

**LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES 2ND July 2009**

1. **Apologies for absence.** B Baker, S Burley, K Thomas, A Harris, B Quant.
1. **Safety Briefing.** Was given to 5 members of the public plus 6 Councillors.
2. **Minutes of meeting 11th June 2009.** The Minutes were altered at item 13 - Parish Stewards visit should read 20,21st July. The minutes were then signed as a true record.

3. Guest Speaker – Karen Scott, Wiltshire Council, Area Community Manager

Karen Scott informed the meeting how the new Area Board will operate.

Cllrs Bennett and Groom had both attended the provisional meetings whilst it was being set up.

It will be similar to the old Area Committees, with a difference that the membership is not just County Councillors. It includes partners such as Police, Rescue Services, Westlea Housing Association, RAF Lyneham, and Town and Parish Councils, all of whom have seats, but not a vote. The Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area of the Wiltshire Unitary Council have 6 Councillors on the Board. With the addition of partners, it hopes to make local democracy more interesting. The Councillors are

Allison Bucknell	Lyneham
Peter Colmer	Cricklade & Latton
Peter Doyle	Wootton Bassett South
Mollie Groom	Wootton Bassett East
Jacqui Lay	Purton
Bill Roberts	Wootton Bassett North

The layout of the meetings should be more interesting, as the Councillors and partners all sit in mixed groups rather than the Councillors sat in front of the audience. Each meeting is hoped to have a theme or topic such as 'Planning'. Educative sessions may also be held with the relevant officers and managers for the topic running the session - this is hoped to increase the general awareness of how the various departments are run, and their limitations, for example who does what.

The meetings are also to be used for local concerns, and business to be discussed, often at surgeries with the Councillors or partners prior to the meetings.

The first meeting is to be held at Marsh Farm Hotel on the 15th July at 6.30 p.m. The theme will be 'Democracy is Changing', and will include a DVD of the differences between the Area Boards and the Area Partnerships.

Wiltshire Council is keen to work with the Area Boards, as they will help to fill out the strategies of the new policies.

A grant allocation of £50,000 is available from the Area Board to help with tasks that the local authorities cannot solve on their own. All applications under £1,000 will not need extra funding, but those above (max. £5,000) will require match funding which can also be in kind or materials. This budget is not open to Statutory Authorities. Over the coming years this budget may rise, but it is expected that the 18 Area Boards will share at least £1m between them each year.

Questions were raised and answered over what kind of items parishioners could put on the blank Community Issue Sheets available, and how to fill them in if they are not connected to the internet.

Karen was thanked for her attendance at the meeting.

4. **Police Report.** There was no police report.

5. Wiltshire Councillor Report and Questions arising.

Cllr Groom reported that there were 98 members of the Wiltshire Council and that they had received intensive training over the past month. The biggest issue at present is the Committee room, which is not very comfortable when a full council of 98 members is present.

Question was raised about whether or not all the various departments still existed with the same philosophies as before with the District and County Councils. She replied that they had been amalgamated, in some cases some time before the merger, to ensure that all the previous departments were able to smoothly continue working. She indicated that, as with all new committees, some of the philosophies will have changed as the members on those teams had changed, and new ideas and initiatives will have been brought together.

6. Parishioner's Question Time.

a. It was requested that the deterioration of the brick road hump to the east be added to the agenda again, as it had been reported some while ago and no action had been taken. The resident advocated removing this altogether. The highway engineer will be asked to look at this issue again. It was agreed that replacing the bricks with tarmac would make the hump a great deal quieter, and less destructive to shock absorbers. It was also hoped that the pavement at that point be improved in the same visit.

b. It was asked if the results of the Holborn traffic survey were available. Response – yes, average speed was 31mph. For full details see Item 12, Committee Reports.

c. Update was requested on the repair of the pavement adjacent to the Church roundabout. The roundabout is due for major refurbishment this year, and we should request it be done simultaneously.

d. Mr Herbert of 17, Chestnut Springs put forward his case for not cutting the grass in the cul de sac outside his house, which he wishes to turn into a small patch of meadow. He claims to be supported by 3 other residents of Chestnut Springs. The owner of the fence adjoining in The Close wishes the grass to be cut, as previously. Mr Herbert is aware that the Council had received complaints about the area and requests that the grass not be kept cut. He claims to have maintained this piece of land for 13 years, and hopes that the Council will support his innovation and efforts to cultivate a small area of natural habitat for butterflies and small birds.

