up at the entry points.

Q. Are parking charges going to be re-instated? A. No – and the House and grounds will also remain free.

4. Invitation for local PC Stewart Hulmes to speak.

The Chairman introduced PC Alex Reid and PC Stewart Hulmes. PC Reid had joined Cricklade 3 years ago, but his responsibilities did not include Lydiard Millicent.

PC Stuart Hulmes has been an officer for 3/4 years and has served a number of areas, including Swindon, Chippenham, Cricklade, and now Lydiard Millicent. He recommended that members of the public stop him as he is walking around the area, were there questions or comments to be raised, as he is keen to learn all that is going on.

He has looked at our School Parking situation, and watched the drop off and pick up parking issues. He was assured that it was not too bad the day he visited, but he had felt it to be diabolical.

He witnessed seriously dangerous and inappropriate parking, which could only be described as abandoned - - some even had children in. Cars are then pulling out onto the fast road and everyone is in danger.

Following his visit he has drafted a letter to go to all the parents, suggesting more suitable parking spots, as a school document appears to have indicated that parking in The Butts was approved by a police officer.

Posters have been printed and will be placed in and around the village. Double yellow lines have been requested on the blind corner, and parking tickets will be issued to any vehicle causing an obstruction in the future.

He agreed lack of parking is a big concern. Parking in the Parish Hall IS preferable to The Butts. The Sun Inn has agreed to allow parents to use their car park morning and evening and he would be encouraging parents to use this option. He will also be promoting the 'walking bus' scheme.

A Camera safety unit is currently watching the rat race into Swindon - results are due by December. Unfortunately the lack of reported accidents count against the Parish when decisions are made on traffic calming schemes - only 3 accidents have been reported in 10 years. Traffic department has been asked to carry out random speed checks at school times.

The School has been looking at alternative parking areas, but suggestions amount only to 5/6. Protected land and trees make finding a suitable area for a car park difficult. The traffic calming is causing more problems that it is helping. The School's popularity has swollen numbers from 112 to 191, and future increases are possible. An increase in the mini-bus or taxi services may be made more available.

Residents should contact the local police on 01380 734001 (Devizes), or 750207 (Cricklade) 10.30 to 12.30 weekdays, serviced by a civilian clerk, 852213 (Wootton Bassett) 8.30 to 4.00 weekdays.

Patrols are less frequent as Lydiard Millicent is a relative low crime. However, they often come through the Parish and will sit and watch as necessary.

It was stated that the response time is not quick enough. The Officers were sorry that the residents had reason to say this. An officer will always come, even if only an officer from a different area.

A resident had to reverse all the way back out of The Butts due to inconsiderate parking, causing him not to be able to access his property. The misconceived document by the School indicating it was OK to park in The Butts had not helped. Vehicles had been told to park between Beeches to traffic calming on the straight, but this was misquoted. Traffic can park on the straight beyond the corner to The Butts, although this still creates mayhem.

The police will not clamp vehicles, but will be issuing tickets, or removing them as necessary.

Fly tipping of two black bags dumped along Stone Lane, reported by a Councillor some 5 or 6 weeks ago, did not seem to have been dealt with.. The car registration details to be handed to Pc Hulmes. Fly tipping is dealt with seriously by the police, when given full details of who, what, where, and when.

Councillor asked if the monitoring wires on road were part of the Camera safety unit. No - they use a Golden River, which involves a camera with radar, pre-set to 10% plus 2 mph. Drivers do slow down towards the calming slightly and where the officers had parked this evening was an ideal place.

The issue over the One Stop artic drivers was raised and it was requested that an officer observe at 6.45 am after the Tesco Express shop has been refitted. We have tried the friendly approach in writing, but now it was time to get tough with them.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their questions and the officers for their time, an invitation was extended to re-visit in the near future.

5. County Councillor's Report and Questions Arising.

Feedback forms from the S W Regional Strategy were given out to parishioners and councillors.

It was urged that the responses stress that none of the three options suit the parish of Lydiard Millicent, and that Swindon needs to be regenerated first. It is essential to keep our open spaces. Concerns were raised that, if we do not fill in all of the six pages to their specification, our forms may be invalid.

On the speed issue, the Police are very much against councillors or residents using speed guns. They are not equipped to deal with this, and would need high indemnity insurance should they cause an accident, as well as putting themselves at risk from road rage.

