

**LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

**Present.** Cllrs T Pepperall (Chair), T Blackmore, D Cobb, A Harris, M Groom, A Pflieger, & K Thomas, & B Quant.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllrs B Baker, S Burley, & S Mowbray.
2. **Safety Briefing** was given to 8 members of the public plus 8 Councillors.
3. **Declarations of Interest** - none.
4. **Minutes of meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012** - amended 'March' to 'June' in Item 18, then signed as true copy.
5. **Minutes of AGM and APM held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012.** Deferred to July. Comment was made that other organisations sign off Annual Minutes a year later. The Clerk's interpretation of the rules indicate that they should be signed off at the next full meeting, in particular as the committee details in the AGM are used for the year ahead.
6. **Police Report** - none.
7. **Wiltshire Councillor Report and Questions arising.**
  - a. Cllr Groom had attended a meeting in Wroughton regarding J16 and Wichlestowe. Swindon B.C. presented a revised plan which was not well received by residents.
  - b. Cllr Groom has just received a summary on the Big Society and the Localism Bill. It is a big document, which she had not then had time to assess.

**8. Parishioner's Question Time.**

- a. Mr. Tapscott had attended the AGM, but was unable to thank all the Councillors for their hard work and dedication, as only 4 councillors were present. He acknowledged that some apologies were noted. He further noted that the number reduced to 3 for the APM. He therefore gave his thanks to Cllrs for their time and attention at the June meeting. He hoped that next May there would be a bigger turn out, and that the date for the Annual Meetings be published earlier, to avoid Councillors being otherwise engaged. It was explained that the date cannot be fixed a year in advance, as local elections often take place in May, and the scheduling has to take into account local events.
- b. Cllr Blackmore supported the concerns of the resident regarding lack of commitment and reminded Cllrs present that May 2013 will see all Cllrs standing for election, and that there might even be enough interested candidates to force a truly democratic election. It will be necessary to have 11 members fully elected in May 2013 if the Council wishes to use the Power of Competence, a part of the Localism Act in the forthcoming years. It was agreed to put an article in the January issue of The Lydiard's Magazine to promote the need for candidates.
- c. It was noted that the Parish Stewards had been trimming hedges at The Butts area, but did not go far enough up the lane - a further visit will be sought.
- d. It was reported that excavation of footings for the cellar at 38 Stone Lane had resulted in the spoil being dumped on the field behind the plot. Although the field belongs to the same landowner, it is still an offence to tip spoil. Allan Brown, the W.C.Enforcement Officer, has been notified. Cllr Groom explained that W.C. has to adhere to procedures, and a speedy resolution may not be achievable.
- e. Mr Merrick thanked the Council for their interventions with regard to his highway and flooding issues. W.C. has agreed to undertake some work on the verges, but he had undertaken some remedial work in the meantime. Following his telephone call to Cllr Nick Smith, Swindon B.C. sent a team to clear ditches on the same day. However, a mobile call to W.C. over the same period was diverted to Edinburgh - Cllr Groom will investigate this ridiculous situation. Mr Merrick further hoped that LMPC would confirm that he had not opened a new access onto the highway - apparently W.C. Enforcement Officer, Ann Marsh, was serving him with enforcement action, declaring that the Google maps showed a hedge on his overgrown entrance, which he had recently cleared.

**Cllr Quant arrived at 8.05.**

He said that 3years ago, NWDC cleared drains towards Common Platt, but did not return to do the other side towards Purton. He also noted that traffic had risen sharply recently, which is partly due to the Tadpole Lane bridge repairs.

**9. Councillors' Reports of Parishioners' queries.**

Cllr Harris was pleased that Common Platt had received another week with the Mobile Speed Indicator, but was unsure that it was fully operative. Cllr Cobb assured him that it was, as he had checked daily.

**10. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention** - none.

**11. Report on matters arising from 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 not on the main agenda.**

- a. The extra salt bin at The Close has been moved to corner on Forge Fields. All residents are pleased, except for the resident on whose frontage the salt bin had been, as the grass is dead. Parish Steward's help to be requested.
- b. Holborn White Gates now scheduled for June 21. Some 'tongue in cheek' ideas for celebrating this was suggested.
- c. Cllr Pflieger has cleared the gutter in Park Lane, in the absence of the Parish Steward.
- d. Similarly Cllr Harris has cleared the bridleway behind Rose Hall. Chairman thanked both Cllrs for their actions.
- e. Cllrs Cobb and Pflieger were concerned that a request for a Metro Count at Holborn in January 2012 still had not been processed. The Clerk apologised and agreed to send the relevant issue sheet to Cllr Cobb for submission.