The Chairman confirmed that the land is thought to belong to the Developers, who are no longer in existence - it would seem that the area is not now owned by anyone. It used to be cut by the County Council in the past before the current resident took over that area. WC currently cut many verges in Chestnut Springs, several times during the season, although some residents cut the grass outside their own properties more regularly, and to a better standard.

This matter will be brought to the Council as an agenda item in August, which will give Councillors, and any parishioners, a chance to view the area for themselves.

The location of the area is between 17 and 18 Chestnut Springs, and across the end of the cul-de-sac.

f. Mr Howard Taylor introduced himself as the new Landlord of the Sun Inn. He previously lived in Lydiard Millicent for several years, and has worked in the Swindon area since 1990, for SBC, and GWR, now Heart Radio. He is passionate about the pub trade and is also landlord for the Steam Railway in Old Town, which he calls a 'drinkers pub', rather than a 'good food pub'. A manager will run 'The Sun', but he will be on hand most days when not on the Radio. The pub is due to open about mid July, but food will not be served for a further two weeks. The reaction was 'CHEERS'.

g. It was reported that tar is coming off the road surface in Greenhill. Response – the Highways Department had already been advised of the problems, and will investigate.

h. It was asked if the Parish Council would consider leaving the Recreation Field gates open all day during the summer holidays. This will be considered at the August meeting. The Clerk suggested that perhaps a more inviting sign could be added to the gate instead advertising the facilities to visitors.

7. Councillors' Reports of Parishioners' queries.

a. Cllr Groom is still concerned about the Ellison Coaches using Manor Hill. Several times she has had to negotiate past or out of their way. Swindon B.C. will not fund school travel outside of Swindon this coming school year. Instead it is thought the schools will be paying an amount per child, and that Ellisons may have chosen the quickest route, rather than the HGV route.

Purton P.C. are to discuss this at their next meeting, Cllr Groom urged the Parish Council to consider supporting them in their objections. This was agreed - Clerk to contact Purton P.C. after their meeting.

- b.** ‘No Parking’ signs were not put out this evening, and the Car park was full due to a function at the school. This inconvenienced our residents wishing to attend the Parish Council Meeting. Cllr Pflieger suggested that we should apply for a reduction in fees, and ask for the sign to be put out for future P.C. meetings.
- c.** Question was raised re ‘recycling’. Is there a reduction in Council tax if the wheelie bin is put out less than fortnightly? It was suggested the parishioner telephoned the Refuse number on the new Wiltshire Council contact sheet - copies available from the Clerk.
- d.** Unfavourable comment was made over the size of the new extension at 17 The Close.

8. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention. –

A ‘Survey of Orchards’ in the area is being conducted by Wiltshire Wildlife. The Clerk had some questionnaires if anyone wished to respond.

9. Report on matters arising from 11th June 2009 not on the main agenda.

Item No 8 - no rubbish was found, no further action needed.

Item No 9 - work has begun on the overrun verge in Greenhill.

Item No12 - ongoing situation on cemetery separation suggestions. Tarmac will be too expensive, quotes suggest. Slabs would be of similar price to the box hedging.

Cllr Pflieger said that he had initially requested hedging to create a secluded area for the cremation plots, but as only one strip of hedging is being considered, he proposed that no further action be taken on this item. This motion was approved.

10. Planning Applications

09/00965/FUL Proposed replacement dwelling at Sundown, Holborn.

Bigger property, but smaller footprint size. Ongoing discussions over flood precautions continue.

Fully supported.

