

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of 3rd May 2012

Present: Cllrs T Pepperall (Chair), T Blackmore, S Burley, A Pflieger, B Quant, and K Thomas.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Baker, Cobb, Groom, Harris, and Mowbray.
2. **Safety Briefing** - Given to 11 members of public and 6 Councillors.
3. **Declarations of Interest** - none
4. **Minutes of meeting Thursday 5th April 2012.** Signed as a true copy without alteration.
5. **Police Report** - no report.
6. **Wiltshire Councillor Report and Questions arising** - Apologies given, no report.
7. **Parishioner's Question Time.**

a. Mrs Reed read out an anonymous letter, typed and sent by post, to Mr Hinds of 24 The Street, in reference to the noise of his cockerel. Regretfully Mr. Hind gave his cockerel away before consulting LMPC on what action he should take, and remains very upset over the whole situation. The Clerk had started to investigate the relevant guidelines prior to the meeting, and was able to report that the Environmental Department can indeed levy a fine for noise pollution, if they are not kept quiet between certain times. The Clerk will produce a local leaflet for other residents who keep poultry for general information.

b. Mrs Blakey was disappointed not to have received a letter of acknowledgement to a query she sent the Chairman on 1st March. It was agreed though that the Chairman had verbally acknowledged and kept her informed. The Chairman was awaiting further information from SFC, before sending a formal response to her questions.

Mrs Blakey referred the Council to comments made by Cllr Blackmore in February that SFC did not like the way they were being asked to reign in their matches, times, noise etc and were considering pulling out altogether. Now she reads that they have secured summer training, and again requested a bigger car park - so much for their threat to leave. She requested information on when agreed training days had been set and how many groups. Answer Tues, Wed, Fridays, 6.30 - 8.00, up to 3 groups, from May to August. Although Tuesday had been the youth club night, even if they were to meet during the summer it would not cause any conflict of use.

She noted that if an extended car park is agreed, SFC would then ask for extra matches, which is a concern to local residents. The Chairman explained that even if such grants and permission to extent the car park could be agreed, it was not likely to happen during this financial year. He continued to comment that SFC rental was an integral part of the PC budget. If in the future SFC applied for an extension to the car park, then it would be considered at Council. Extra matches could then be considered, provided they did not run over the new agreed time limits. At this Mrs Reed pleaded with the Council to take note of residents concerns, and to consider the use of the field with a sense of scale. Residents have slowly year on year had their summers eroded by noise, especially from team coaches who yell constantly at their young players. **Action** - it was agreed that we seek a meeting with SFC to gain their co-operation in reducing the level of noise from the coaches.

c. Mr. Wicks is concerned that no work is being planned to address the drainage problem in Greenhill. The Chairman was unable to say when it will get done. WC has no plans to help, and LMPC has been unable to contact all of the owners involved. It was agreed that the new surface would be damaged if the drainage problem cannot be resolved. **Action** - it was agreed to ask WC for grips/gullies to be cut into the current ditches. Cllr Burley offered to meet with Mr Wicks, view the problems, and decide where best to cut grips.

Mr Wicks reported that the pond still had not been cleared. The Clerk was disappointed to hear this as a local resident had offered to do this prior to Christmas. **Action** - Clerk will ask WC again to clear this area.

d. Mr Frith asked if LMPC had sent a letter to his neighbours requesting that they did not dump grass cuttings onto his land. The Chairman said he had taken advice that, as this is a civil dispute, LMPC should not become involved.

8. **Councillors' Reports of Parishioners' queries** - none

9. **Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention.**

The Clerk had been approached by residents of Greenhill who wished to keep the red telephone box, which has a notice on the outside declaring that the box would be removed after 30 days from its date.

The original notice explaining that the box could be adopted had been inside and not seen. The Council had completed a consultation exercise about the red boxes in 2011, and not enough interest had been generated.

The telephone box can be adopted for £1, and the equipment would be removed. The residents have contacted BT and halted the removal until the Council could be approached to sign the legal documents. The residents indicated a wish to take on the maintenance of the box. The Chairman in response said there may be more than £1 expense, as there might be some planning issues, and certainly would need to be covered by liability insurance. Concern expressed also at the ultimate responsibility of LMPC, should residents cease to maintain the box.

Action - LMPC will contact Purton PC, who have already carried out such an adoption, and would be able to confirm what problems they had encountered. A meeting will then be set up between the Highways sub-committee and the group of residents, to discuss the setting up of a Residents Association, who would then enter into a Maintenance Agreement on the box. Update to be reported at a later full council meeting.

10. Report on matters arising from 5th April 2012 not on the main agenda.

7a. The Chairman had met with the WC Highway manager and Parish Steward regarding The Butts drains. It is hoped that they have managed to secure the Unimog, which will clean the drains next week. This news prompted several other requests for drains to be cleared at Common Platt & The Orchard. Councillors to urgently email details of any other blocked drains to Chairman in case WC come on Tuesday.