Cllr Groom has written to Swindon BC on the Croft Road / Hay Lane proposals at J16, the only surveys having been conducted by the applicants for the plan, denying us our statutory rights for debate. The maps were incomplete in that they did not relate the area to the M4.

6. District Councillor's report and questions arising.

Training days have now been issued for licensing laws and Police are to give advice for a few months.

6A. Report on EIP Inspectors Report on Wilts & Swindon Structure Plan.

The Chairman reported on the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan, which he and Cllr Groom attended some months ago. The findings of the consultation have not gone well for Lydiard Millicent.

The Inspector refused to look beyond the current housing requirement for the period, and ruled out an early start towards the East. He has recommended that approvals be filled from the renewal of the Centre (good), Coate, the NDA, the SDA (not so good), and the West!. This means some 1250 houses at sites such as Ridgeway Farm, Tadpole Farm, and the edge of Lydiard Park. We shall need to be as forceful as possible to affect the implementation of planning sites in the County Plan, as well as the Swindon Local Plan. SBC will work with NWDC on our area.

7. Parishioner's Question Time.

Mr New asked for an update on the potholes on pavements along 1 Chestnut Springs, the Roundabout sign by Chestnut Springs, the length of grass in the Recreation Field, and various overhanging hedges.

Mr G Gray from the Close asked if the committee were aware of the proposed planning application to open a Post Office in The Close. The Chairman was aware

from a courtesy call, that an initial letter to seek response from the houses in The Close had been circulated. The Council is keen to see a Post office re-instated, but would not be able to give an opinion either way to this suggestion at present. It was suggested that Mr Stone arrange a meeting with public and councillors.

Mr Stone addressed the meeting to explain that his motives are one of trying to help the community. He would like to re-open post office gently, and was startled to see so many people with no community spirit. His proposal was to also sell gift wrap and paper etc and hoped this would be acceptable. Due to the known low remuneration of a Post Office, he identified a property he owned to minimise costs.

He has been through the interview stages of Post Office approval and had been passed as a nominated Sub Postmaster for the village. He was very upset at the lack of support and indicated that he would take back his offer to re-open the Post Office. The need to find suitable premises in the Parish should now be a priority and he hoped the Parish Council would be able to help.

Mr Stacey. The footpath between Stable Cottage and 10 The Beeches is being used for access, with new double gates being installed. This was flagged up as a possible problem site over 8 months ago but there had been no further adverse reports since then. There is a dropped kerb, which may have been originally built in the wrong position. The stile had often been removed and replaced to allow the movement of horses. There is also a problem with damage to a cesspit cover. Urgent action needed to establish with Highways the legal access situation on this site. Also to be checked is the planning permission needed to put in the new gate off a 'C' road.

A set of original plans for the area were offered to Cllr Groom to aide her investigation. Cllr Groom was to take the issue to County Council in the following few days. A letter was needed from the Parish Council to WCC outlining our concerns. **HOT SPOT.**

Mr Tapscott reported that the footpath behind the Sun Inn car park and the garage complex had horse dung and a mattress blocking the way. It was also mentioned that some of the footpath beside the garage had been cleared. Cllr Brimacombe confirmed he had cleared some of the path.

Mr Windo, had been encouraged by the words of the visiting PC's but was still concerned about the lack of general action over the chicane. He was upset that the Council appears to do nothing but talk about things and no action occurs. We are awaiting further action from WCC.

Web site averages of 100 hits a month. New visitors gradually increase by 2 or 3 a month. W.C.C. look at our website, in particular the pages of the Parish Plan. 1200 hits since launched. He warned that if it becomes boring, due to not enough new material, then numbers will dwindle. New material was urged. It was suggested that the new 'hot spots' and urgent issues be highlighted each month.

Mr Brown brought to the attention of the Parish Council that the resurfacing at the crossroads to Greenhill, Greatfield, and Wootton Bassett, has become a mess as most of the red surface has now disappeared and has left a road surface which will be dangerous in the icy weather. He had telephoned Clarence. The Chairman assured Mr Brown that the Highway department were aware of this.

