

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of 3rd December 2009

Present: Cllrs T Pepperall (Chair), J Bennett, T Blackmore, M Groom, A Pfleger, B Quant, K Thomas, and S Welch

1. **Apologies for Absence.** B Baker, S Burley, A Harris.
2. **Safety Briefing.** Was delivered to 7 members of the public and 6 Cllrs.
3. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.
4. **Minutes of meeting 5th November 2009.** The minutes were signed as true record.

5. Police Report from PCSO A Singfield.

Speed checks along Stone Lane have resulted in fines for drivers not wearing seat belts and without insurance. A Serious Accident Investigation is studying the recent bus accident, but it is not known how long the investigation will take. Cllr Groom asked why an officer had been trying to turn the traffic around at the Beeches and not the roundabout. It was advised that this was due to the officer not having local knowledge; he was later directed to work from the roundabout. In the meantime Cllr Groom and residents, without the use of yellow jackets, were doing their best to keep traffic away from the area. Cllr Groom has requested the Chief Education Officer for the school buses to revert to lorry official route they previously used, to prevent further accidents with the double decker buses..A resident has contacted the bus companies, and he has learnt that only Ellison's buses have a contract to run through the village. This bus is driven carefully. Thamesdown buses, it appears, work on a basis of a programmed route up to the last child to be picked up, with the rest of the journey at the driver's discretion. Drivers on the discretionary routes almost always choose the route through the village, with only one of the 14 buses actually dropping off children in the village. A member of the public pointed out that parents would not be so keen for their children to use the buses (which have no seat belts) if they could see them thundering through the village. Of those children dropped off, some have to walk some 2-300 metres along the Washpool road to their estate - it is not understood why the children cannot be dropped off more safely in their estate.

6. Wiltshire Councillor Report and Questions Arising.

All Scrutiny Committees are working well.

It is possible that the two PCT's may need to merge in the future.

Cllr Groom reported some Wilts. harmonisation problems, e.g. the auditors have picked up that some of the redundancies had been overpaid by former district councils and attempts will be made to claw back the amounts. The budget is progressing well, on target, but WC is awaiting grant figures for next year.

7. Parishioner's Question Time.

a. A large pothole/hole to the side of the road along Stone Lane just past 'Man with a Van' travelling towards Swindon was reported by several members of the public. Question was also raised as to whether or not Stone Lane is still an adequate width the whole distance, as much of the road has worn away edges, which are damaging vehicles when they are driven to the edge of the road to avoid oncoming vehicles.

b. The Lydiard Link, AGM report was sought. It will appear in the Lydiards Magazine in full, but briefly reports that it is working well. Nevertheless, grants will need to be sought in the coming year, either from the Wiltshire Link group, and/or the 2 Parish Councils, and we are, again, looking hard for more volunteers. Our speaker, Flt.Lt. Eric Hayes, MBE, ret'd, entertained us well before our usual Xmas refreshments, and also kindly volunteered to join the Committee to fill our vacant Vice-Chairman position. He was duly elected as such at the brief ensuing Committee meeting.

c. Mrs Reed brought to the meeting a copy of Wiltshire Life, as it contained an interesting article on Cllr Blackmore's property.

d. Rev T. Roberts was welcomed to the meeting. He explained why the Church Committee had regretfully been forced to abandon the 'Maggie's Cottage' project, following the theft of roof tiles, and

the spiralling costs of the demands of the Wiltshire Conservation Planning Officer. The projected costs had increased from the original estimate of £25,000 to £85,000, making the project totally impractical. A meeting of the Finance Committee would be held on Monday 7th December, when it would be decided what to do with the donations already collected. Donors, where known, may be asked if they were willing for the funds to be re-directed to an alternative project. Some years ago, there were imaginative plans to put a room on the end of the church. It is possible that this could be revisited. An open meeting is proposed for January 20th at 8 p.m. - date and time to be advised.

e. Mr. Tapscott conveyed villagers' thanks for the Christmas tree, which looks beautiful.

f. A complaint was made over the Church chicane bollards, which are black and have lost many of their reflective strips. Wilts Highways to be asked to renew the markings.

