

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT - Minutes of 3rd March 2011

Present. Cllrs T Pepperall (Chair), J Bennett, T Blackmore, M Groom, A Pflieger, K Thomas, and S Welch.

1. **Apologies for absence** - Cllrs B Baker, S Burley, A Harris, B Quant.
2. **Safety Briefing** was given to 12 members of the public and 7 councillors.
3. **Declarations of Interest.** None.

4. Minutes of meeting 3rd February 2011.

The minutes were corrected page 1 spelling 'principle', page 3 4th para, 2nd line, remove 'as Cotswold Tree Surgeons are not fencing experts'. Same para line 5, change relaying to laying.

Item 7, Mr Head had spoken about concerns of boundary changes. This was correctly recorded, but Cllr Groom, explained that the information was incorrect, as it is not possible for Swindon Unitary Authority to take land from another Unitary Authority, namely Wiltshire Council.

The Minutes were then signed as a true record.

4a. Consider publishing draft minutes on Website. It was agreed that in future as soon as the draft minutes are ready they will be published, rather than after the next meeting. This will enable the public and members to see what was recorded much earlier and have more time to react to them.

5. **Police Report.** There was no report.

6. Wiltshire Councillor Report and Questions arising.

- a. Lime Kiln pool & facilities back in action, and will form part of the campus at WB.
- b. Wiltshire Council has agreed an ambitious four-year business and financial plan. More than £93m will be invested to protect vulnerable people and provide improved services for the people of Wiltshire over the next four years. The plan also sets out how significant savings will be made to cover the reduction in Gov. funding by transforming services, managing assets better, and looking at how goods and services are purchased, which will save around £99m. £8M will be saved, by reducing the number of managers in the organisation by 2020. The number of offices will also be reduced from 98, to four major hubs, which will serve local communities.
- c. Library closures may be avoided as WC already has a list of 100 volunteers willing to help.
- d. Cllr Groom had attended a Flood workshop on Monday. Areas liable for flooding have been marked on a map. Literature has been received on a Community Flood Plan, which indicates it will be ideal to have 2 or 3 local volunteers with mixed local knowledge, who could be called upon in an emergency to give out necessary information. Cllr Groom showed the meeting some innovative Gel Bags, at £2.50 each, which come flat, and when wet, swell to sand bag size. *April Agenda to decide on purchase.*
- e. The Environment Select Committee is working hard on reducing carbon footprint.

7. Parishioner's Question Time.

a. Members of the public were concerned that any attempt at efficiency saving was being lost, when workmen take extreme time to complete simple tasks. Two men who came in a WC van to paint some railings at the school had so far spent two days on the task, hard at work eating and reading in their van, and were due again the following day to finish. Cllr Groom asked if possible for a note to be made of how long the men spent in the van. This was not the first report of similar nature she had received.

b. Mr Howard Taylor had come to the meeting to apologise for the article that had appeared without his approval in the Advertiser and to allay some fears that the Public House was in some kind of difficulty. This had all come from an article he had written for The Lydiards Magazine, which the Advertiser had taken out of context. He had merely suggested that he would like to enjoy the company of some of his guests more than once a year, as he could not remember what 'the usual' was when he only saw them irregularly. The Advertiser is to print a further corrected article.

Mr Taylor also hoped to have some good news shortly from Enterprise Inns, regarding the proposed crossing by the Sun Inn.

c. Mrs Redford asked if any more had been done to produce a plaque for the raised flowerbeds. She had spoken to Garden Centre staff who thought he would be delighted to be recognised in this way. Mrs Redford also mentioned that the Millennium Trees had never had their plaques, to indicate why who they commemorated.

The future of the tree planted in the name of Mr Woolford could be in jeopardy if the Hall Committee cut back the bank where the tree is. Pauline Bowler, LMPH member, said she would look into this.

d. A Parishioner reported that the drains at The Butts had been surveyed and that four of the big drains were solid with leaves and mud. Unfortunately a different worker came in the afternoon and did not clear out the drains as was indicated by the earlier employee. WC to be asked to clear the drains.