As mentioned over 9 months ago, yellow monitoring boards have been placed at various parts of the Parish. The surface dressing is inadequate and the Highway Engineer has confirmed this. Payment has been withheld until they come and re-do

the job, but unfortunately they have up to 18 months to do so. It was suggested that work be done after most traffic has passed, to allow the surface time to harden. Comments were again made on the need for better road signs. Electric or solar panelled signs should be costed accordingly and not dismissed out of hand as being too expensive. Quotations have been requested for the Precept considerations. **HOT SPOT.**

8. Councillor's Reports of Parishioners Queries.

Cllr Holloway brought a request that the mound of waste rubble on the driveway to the cemetery be removed more regularly or disguised. If it is not possible to have it removed more frequently then a method of disguising the rubble will need to be found. Local farmers take the rubble away when it is viable for them to do so to use to fill in their pot holes at gate entrances etc.

Cllr Pflieger informed the Council that One Stop had changed hands and would soon be a Tesco. The Clerk to write to Tesco to advise them of the weight limit in the parish.

Cllr Brimacombe reported potholes in Park Lane had still not been filled.

Cllr Groom reported on the drainage problem at Cherry Briar Close - meeting on 10th with WCC.

Cllr V Saunders asked if council were aware of a stable going up on the Greatfield/Purton Road.

Yes we believe a planning application had recently been approved. Clerk to confirm with Purton PC.

Cllr J Holloway brought a parishioners list of precept considerations.

It was asked that the Grounds man now be called in to deal with the hedge obstruction along Lydiard Green, as it is now dark earlier and with no street lights and the hedge even bigger, it is more urgent. **HOT SPOT**

Flooding of Bagbury Lane has now become erosion of Bagbury Lane where lorries are tearing up the bank and creating a larger turning splay. Also a vehicle is parking on a regular basis at School pick up/drop off times and blocking the access.

Cllr Baker understood that the Field Shed at 'Greensend' was being used as a plumbing office and store. Report to NWDC Enforcement.

9. Report on Matters Arising from 7th October 2004 not on the main agenda.

Item 5.1 October minutes. Boundary Stones have been re-set. Also item 14 Boundary Stone, Bagbury lane, now re-sited – with LMPC approval

5.2. Lilac Cottage hedge has been cut by owner. Hedge between Church and the Beeches is now believed to belong to Mr Hoare.

5.4. Extra grass cutting on playing field - see Committee Reports.

5.5. Hot spot list and action list. The Clerk had been using a list on computer. A new list on Word format will be circulated as soon as practical to all Councillors.

5.7. Groundsman gave reasons for the delay in the work programme, due to warm and wet conditions causing more grass cutting. He should catch up over next month or two.

5.8. Survey of Ditches in Greenhill. Chris Rose and Rod Gibbs, WCC, to be asked to send letter to all residents in Greenhill, and Clerk to contact Tracy Carter at W.C.C.

5.11. Dead tree overhanging The Butts - Mr Warren still to be contacted.

6.1. Hedge cutting at Lydiard Green had been promised. Need to action quickly.

6.3. Lydiard Green grassed area with Shrubs. The owner still needs to be contacted to assess if she will agree to keep her land tidy before Parish Council decide further. This will be returned to in December.

6.4. Fly-tipping in Greenhill had been reported.

7.8. Buryfield Lighting, PC are still waiting for contractors to give quote. The delay is causing concern especially as the youth of the village have taken to congregating there. Concern as to whether the new light will in fact gain approval. Grant monies held, therefore light must be fitted, and the consequences dealt with later.
(the above items are for information only).

10. Planning Applications

04/02395/COU amended plans for Post Office Cottage, 7 The Street. Already passed.

04/02935/TPO Tree Surgery at Manor House, Church Place. Emergency tree surgery had already taken place, the planning application was verbally agreed by NWDC before the work took place.

Planning Approvals

04/02251/FUL Rear Conservatory at 62 Chestnut Springs

04/02595/FUL Conservatory at 30 The Beeches

04/02395/COU Conversions of Post Office Cottage, 7 The Street

11. Accounts (*incl. VAT)

Mrs R Leckie	Salary	£230.00
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	£48.77*
Mr R Nicholas	Groundsman	£119.16
Mr R Nicholas	Rose beds at Beeches	£40.00
Shaw F.C.	Line marking	£100.00
L.M. Parish Hall	Hire of Hall Parish Council	£15.00
Avoncrop Amenity Products	White Lining VAT	£27.46*
Mr T H Pepperall	Fluorescent Tube JCH	£3.24*
(Entered last month incorrectly.)		
Mr T H Pepperall	P Plan Ins. Re. 2.10.04	£55.00
N.W.D.C.	Dev. Control minutes.	£28.50
(Queried last month, mid year bill)		
Thames Water	JCH	£75.01
Thames Water	Cemetery	£5.97
Bank of Ireland (transfer to)	2nd half precept	£6,000.00

Replacement cheque to County Mulch £71.32*
All of the above were Proposed by Cllr B Baker and Seconded by Cllr A Pflieger.

