

MINUTES of the Lydiard Millicent Parish Council meeting held Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs Robert Baggs, Dean Cobb, Roland Dodge, Jonathan Hearne, Andrew Harris (chairman), Andre Kayani, Vernon Montgomery, Mike Sharp. Mrs Deborah Bourne (Clerk)

Also Present: 7 members of the public.

### **Public Question Time**

Written questions were received from a resident, who was not present at the meeting; these were read out by the chairman. Concerns were raised about work for Wiltshire Council Parish Steward. It was requested that Councillors and Residents report any maintenance issues to the Clerk in a timely manner, rather than waiting for a Parish Council meeting.

Bus Shelters are owned by the Parish Council, and as such they need to be maintained by the Parish Council. If it is not possible to keep these shelters clean and tidy with volunteers from the Community, the Parish Council will need to arrange this commercially.

*Community Speed Watch:* There are currently 11 people registered for the Community Speed Watch, more volunteers are needed for the scheme to work well. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Alan Pflieger.

The Chairman reminded residents that if they wished to have a pleasant environment volunteers were needed generally throughout the parish. By using volunteers the Parish Council Tax is kept lower; Council Tax will rise if maintenance is carried out by paid employees or contractors.

*Neighbourhood Watch:* A report was given by Mike Sharp; the Neighbourhood Policing Teams will be changing after 17 October, they will be known as the Community Policing Team and be based out of Royal Wootton Bassett Police Station.

**Report from Wiltshire Councillor:** There was no report from the Wiltshire Councillor, she was absent from the meeting.

### **130/16 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Alan Pflieger and Wilts Cllr Mollie Groom.

### **131/16 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **132/16 Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to adopt the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September as a true record of the meeting; they were duly signed by the Chairman.

### **133/16 Chairman's Communications**

The Chairman attended the Harvest Festival in All Saints Church recently, which he enjoyed very much. Unfortunately he is unavailable to attend the Remembrance Sunday Service; Cllr Mike Sharp will lay a Wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

134/16 **Attendance at Meetings with Outside Bodies**

Cllr Mike Sharp gave a verbal report on his attendance at a Wiltshire Council “Help shape challenges ahead” meeting at Chippenham. Wiltshire Council will need to make changes to their services over the next few years in order to stay within their budget; this will mean some services and assets will be devolved to Parish Councils.

135/16 **Clerks Report**

The Clerk gave a verbal update on current projects and some of her activities in the past month. There is a Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) National Conference in Leicestershire, 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October; the Clerk will be attending.

136/16 **Planning Matters**

- a. The following decisions made by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting were noted:
- 16/07095/OUT – Wood Lane Nursery, Wood Lane, Braydon  
Demolition of existing buildings & glass houses and erection of single dwelling (outline for access and layout only)  
*Decision : Refuse*
- b. The Council considered the Planning Working Group comments on the following Planning Applications from Wiltshire Council:
- 16/09281/PNCOU – Greenhill Nurseries, Greenhill  
Proposed: Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwelling house (class C3), and for Associated Operational Development.

The above Planning Application did not require a comment from the Parish Council it was for noting only.

137/16 **Finance**

- a. The following accounts were authorised for payment.

Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall	25.75
Westlea Landscaping Ltd	546.00
Wiltshire Council Footpath	3,000.00
Wiltshire Council Chicane	1,000.00
Internet Connection 3 months	60.00
Wybone Dog Waste Bags	51.24
Salary September 2016	534.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,217.31</b>

138/16 **Local Government Finance Settlement 2017-18**

**Technical Consultation Paper**

The Government is consulting on proposals to extend referendum principles (the requirement to hold a referendum if the proposed council tax increase exceeds a set threshold) to parish and town councils for the first time.

The specific proposals set out in the 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation only cover the larger, higher spending parishes (precept for 2016/17 at least £500,000 and Band D equivalent exceeded £75.46). However, the Government is also seeking views on the possibility of extending referendum principles to all parish councils.

RESOLVED to write to DCLG; commenting strongly that “capping” in this way is undemocratic, and should be resisted by the Government.

**139/16 Reinstatement of Cricket Square at the Recreation Field**

Cllr Dean Cobb reported on a recent meeting held with members of Purton Cricket Club; who have offered to help reinstate the Cricket Square. There are insufficient grass cricket squares in North Wiltshire, as several have been converted to artificial squares.

The Recreation and Open Spaces Working Group are willing to recommend this project as it would make better use of the area in the summer months; local residents would need to commit some voluntary time, and Purton Cricket Club commit their expertise in order for expenses to be kept low.

RESOLVED to:

- Apply for grants in order to offset some of the initial construction costs.
- Recruit local volunteers to help with the manual work
- Discuss a “way forward” with Purton Cricket Club, to ensure the square will be ready for use next season.

**140/16 Working Group (WG) Reports**

- Finance & Admin WG:* A verbal report was given by Cllr Mike Sharp.
- Open Spaces & Recreation WG:* No meeting held this month
- Highways WG:* Cllr Dean Cobb gave a verbal report on the recent Community Area Transport Group (CATG) meeting he attended. The Highways Department is currently consulting on parking restrictions in this area; they will be considering restrictions along the Street, from the Beeches to the Church, to aid traffic flow at school times.

It was requested that Cllr Cobb continue to pursue this issue vigorously with the Highways Department and CATG and keep the Council up to date on progress.

Some recommendations from the Working Groups have been discussed earlier in this meeting under discrete headings; others will be brought before the Council when discussions have become more definite.

**126/16 Councillors Observations and Date of Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016, commencing at 7.30pm in Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

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Cllr Andrew Harris  
Chairman