A short talk on the Census was given by Janice Bardwell, the local Area Co-ordinator.

Her area is a mixed geographical area overlapping several regions.

The Census has been collected every ten years in England and Wales since 1801, and many people now are familiar with them as a good source for family tree information.

The information on the forms is very confidential and does not go to the tax or immigration department - it is merely for number crunching for statistics to help plan for the next ten years.

This year all of the forms will be posted out from the 7th March and residents will be encouraged to return them in the enclosed envelope or online, using the unique bar code number linked to the address at the top of the form. The form will include 15 household questions and 43 individual questions. Census day will be Sunday 27th March, and from 6th April, officers will be visiting homes of those who have not completed and returned their forms. They will not enter your premises unless invited to do so, and will carry an ID card.

Help is available to anyone who is having difficulties with their form, by using the helpline number 0300 0201101, or online at www.census.gov.uk.

Completion of the Census form is compulsory and abstaining could incur a £1000 fine.

8. Councillors' Reports of Parishioners' queries.

a. Question was raised as to where the access is going to be for the bus stop along the new Holborn footpath. Response - along the grass footpath.

b. Cllr Thomas has spoken to some of the residents whose homes will be affected by the trees on the Street being laid, or cut back. They want more information and to be more involved.

Cllr Bennett said he had left the details of the tree surgeon with one of the residents. This item was further discussed at item 15.

9. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention.

A request was received asking for the lay-bys near to Blackfords to be cleared of debris and litter.

10. Report on matters arising from 3rd February 2011 not on the main agenda. None.

(The above items are for information only)

11. Planning Applications

N/11/00350/FUL 18 The Street. Two-storey front, side & rear extensions, new vehicular access and associated works.

The neighbour in No17 has no objections. No 18 currently only has pedestrian access from the rear of the property via no.17's land. There were concerns about a new access on to The Street, and it was agreed that concerns be passed to Highways; otherwise there were **No Adverse Comments**.

N/11/00620/FUL 5 The Close, Single storey side extension - **No Adverse Comments.**

N/11/00527/FUL The Bungalow, Greatfield, Erection of barn/workshop.

The Council had received concerns as to why another barn was needed, especially as the barn was to have kitchen and bathroom facilities, along with another septic tank. The access doors appeared to be in an inappropriate place. The roof was to be made of slate.

The applicant attended the meeting, and words were exchanged with his neighbour also present regarding this application. It transpired that the large doors were for open access and aeration, which was mandatory for the type of forestry works being undertaken.

The neighbour was more concerned about the fact that the applicant's Septic tank was already insufficient, and that of Riffs Bar, so that he regularly had foul smells from the ditch through his land. It was agreed that LMPC ask W/C for an Environmental Inspection, prior to any decision.

No Further Adverse Comments.

N/10/03709/FUL Four Oaks Caravan Park, Lydiard Plain, Additional plots & communal building.

Wiltshire Council has asked Cllr Groom to confirm that temporary permission for the new plots would be acceptable, and that full permission be given to the Community Hall.

Cllr Groom felt she alone should not be responsible for such a decision, and brought the request to the full council for further advice.

The owners of the site had not fulfilled many of the planning conditions - this was not known at the time that our original comments were submitted. LMPC's original response was read out to confirm what had been said.

No indication had been given to Cllr Groom as to whether or not our opposition to the temporary site in Wood Lane had been addressed.

It was suggested that Cllr Groom should seek a more formal approach from WC, and or a meeting to discuss the matter fully with them.