12. Committee Reports

Recreation Field minutes of the sub committee meeting, 26th October, were read out.

- a. Shower needs easing; propose to ask Mr Frost to do.
- b. Dressing room key and fob missing, to be replaced.
- c. Cutting of grass. Cricket Club to ask Groundsman to source an appropriate mower to hire with or without driver to cut grass when wet.
- a. Re-siting of tuck shop. SFC have asked for the door to be kept locked at all times. This will entail giving hirers of the JCH a key to access electrical trip switches c.o.n..
- b. The Recreation Field needs to be treated for weed in the spring. Quotations to be sought.
- c. Users have complained of a chlorinated taste in the water, possibly as the use is minimal.

It was agreed SFC run the taps to try to overcome the problem.

- d. There is a problem with dogs fouling the pitches. To reflect the current use of the field, and to keep dogs around the perimeter only, it was recommended and agreed to purchase an appropriate new sign with a £50 fine for identified offending owners.
- e. There is a problem with bottles and cans on the playing areas of the field, which need to be removed by hand before each cut. Suggestion made of a regular patrol of the field, to encourage the offenders to dispose of rubbish thoughtfully. Councillors declined on safety reasons, but local P.C. to be asked to patrol randomly.
- f. SFC have asked if the Council will consider increasing the size of the car park. Declined as

over-spill is only occasional, and the area beyond the car park has been earmarked for a tennis court.

- g. Play Area. RoSPA Disability report recommended a new style of gate. Decision made to leave as it is for now, but take the recommendation into account when the gate is replaced. Other items to be reviewed in December.

13. Precept consideration 2005/6 List includes items from October minutes item 9a.

- a. Drive carefully signs need to be costed - before the December meeting.
- b. Footpath and hedge trimming. £1,000 suggested.
- c. Disabled Access Drop Kerbs, at either end of Buryfield Footpath for wheelchairs. Grant to be checked out and any other sites to be noted.
- d. Bus stop, Greenhill Crossroads. Cllr Saunders was asked to do a survey of the users. Alternative suggestions included bollards or safety shield
- e. Bus shelters - seats for the ageing population. Quotes for leaning seats, before December.
- f. Refurbishment of notice boards was suggested - Clerk felt they were OK at present.
- g. Footpaths - see Parish Plan report.
- h. Road Signs need to up-dated.
- i. Chicane may need to be tackled by the Council. In particular the reflectors on the Bollards.
- j. Road Paint surfaces - pursue.
- k. Land for village car park./Village Green / Cemetery - this is already being precepted.
- l. Grass verges. More money to be spent.

- m. Hiring Machinery for Parish Council to cut its own grass verges?
- n. Kerbing Stones on relevant stretches of road, and the around the pond. Replace and re-locate. o. Re-locate Cemetery gates in line with old wall. Tidy up and prevent cars parking all night.

14. Co-option nominations - Unfortunately Miss L Wakefield is not yet 21 years of age, and could not take up a position as Councillor.

15. Joint Cemetery with Lydiard Tregoze

Lydiard Tregoze has approached the Council with a suggestion of a joint cemetery. The proposed site was to be 1.5 acres giving 1100 graves per acre, plus cremation plots. It was considered that we should seek a site within the Parish, and the decision was against the proposal.

16. Virus Protection for Laptop

Cllr Holloway had contacted the Clerk with details of a free download called Grisoft. The updated version would be available mid November and Cllr Holloway would help download if required.

16. Re-siting of Purton PC Boundary Stone in Bagbury Lane. See Matters arising.

17. Dial a Ride

The information on dial a ride has been received. This was deferred until December.

18. Correspondence

Re think rubbish - new directory is being set up. Lydiard Magazine has been given this as an article.

Countryside Agency re Conclusive Common land map. The small area in Lydiard Green has not been included as it is not a walk through area. It still remains common land in the normal way.

NWDC items for Area 2 Committee Meeting 1.12.04.

Invitation to Carol Service in Corsham NWDC - Chairman to accept the invitation.

**19. Date of next meeting Thursday 2nd December 2004 LM Parish Hall
Meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.**