8d. The plans for N/11/01260/FUL, Rudlers, The Street, had been brought to the meeting. The Chairman had not had chance to examine them or discuss them with Cllr Baker. **Action** - plans to be checked.

Delivery lorries blocking the road outside Westhills Lodge, Common Platt, as mentioned in earlier minutes - Cllr Pflieger has now measured the road at the site in question and recorded it as being 19ft wide. Delivery lorries are 9'6" wide, plus wing mirrors of around 1'6". Highway legislation dictates that if stopped on highway, sufficient room should be left for emergency vehicles to pass. As emergency vehicles are a similar width, it follows that such parking must be illegal. Police to be advised accordingly.

11. Planning Applications - None on the Agenda.

Late Planning Application. There had not been time to advertise this application which was not listed on the W/C weekly list or on their Web site. The following outline application has been received.

N/12/00538/OUT, Hillview, Stone Lane, new dwelling, garage and access on land to the western side of the property. As this application is outside the village boundary, on a ribbon development, it is not thought that WC would approve. Cllrs however, were of the opinion that this was a good site for a new building and that allowing such development helps to prevent the bigger proposed developments. Question asked if a garden is a Brownfield or Greenfield site. A vote was taken and it was agreed to **support** this application.

Cllr Burley who has agreed to chair the Planning sub-committee asked if the Clerk could facilitate a meeting with the head of WC Planning Department and Councillors to discuss the way that planning comments are sent and received by WC, as often no notice is taken of the Councils comments. Also for Councillors to receive training by WC on how to respond to planning.

Ridgeway Farm Appeal starts on May 9. Cllr Groom had intended to send in a statement, but has been informed that it is better to stand and talk. No limit is set on how long submissions should take. Cllrs advised the Chairman to keep ours brief and relevant - already circulated to Cllrs and approved.

Coopers Estates are expected to submit a planning application for 500 houses between Washpool and Chestnut Springs - further information will be advised when available.

12. Accounts (*incl. VAT)

Expenditure		£'s
R Leckie	Salary plus scale increase from SC16 to SC18	347.85*
R Leckie	Expenses - Tel, Stationery, Mileage.	49.31*
TH Pepperall	Paper & Cartridges	97.09*
LMPHall	Hire of Hall	24.00
Enlan Ltd	Groundsman Fee	504.00*
Aspen Fencing	Supply of Kissing Gate	450.00
Came & Co	Annual Insurance Premium	696.57
Information Commissioner	Data Protection licence	35.00
BT Payphones	Yearly sponsor fee for telephone on The Street	360.00*
A Pflieger	Jubilee mugs	613.14*
Lunch Club	Sect 137 Grant Award for Jubilee Lunch	350.00
Income January to April 2012: Cemetery £415, JCH £14, Recreation Field £100.		

The Clerk was congratulated for passing her Clerks CiLCA exam, which raises the profile of LMPC. This qualifies for an increased salary, already discussed and approved. The Chairman and the Clerk had studied the National Agreement on Salaries 2004 and the benchmark profiles, and agreed that the appropriate point on the scales was now SC18, the above pay being calculated as above on that basis.

It was agreed that Aspen Fencing be asked to proceed with their installation of the kissing gate, and not to delay any further with an application for grant funding to cover the costs.

It was agreed by a majority of Cllrs that the Lunch Club should receive £350 grant, as per the Parish Hall, towards the cost of a Jubilee lunch for 80 members and parishioners.

Cllr Pflieger had ordered 250 jubilee mugs. Residents are invited to register all children from birth to 16 to receive a Jubilee mug free from the Council, to be presented at a picnic at the Jubilee ClubHouse, on June 3. Cllr Burley to pursue the amusements, and Cllr Pflieger any further proposals for the afternoon.

The above accounts were proposed by Cllr Pflieger, seconded by Cllr Burley, there were no objections, & approved.

13. Holborn Footpath - update re lease of footpath land. Details sent to Solicitors with agreement of Mr Croucher, now awaiting the a draft document. Solrs to contact Westlea Housing solrs to seek their agreement.

14. Purchase of field adjacent to LMPHall - update. No response yet from Planning, but Chairman has instructed solicitors to proceed with the purchase. The Solicitors have been asked if they can obtain information regarding any right of entry at the NE corner, should WC allow access at this point.

A meeting took place on April 18, of representatives from LMPC, LMPrimary School, All Saints Church & LMPHall. General approval to proceed with the car park application was confirmed, with details to be agreed, and concerns to be met, following WC planning approval.

15. Terms Of Reference for RWB&CA NP Steering Group - for approval. It was confirmed that all other groups have the same terms of reference. John Bennett is representing the Parish Plan committee, and Cllr Pepperall representing Parish Council with Cllr Blackmore in reserve in case Chairman unavailable to attend. **Approved.**

16. Youth Club - update. Wiltshire Council will not continue their support, unless some 30 youngsters and several additional adult volunteers can be found to make the club financially viable. An article will be placed on the Website, Facebook site, and in the Lydiards Magazine. Should this jot be forthcoming, LMPC could take on the responsibility of running the club, subject to lesser numbers, but volunteers would need to be willing to undertake CRB checks, and training schemes. As a last resort, for a small number, young people could be taken to the WC club at the Lime Kiln in Royal Wootton Bassett, by trained volunteers using the WC van. We await responses to our article.