g. A resident was not happy about the cost of £30 for the cleaning of The Beeches Bus Stop, nor the result. Note: A review by a Cllr the next day considered the work satisfactory and thought that possibly the work may have been finished after the resident had inspected.

h. Following enquiry, the Parish Council were advised by Wilts Council Planning Department that the new stables and buildings at 'Greensend' requires retrospective planning approval - application is awaited.

i. A resident objects to the Planning Application by the owner of the Bagbury Park Trading Estate for additional access. The resident considers the requirement questionable and explained to the meeting that there has been no emergency access problem since the site was originally approved, and furthermore that it is illegal to reverse out onto a road. Large vehicles will inevitably try to use this entrance, and will get stuck in the ditches on either side of the lane. They will also then cause traffic problems, and further erosion of the verges, trying to regain access on to the main road. If there is a real need, then he suggested that a gated emergency access only be approved.

j. Thanks were given by a resident for the excellent re-surfacing of the footpath adjacent to the Church roundabout.

8. Councillors' Reports of Parishioners' queries.

a. Adopting Phone Boxes. Cllr Bennett confirmed the cost of keeping them in working order is £300 per year. The suggestion was made to keep the box on The Street as it is the phone box nominated at the Parish Hall for emergency use. The Clerk informed the meeting that this subject had been discussed at the Clerks Regional Conference she had attended that day. Some Councils have adopted a box - uses included mini book swap, a defibrillator housing, and a community information point. This scheme could be highlighted to members of the public at the Coffee & Mince Pie event on the 12th December in the Hall. Decisions will be made over the phone boxes at the January meeting.

b. The landlord (Mr Taylor) of the Sun Inn has removed the barrels and rubbish in the field behind.

c. Vacancy for a 'Community Governor' at the school - role to be on the Board of Governors, meetings 6 times and subcommittee 4 - 6 times a year. Cllr B. Quant expressed his interest.

9. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention

Deep pothole reported at the side of the road by the notice board at Common Platt, opposite the junction with Stone Lane. It was requested that Highways be asked to mend, and kerb the area.

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

Item13, H&RS. Holborn footpath - Cllrs Bennett and Pepperall had met with the funding manager for WC who believes we have little chance of accessing the £150,000 needed for the project. Currently the plans are only focused on the danger of Holborn corner, and access to West Swindon which does not fall within any funders' criteria - even Biffa now need a community benefit. He advised that we would stand more chance if we change the path to behind the hedge, creating a circular walk around the village meeting the Millennium Trail - we need to make the plan more attractive to funders by featuring e.g. a woodland walk. Even so WC would only back our plan, rather than fund it. Alternative suggestions to be discussed at January agenda.

Item 6. Wilts Council Enforcement meeting has been moved to 19th Jan 5p.m. still to be confirmed.

Item.9d, Oct 09. Common Platt drainage - SBC have uncovered old drainpipes while clearing the area, and they and WC will discuss the necessary repair work.

Item13.9g. Sign proposed 'drivers slow please children about' - triangular with red border if possible.

Item 19, Oct 09. Cllr Bennett reported that WC has again advised that they will not accept responsibility for the trees in front of 1 to 4 The Close.

Item 21.2. The Clerk attended the Clerks' Regional Conference. A worthwhile day, useful for the Clerk towards her CiLCA course work.

Item 21.8. School children - thank you letter to go to the school. Suggestion made that the older children could be taught about our Flags and shown how to raise one, perhaps in conjunction with St George's day. Cllr Pepperall to send thank you letter and make the suggestion.

11. Planning Applications

N/09/01955/FUL. 87, Chestnut Springs. Extension to side and front and loft conversion.

No turning space - too big - over-development of site. At the very least it should incorporate parking. Need to avoid infringement of pavement and kerb.

Object.

N/09/02003/TCA. Land adjacent to Lydiard Farm, The Street - Tree felling (9 conifers).

No adverse comments.

N/09/02104. Construction of access to serve existing industrial Unit no.1, Bagbury Park, Bagbury Lane, Lydiard Green.

This application came too late to be advertised to the public. WC agreement to hold this over until January was still awaited on the night. If no response in the next 5 days then a special meeting would be set up to discuss this application, to meet the current deadline of 24th December. Cllrs who were present were concerned that Bagbury Lane is too narrow to take commercial vehicles, and that the application was unnecessary, as no problems had arisen since the original approval.