12. Accounts (*incl. VAT)

Expenditure		£'s
Mrs R Leckie	Wages	296.25
Mrs R Leckie	Expenses - Tel, Stationery, Fuel, etc 2 months	125.11
SFC	White Lining	200.00
L.M. Parish Hall	Hire of Hall	22.00
L.M. Parish Hall	Electricity re Christmas tree and security lights	10.00
Inside Out	Groundsman Fee	499.51
Mr J Ricketts	Church Clock Battery	2.55
Avoncrop	White Lining Liquid	373.56*
T Pepperall	Domain and Hosting for Web site	32.95*
Lydiard Magazine	Annual subscription	5.00
In Touch Services	Parish Plan Questionnaires	180.00*
T Blackmore	PPQ Collection boxes	14.90
J Frost	Replacement of taps in JCH gents	120.00
Usual DDs	Utilities, & Chairs broadband.	

Feb income - SFC £345, Cemetery £390.

Proposed by Cllrs Bennett, seconded by Cllr Blackmore, and approved.

13. Decision on Groundsman Contract - awarded to Enlan Ltd, at £5,100 - a substantial saving on the current costs. To be reviewed after 12 months, & increases to be within inflation.

14. Holborn Footpath - work in progress. Hedges cut back and verge mulched for walkers. Verge left a little muddy but will settle down when grass grows. If we need to improve the verge, that will be subject to a new quotation from groundsman or alternative contractor. Currently working on legal aspects with Westlea Housing, who require the agreement in place prior to the work. Solicitor has recommended a permanent form of licence.

As footpath has to be laid prior to fencing, it was agreed to delay until agreements are signed.

Two quotes to consider - 1m crushed stone path with edging, and re-positioning fence at no 11, and replace hedge with close board fencing, from Black Horse, and David Horton Contractors. Agreed in principle the crushed stone path, and tidying up at no 11. Quotes for the fencing of No 11 to follow.

15. Committee Reports:

Recreation Field - cricket will take place in 2011 at last year's price, plus cutting grass as needed. School still using field for football - 2 teams - 8 and 9 year olds training, and Year 6 team matches. The request for rugby has not been pursued further.

JCH - Hot taps replaced in the gents, currently renewing contracts for Gas and Electricity

Play Area - inspection JB.

Cemetery - tidy, but one grave to be written about, to remove Christmas decorations before Easter.

Road Safety - comments from two letters read out, responding to letters informing them of the proposed Holborn path.

Possible sleeping policemen and/or chicane in the currently lit road near the 'Lydiard Millicent welcome sign' proposed by correspondent.

Bottom road hump needs to be repaired.

Efforts to straighten out the kink in The Butts railings, caused by the bin, have been unsuccessful, and the requested bollards will be revisited after the completion of the school rebuild.

Trees in the Close - Cllr Thomas agreed to arrange a meeting, and explain the proposed laying, or to write to them and ask for further feedback. Add to the next Agenda.

Council Meetings in May, June and July to be at the JCH, as the Hall is booked.

AGM & APM to be held at 7.30 at the Parish Hall on May 19th.

- 16. Community Emergency Volunteer** - Volunteers required please, who do not need to be a councillor. Cllr Bennett's military background had proved useful, but local knowledge also was needed for resourcing. W/C invite Parishes to have an Emergency Plan, which ideally needs a group of 3. Cllr Bennett will be happy to brief the new volunteers.
- 17. Spring Clean** - One volunteer collector left message on clerk's answerphone.
- 18. Grit for bins** - problems in finding a suitable location. Possible delivery to cemetery shed and transfer to smaller bags for storage. Agreed at council, W/C to be asked again.
- 19. Parish Plan** - distribution team have their questionnaires, boxes to go out Friday.
- 20. Parish Steward Tasks** - Brick hump by 28a The Street. Holes to be reported.
- 21. APM Speaker** - new Police Inspector suggested by Cllr Groom.
- 22. Correspondence:**
Best Kept Village competition 2011 application form.
Mr Meredith - request for grass keep at Lydiard Plain - cost to be the same as last year.
- 23. Date of next full meeting: Thursday 7th April 2011. Meeting closed 10.55.**