09/00915/FUL Erection of rear and side extensions, 2 Church Place. **No adverse comment.**

09/00909/REG4 Retention of mobile classrooms, Lydiard Millicent School

09/01008/CAC Removal of existing buildings, L.M.S.

09/01065/REG3 Construction of seven class school, L.M.S. **All 3 applications supported.**

W.C. Approval.

09/00764 White Rose Cottage, 20B, Common Platt. Minor amendments, but superseded by approval.

07/01245/FUL 27, The Street. It was asked if this application could be reviewed, as concerns have been raised over the amount of spoil being taken from the property. It was thought it might be for a swimming pool. Clerk to confirm this.

11. Accounts (*incl. VAT)

Expenditure		£'s
Mrs R Leckie	Wages	293.30
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	67.80*
LMPHall	Hire of Hall	21.00
Inside Out	Groundsman Fee	487.33
Inside Out	Repaint Greenhill Xrds Bus Shelter	158.11
RBS Software	Accounts package - VAT (omitted in June)	56.10*
Mr A Robbins	JCH interior re-painting	1500.00
Avon Extinguishers Ltd	JCH Extinguisher - annual check	26.13*
Usual DDs	Utilities & Chairs broadband	

Reinvestment of Capital with Lloyds Bank was approved at 1% for a further 3 months.

Deposits in banks are safe up to £50,000. Dealers asked re situation, and safer now than a year ago.

The quotations for groundwork at Recreation Field by Inside Out were approved at £923.80.

The above accounts were proposed by Cllr Groom, seconded by Cllr Bennett, and approved.

12. Committee Reports:

Recreation Field - various quotes now accepted, and more playground chippings to be ordered.

JCH - painting now complete - see payment under Accounts.

Play Area – report from Cllr Thomas - some work needs doing on the gate.

Cemetery - it was agreed not to proceed with the separation for the cremation area. Work still needs to be scheduled on the uneven graves, and a schedule also required for dealing with the unauthorised planting and paraphernalia.

Boules competition has been cancelled. Our name has been passed to the Purton & Lydiard Charity who may be interested in running a smaller competition.

Road Safety sub-committee - Councillors were given copies of the road statistics from Holborn prior to the meeting. When our other queries to W.C. are answered, a further meeting will be convened.

Traffic Data	June 2009				
	Holborn	Washpool	Stone Lane	Lyd. Green	Greatfield
Average speed	31.0 mph	34.8 mph	39.2 mph	31.7 mph	33.6 mph
% over limit	56.7%	82.1 %	40.5 %	61.5%	76.5%
Ave.speed over limit	36.5 mph	36.7 mph	45.1 mph	34.6 mph	35.5 mph
No. vehicles per week	16,565	10,323	27,368	34,789	54,144

Recreation Field sub-committee - to be convened soon to discuss the Recreation Field contract.

13. Parish Steward's next visit, 21/22 July - task suggestions.

It was recommended that a standing list be drawn up, and new jobs added monthly when they occur. This will avoid the Parish Steward not having any instructions. Tasks identified this month were - signage obscured by hedging, especially along The Street and on Manor Hill.

Our NWDC 'Welcome' signs need replacing or amending to show Wiltshire Council - it is thought that this is a low priority of the new Council; however, a request would be placed for an updated sign.

14. Correspondence:

Parish Steward Programme - Summer 2009 - info only.

Wiltshire Wayfarer - Rights of Way newsletter - info only.

Parish Improvement Grants Scheme 2009-2010 - various suggestions, including the footpath at the rear of Park View Drive. Footpaths to be walked and surveyed.

W.C. response re HGV signs along Wood Lane, Braydon - action required. Clerk to ask the resident concerned if he would be willing to survey the traffic, when results can be sent to the Highways Department, with a suitable request.

W.C. Area Board Highway Information Pack confirming the new boundaries and names of the Area Board - info only.

15. Date of next meeting: Thursday 6th August 2009.

The meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.

Cllr Pepperall will taking the L.M.P.C. Millennium Maps and Walking Guides to the Church Garden Party at the New Manor House on 11th July.

Minutes approved 6 August 2009.