

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of 30th September 2010

Present: Cllrs T Pepperall (Chair), T Blackmore, S Burley, A Harris, A Pflieger, K Thomas, S Welch Late - Cllr M Groom.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllr J Bennett, B Baker

2. Safety Briefing. A fire drill was carried out with 7 parishioners, 8 councillors, and the clerk. The meeting was then resumed. The Fire Register for the LMP Hall was completed.

3. Declarations of Interest. There were none

4. Minutes of meeting 2nd September 2010. Clarification was requested over Item 7e - 'all the stiles' referred to those mentioned last year. The Minutes were then signed as a true copy.

5. Police Report. No report.

6. Wiltshire Councillor Report and Questions arising.

Cllr Groom arrived at 8.30. She reported that WC is facing substantial cuts, and that a percentage of the management may have to go.

Ms Julia Stacey's N.Community Area Partnership report. The proposed Option 5 did not appear on her initial report, and there are therefore some concerns regarding the report. The members of the Area Board will meet prior to the next Area Board meeting to discuss this matter.

Cllr Groom had visited Hills tip at Lower Compton, which is producing 2 megawatts of electricity from the methane. One of the processes produces a powder, which is sent to Germany, for further use.

7. Parishioner's Question Time.

a. It was requested that the Parish Steward clean up the rubble falling from the wall on to the path, from opposite the end of the Butts to Manor Farm. Cllr Blackmore offered to clear this up the following day. Wiltshire Council had built the walls, but the responsibility for their upkeep is the landowners. The wall is also in poor condition from the rear of the gardens in The Beeches to Church Farm - this will be examined and the landowners informed.

Also, the conifers behind the wall at Church Farm need to be trimmed.

b. Mr. Wicks had previously mentioned a piece of land, which had been taken from Lydiard Plain years ago. He had approached several residents and it was agreed that it ought to be returned to the Plain. Mr Jones, Auctioneer in Malmesbury, may be able to offer advice on the current ownership.

c. The new road surface along Greenhill has now created a speeding issue. The Chairman was not sure that the Police would take any action. Review for action.

d. The brook at the bottom of Greenhill needs to be cleaned out.

e. Cllr Blackmore had met with Mr Wickes since the last meeting regarding the drainage issues. He reported that it appears BT has main cables in the ditch as shown by the manhole covers. Chairman did not remember seeing this when the original report was produced approx 3 years ago. To be checked out, then BT & WC contacted.

f. A gate has appeared across the the bottom of common land in Lydiard Green. Several other pieces of land have been adopted with new bushes etc., the concerns are that the relevant home owners may be able to subsequently claim the land, and that the farmer cannot access his land through the Green. The Chairman reported that the owner had previously approached him and the Clerk, and were assured that it would not be locked during the day, and that the farmer was in agreement. An official letter confirming our ownership is to be sent to the owners concerned.

g. Item 13 minutes of 2nd September. Cllr Baker had suggested that the Mews play area was under-used and that a slide may improve the facilities. A further suggestion was made that if the Council were keen on refurbishing the Mews area, it could be added to the Parish Plan Update Questionnaire to see what the parishioners would wish to see there. It was agreed though that quotes could be sought in the meantime.

h. Also Item 13 of 2nd September. A den had been noticed in the Recreation Field, and was to be dismantled. Comments were made that the Council would be preventing young people from being creative with their play, and that the den was doing no harm. Response, empty alcohol cans had been found, and the environment had become unhealthy. The Council was not preventing such activities, but needed to act when such areas were brought to their attention, to conform with H&S guidelines.

8. Councillors' Reports of Parishioners' queries.

a. Following much correspondence with Thames Water and other agencies, about the inadequate clean water supply, a flyer was sent to each house in Lydiard Green and The Beeches. If sufficient people complain by letter, Thames Water must report the problem to Ofgem. It is hoped that this may force a quicker review and repairs by Thames Water.

b. Following a recent query regarding the path behind the cottages at Holborn, the Chairman confirmed that it is a bridleway and W.C. should be responsible for the access. It was suggested that 'planing's' from road repairs be used to fill holes when available. It was said that in the past, WCC or

NWDC had taken land, to allow cars to park at the rear of the cottages instead of on the main road, and should now be responsible for its upkeep. Cllr Harris thought it was the responsibility of the Rights of Way Department and had made a note of the representatives for each area. Steve Leonard is responsible for our area. Clerk to contact Mr Leonard to establish responsibility.

- c. The hedge at Holborn has been hit by a lorry and needs attention as there is a branch protruding.
- d. It was reported that 'Lilac Cottage's' hedge was overhanging the pavement. Clerk to contact owners
- e. The main road surface from Lydiard Green crossroads to The Butts has many potholes and damaged drains, which need attention before the winter. Clerk to request a survey by W.C.
- f. School parking. Parents are now parking on both sides of the road, and on the verges. Chair to advise School. Clerk to ask for the police to attend at school times randomly for a few weeks.
- g. A pothole at by Rose Hall has again been reported to Clarence. Cllr Harris requests LMPC to support the complaint, to try & effect repairs. Agreed - Chair to follow up.
- h. Speed Indication Devices are installed at various sites in rotation. Parish Councils are not allowed to purchase and instal their own devices – it must be done under Highways control. It was asked what would happen if an individual was to purchase a SID, and site it on private land. Clerk to ask about such purchases, now the Safety Camera Partnership has folded.
- i. It was asked how we get extra cuts from WC for the verges along Stone Lane. If this is not possible could the Council consider budgeting in some extra cuts?

9. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention

Clerk has attended a course on Common Land - report to be given at November meeting.

10. Report on matters arising from 2nd September 2010 not on the main agenda.

Rec. Field den has been cleared – the groundsman has been asked to take away the rubbish.

11. Planning Applications

N/10/03269/FUL - 'Greenacres', Greenhill. Single storey extension.

A vote was taken on this application with majority support for

No adverse comments.

N/10/011291/FUL - 31 The Close. Erection of single storey rear extn.

No adverse comments.

N/10/03599/TCA - Priory Cottage, 6 The Butts. Fell one Willow.

The owners feel it is now too big for the garden. However, the tree is in a conservation area.

It was agreed that it is an iconic tree and many people see it on the way to school or the vicarage.

The Parish Council would like to see a report prepared by WC tree surgeons as to how it could be saved and if it could be alternatively reduced in size. Clerk to report **Councils concerns.**

Wiltshire Council Approval

N/10/02432/FUL - November House, Lydiard Green, LM. Conservatory.

Appeal Decision - Allowed

N/10/01129/FUL - 32 Stone Lane. First floor rear extension.

(21st October meeting c.o.n. for any applications that cannot wait until 4th November 2010)

A debate was held between the Councillors as to why we use 'No adverse comments', rather than supporting applications that were felt to be acceptable.

Some years ago, we were given by NWDC three options - to **support**, meaning we have material planning reasons in favour of the application; to **object**, meaning we have material planning reasons against the application, and **No adverse comments** - a neutral response, where we have no strong feelings either way. It was agreed we seek any preferred comments by W/C.

It was also agreed that if we as a Parish Council really felt strongly against houses being extended, thus increasing the no. of larger dwellings, and reducing the no. of smaller ones, then we should object to all of them. However, this would be unacceptable to the Planning Dept.

It was generally agreed that affordable housing is in short supply in the Parish, and a suggestion was put forward that perhaps the Council should be looking for land on which to build affordable housing.

It was thought that the Parish Plan may show up a strong need for affordable housing for the younger generation and those that want to downsize later in life. It will be seen if the Plan will lead to a clear mandate for the Council to investigate the situation in more detail.

The Parish Plan questionnaire needs to be worded carefully and Housing Association options, and Community building groups need to be considered for the future. Community First may be able to advise on the balance of the Questionnaire.

12. Accounts (*incl. VAT)

Expenditure		£'s
Mrs R Leckie	Wages	296.25
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses - Tel, Stationery, Fuel, etc	68.84*)
Mrs R Leckie	Clean of JCH for LCC in lieu of grass cut	45.00)
Mrs R Leckie	Manor Solutions - Laptop repair	49.95*)
L.M. Parish Hall	Hire of Hall	21.00
Inside Out	Groundsman Fee	499.51
Shaw Football Club	White Lining fee	100.00
T Pepperall (Rons)	JCH - extra keys	15.75
SLCC	Course on Common Land	111.62*
A Garlick	Grass cutting - Rec. Field	56.00

Usual DDs Utilities, & Chairs broadband.

The above accounts were proposed by Cllr Burley, seconded by Cllr Harris, and approved.

September Income: Cemetery £345, SFC fees £495, 2nd half precept £7000,

12a Grant Awarding Policy – deferred to November.

12b Posts in the car park area have rotted away and need replacing. Quote received £167.50. The possibility of replacing them with a different material should be looked into. Seek further quotes from the firm who erected the kissing gates, and Mr I Church.

13. Committee Reports:

Recreation Field - The school team, and a session for younger ones, is now using the field for the winter season. SFC now has a new volunteer to mark pitches, and he has painted the handrails outside the players' door with Hammerite. He has asked if he can paint the radiator in the 'gents'. Agreement given, offering to pay for materials as necessary. SFC have also purchased a sit-on mower, to cut the grass between major cuts, weather permitting.

JCH - Kitchen, SFC have locked the kitchen door to protect their equipment and stock. Agreed.

Play Area - Cllr Thomas to complete assessment and pass to the Clerk shortly. The Chairman noted that on his last visit he again tried to fix a screw on the gate, but which needs replacing with a bolt.

Cemetery - request received to rectify a grave. Clerk to inform them that we will level the surface, but no work can be carried out on the headstone. If it is dangerous, then it will be laid flat. The responsibility for the headstone is with the next of kin.

14. Parish Plan - Two meetings now held - committee and constitution agreed, but still some six opportunities available for more volunteers.

Businesses and Club letters sent - their comments will be incorporated into the questionnaire. Preliminary work has already begun for the questionnaires.

15. Christmas Tree - Cllr Pflieger to order from Greatfield Nurseries - 25 foot as per last year.

16. Correspondence:

The Clerk, SLCC Magazine - info. only.

17. Date of next full meeting: Thursday 4th November 2010.

Meeting ended 9.35pm. Minutes approved 4.11.2010.