## 12. Planning Applications

**Planning Sub-Committee Chairman's Report** - none.

**12/01351/TCA** Church Farm, Church Place. Fell 21 leylandii. (to be replaced with better trees). **Supported.**

**Badgers Brook.** The business run from this property is still a concern, and to LMPC's knowledge, there has been no change of use from residential to business registered. This was previously brought to the attention of the W.C. Planning Dept, who did not consider action necessary at that time. A further request will be made to the Planning Department for advice.

**Update on Ridgeway Farm Appeal** - Decision expected on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. New legislation may well be in place by then to support a refusal for the development.

## 13. Accounts (\*incl. VAT)

| <b>Expenditure</b>  |  | £'s       |
|---------------------|--|-----------|
| R Leckie            | Salary   | 347.85*   |
| LMPHall             | Hire of P/Hall                                 | 35.40     |
| Enlan Ltd           | Groundsman Fee plus weed killing costs of £36. | 540.00*   |
| WALC                | Annual subscription 2012/2013                  | 519.42    |
| Community First     | Annual subscription 2012/2013                  | 36.00     |
| Mr T Blackmore      | Councillor Training course 19/05/12            | 138.40    |
| A. Harris           | BBQ expenses for Jun 5 Jubilee Event           | 57.56*    |
| G Kent              | Keys for Gate Padlock, Recreation Field        | 25.00*    |
| T Pepperall         | Padlock for Recreation Field Gate.             | 7.37*     |
| J Bennett           | Parish Plan distribution postage               | 14.10     |
| Bevirs. Solicitors. | Purchase & Land Reg. fee for 'Council Field'   | 30,050.00 |

**Income** for May 2012 - Lydiard Plain £750, Recreation Field £585.10, Cemetery £400.

The above accounts were proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Groom, no objections, and duly approved.

**14. Approve Annual Accounts.** Despite the fact that the Internal Auditor had signed off the accounts as finished, some entry errors meant that the Income and Expenditure sheet did not accurately show the Parish Plan entries. The Balance Sheet figures are correct. It was agreed the Clerk resolve the entry errors prior to approval. Deferred to July.

**15. External Audit** - complete the Annual Return. As above, to be deferred until the July meeting.

## 16. Sub-Committee Chairmen Reports:

**Highways.** The S/C had met on May 29 - items discussed :- review of matters arising, new scheduled projects, review of Area Board, Village Gates. Next meetings on August 28, and November 27, 2012. Items for these meetings to be with Cllr Cobb no later than 3 weeks prior. Outcome - a request for an Issue Sheet for Holborn - Clerk to supply.

**Rec.Field & JCH.** Cllr Pepperall had noticed that unauthorised football training was taking place on Mondays - this has now stopped. Grass has been cut twice since last month, and regular cutting arranged by Stratton P.C.

New graffiti at the back of the JCH has been reported - Clerk to contact the Young Offenders Team Manager to check if they are still scheduled to remove it.

Cllr Thomas had no further update on cricket - the Club he is in talks with is still considering their plans for next year. Maintenance of grass, and screening of square, needed to keep the field tidy. JCH guttering needs repair.

**Cemetery & Public Areas.** Cllr Baker had Apologised, but Clerk confirmed there was nothing specific to report.

**Parish Hall.** Cllr Burley telephoned a report to Chairman, who from brief notes taken, reported that the Parish Hall committee felt they were not being kept informed over the purchase and plans for the Council Field. They wish to be covered for any incurred costs, and will need to be able to cone off their own car park when necessary, separately from the Parish Council's car parking area. They are also concerned over the possible loss of one car parking space.

In response, the Chair said that there has been nothing to discuss since the last public meeting of interested parties, and until the purchase is complete, when individual consultations with other parties can begin in earnest.

## 17. Other Committee Reports:

**Play Areas.** Cllr Thomas again reported that the JCH rocking horse needs re-laminating - quotes to be sought to repair or replace this. Recreation Field S/C invited to view brochures in the JCH office.

**Rights of Way and Walks.** Thanks were given to Cllr Pflieger for organising the recent walk - next one on July 13. Cllr Blackmore reported that he will replace the broken stile behind Forge Fields with a new kissing gate on June 11.

**Youth Club.** There have been no further offers of youth club volunteers, nor more interested young people. It is looking increasingly unlikely that it will re-open in September. Suggestions that we offer to take the young people to the Purton or RWB youth clubs were met with concern, as neither club appears to have a good reputation regarding language and behaviour.