12. Accounts (*incl. VAT)

Expenditure		£'s
Mrs R Leckie	Wages	293.30
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses	65.95*
LM Parish Hall	Hire of Hall	21.00
Inside Out	Groundsman Fee	487.33
SLCC	Regional Conference fees	56.35*
TH Pepperall	Printer cartridges	50.58*
LMCC	2 Grass cuts	120.00
Mr J Bennett	Christmas tree from Greatfield Nurseries	40.00
Gillett and Johnson	1/3 of cost of Clock Gilding	1,200.00*
Usual DDs	Utilities & Chairs broadband	

Payments proposed by Cllr Pflieger, seconded by Cllr Groom, and approved.

Income for November – Cemetery £230, SFC £368.

13. Committee Reports:

Recreation Field - Hedge cutting - price for flailing the boundary hedge £22.50 per hour, estimate 6 hours. Work can not be done until large overhanging branches are cut back. Groundsman has been shown the relevant boughs and will quote accordingly. Alternatively quote required. Care needed to ensure that the hedges are cut at the correct time of year.

JCH - No report.

Play Areas - Two signs required – Replacement at Mews play area and Rec.Field entrance.

Cemetery - Levelling work begun.

Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board Meeting Cllrs Burley and Bennett attended. The meetings are getting better, although it is complicated procedure having to hand in issue sheets to get things done. However, the Area Board tasked the Safety Camera Partnership to set up a 'Golden River' vehicle speed count on Stone Lane. Hopefully this will produce results to justify Stone Lane as an 'Area of Community Concern' with subsequent monitoring by a safety camera unit. An issue sheet is needed for the Area Board, to request only 'relevant' buses use the route through the village.

Church Clock Gilding – Cheque to be sent off with order.

Highway & Road Safety – The PC was awaiting Wiltshire Council proposals for traffic calming measures at Lydiard Green, Stone Lane, Washpool and on The Street before the Park Lane junction. A series of “Workshops” would then be held to allow residents to comment. Also, Wiltshire Highways are examining erection of a warning sign near Perrins, additional road markings before the 30mph limits on Stone Lane and Holborn and moving a weight limit sign in Common Platt.

14. Provision of a Kissing Gate. A new gate into field from the track by the closed cemetery; Mr. & Mrs. Marklove are not happy with this proposal at present. The ditch may be the problem. Considerations for an alternative to be brought to January meeting by the footpath group. The current kissing gate is not always being used by walkers to Lydiard Park, rather than walking inside the field via the stile. ‘Use footpath to Lydiard Park’ (with arrow) to be considered at January meeting.

15. Replacement and renovation of Parish Boards - Greenhill board replacement. Mr Manning to be asked to make and install new board; site details to be advised to Mr. Manning by Cllr Bennett.

16. Parish Steward - Next visit 9/10 December 2009. A list had been sent prior to the meeting to get the list in on time, but sweeping leaves on pavements from garage to church, and The Butts to be added.

17. Christmas Tree - Thanks to were given to Cllr Pflieger and team for erecting the tree. One set of lights broke on set up - a replacement set purchased. Date, prior to the 6th January, for dismantling, to be confirmed. Thanks minuted to Greatfield Garden Centre for their support in supplying a good tree at a good price.

18. Precept Approval - Cllrs had not received their sheets until the meeting’ and therefore they could not be approved. Cllr Pepperall went through some of the figures. Over the past few years, a Government grant has been received for Lydiard Plain - it is uncertain how much longer this will continue. Final approval to be at January meeting.

19. Correspondence:

Develop E newsletter.

WALC newsletter November 2009

Just a Minute - Newsletter from Wiltshire Council, November 2009

WRHA Newsletter.

Invitation to Wiltshire Council Civic Carol Service at Trowbridge 16.12.09, 7 p.m.

Letter from Lydiard Millicent Church re Maggies Cottage. Suggestion made that Wiltshire Historic Buildings – ‘last resort’ funding be contacted.

**20. Date of next meeting: Thursday 7th January 2010.
Meeting closed 10.00p.m.**