**Councillor Training.** Cllr Blackmore reported on some of the key points from the recent Councillor Training Day he had attended. Among other items, he explained how LMPC would be able to qualify for 'The General Power of Competence' under the new Localism Act. He highlighted the obligation on Councillors to refrain from personal comments on other Councillors, or indeed any other individuals. He emphasised the 'public role' carried out by Councillors, and the significance of the 'summons' to attend all meetings of the Council, and the need to recognise the formal, as opposed to social, nature of Council meetings. He also drew attention to certain procedural matters that form part of the Council's Standing Orders, but which have not always been followed by LMPC. In summary, he commended the course as an extremely worthwhile exercise, and one from which all Councillors could benefit. Cllr Thomas, who had attended a previous training day with the same instructor, said he had not received such information on how the Localism Act would change the ways Councils work, and this clearly shows how important it is for Councillors to update their knowledge.

The Clerk believed that, if enough willing Cllrs come forward locally, WALC would run a training session in the local area. Clerk to look into the feasibility of booking such a course for LMPC and other local councils, if enough Cllrs would like to attend, on a convenient date in the near future.

**18. Area Neighbourhood Plan - update.** Mr Bennett attended the recent meeting on behalf of the P/Plan SG and LMPC. He reported that a professional firm had now been employed to work on the Plan. The group has now confirmed their guidelines on aims and practices, and it is hoped that within the next two months they should be able to start work on the Plan content.

**19. Parish Plan - update.**

**Housing Working Group.** Mr Bennett has requested that LMPC request a Housing Needs Survey from W.C. as the next step to justify the need for a new development. This was agreed in principle, subject to more information on who will fund the survey, and whether or not we have any influence over the content of the questionnaire. WC to be contacted and item carried forward to the July meeting.

Recently, the group has had a presentation from the Wiltshire Rural Housing Association, and brochures from the Wiltshire Community Land Trust, both of which may have something to offer, should the project progress.

**Retail Working Group.** More volunteers are needed to formulate plans for a village shop, if the idea is to progress.

**20. Holborn Footpath Project - update re lease of land.** Cllr Pepperall is chasing Solicitors for progress.

**21. Purchase of 'Council Field' adjacent to LMPHall - update.** The piece of land will be called 'The Council Field' for simplicity on documents. LMPC unanimously approved the signing of the Contract by the Chairman and Clerk, which is now to be sent to Solicitors with the cheque for £30,050.00.

Subject to planning consent, we hope that next month negotiations with all parties involved can begin. A suggestion of a lease for grazing, and appropriate field rentals to create an income, may to be discussed at the July meeting.

**22. Diamond Jubilee - report on events.**

LMPC would like to thank both the Parish Hall Committee for their excellent Coffee Morning with the Morris Men, and the Luncheon Club for their special free Jubilee lunch. Both were excellently organised and enjoyed by all those who attended, and LMPC would like to thank all those involved in the organisation, creating such a great community spirit. We were unlucky that the 'Jubilee Mug Picnic' was spoilt by the rain, but many thanks are due to Cllrs Alan Pflieger, for the organisation of the event, and the order and delivery of most of the mugs, Andrew Harris for the hot dogs, and Kenley Thomas, who all worked hard that day. About half of our supply is accounted for by registrations of our young people, but the remainder is being sold off to parishioners at the cost price of £2.50 - a real bargain!

**23. Greenhill Telephone Box.** Acknowledgement received that our purchase application has been accepted by B.T. We have yet to pay our £1, and we now need to help set up the Greenhill Residents Association with an agreement for the future maintenance of the box.

**24. Repair of Raised Beds -** As new summer plants were ready for planting before we were ready to replace the logs around the beds, the replacement has now been deferred until the autumn, when we hope to have a months notice.

**25. Parish Steward tasks.** Repair grit bin site in The Close, Remove tree stump in hedge by 'Sundown', and stump of signpost at Common Platt subject to the approval of the landowner (W.C. will not repair or replace the original finger post, as there is already a replacement metal direction sign there), Various replacement signs being done in a batch soon, and further hedge trimming from The Butts area, continuing on the left- hand side to keep the school route clear and accessible.

**26. Correspondence.**

Clerk Training - General Power of Competence - all current venues inappropriate for a half-day course.

Thank you letter from Mr Merrick, Common Platt, although further work needs to be done.

**27. Next meeting: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012, 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.**