17. Recreation Field and JCH Agreement.

There has been no response so far on the sub-committee's new approved draft on the Recreation Field from SFC.

18. Diamond Jubilee and Olympic Celebrations - Update and Grant awards.

See item 12, Lunch Club offered £350 (as per LM Parish Hall) for a Jubilee lunch for 80 members and parishioners. 250 Mugs have been ordered. Parents, grandparents, carers to please register parish children from birth to 16 for a FREE mug at a Jubilee picnic. We are hoping to organise this for Sunday June 3rd from 12 noon to 3pm. Please look out for posters near the time. Those unable to attend will be given other opportunities to collect their mugs. Any mugs not given out to local children after a reasonable amount of time will be sold.

19. Working Practices sub-group meeting report. The meeting looked at creating 4 Sub-Committees;

Planning S/C: S. Burley (Chair), B. Baker, D Cobb & K. Thomas, (*indicates pending acceptance of position).

The S/C will visit application sites & recommend a decision to the P/C at monthly meetings.

In addition, for proposals on larger developments in or outside of the Parish, a volunteer is needed who will become versed in the guidelines from the Localism Act, and the Wiltshire Core Strategy, with the aid of our local Community Area Wiltshire Councillor Groom.

Highways & Footpaths: *D. Cobb (Chair), T. Blackmore, S. Burley, & A. Pflieger.

Duties will include recommendations to P/C on all Highway matters, footpaths, salt bins etc., also to liaise with W/C Highway Officers as necessary, and Parish Steward & the department.

Cllr Pepperall will continue to progress Phase 1 of the Holborn footpath, with help as necessary from other Cllrs.

Is hoped that a Parish Plan Working Group will run Phase 2, from the cottages to Badgers Brook.

Recreation Field & JCH: TH. Pepperall (Chair), B. Baker, T. Blackmore, & A. Pflieger

To continue as at present, dealing with situations as they arrive, and recommending actions to the P/C.

Cemetery & Common Areas: B. Baker (Chair), T. Blackmore, *S. Mowbray.

This includes areas such as Lydiard Green triangle, flowerbeds opposite LMPHall, & bush beds at Greenhill Xroads.

The above minutes were approved.

20. Early Day Motion on Planning Appeals.

A motion supported by both WALC and NALC is ongoing to allow Parish Councils the right to appeal on Planning decisions, much like Applicants have the right to now.

The Council agreed to support this motion, and the Clerk will send the pro-forma letter of support.

21. **Nomination for Parish Hall representative.** Cllr Burley agreed to help on the Parish Hall committee. He will become the Parish Council's representative on the Parish Hall Committee, and the Parish Hall rep on LMPC.

22. **Holborn Bridge** - repairs. Some cracks had been discovered and reported at the previous meeting under correspondence. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact WC and ask for a bridge inspection/repair.

23. **W/C Paths Improvement Grants.**

Grants up to £10,000 are available, but we are not seeking any at the present time.

24. **Other Committee Reports:**

Rec. Field & JCH - SFC acceptance of the new agreement awaited.

Talks are ongoing with another Cricket team, who need to discuss the proposals amongst their committee.

The field and square may need upgrading to accommodate Cricket club needs.

Grass cutting - Stratton Parish Council manage their own and other pitches in Swindon and agreed £50 a cut for us.

They have also quoted for a 'spike and roll' at £200. These were both approved.

Play Area - No matters reported.

Cemetery - The Clerk reported that she had met with Cllr Baker and they had identified a number of graves which need to be built up for safety reasons. Soil from the lowering of some graves needs to be placed over the broken and sunken graves and grass seeded.

The spoil pile needs to be removed - Cllr Baker had spoken to Mr Meredith - £100 quote received & approved.

A Holly tree in the corner of the old cemetery, which is very close to the wall, may need reducing in size to protect the wall. WC to be asked to inspect.

Highways, Rights of Way.

Flooding is occurring in a number of areas due to the very high water table, springs and the volume of rain received recently. WC have reviewed the entrance to The Beeches but do not have a remedy for the situation, where water is coming up through a BT manhole and spilling out over the highway.

White gates scheduled to arrive in May. Still waiting for a date when our new and replacement signs will be installed.

Parish Plan – The Retail Group are looking at rural business opportunities. They have visited the voluntary-run shop in Blunsdon, which was set up originally in a porta-cabin in a car park for approx. £30,000. The possibility of doing something similar in the Sun Inn car park is worth pursuing. More volunteers are needed to progress this venture.

Cllr Pflieger reported that his Parish Walk was successful, dry (until the end in The Sun Inn) and supported by 11 walkers. Next walk on June 1st - details to follow.

25. **Parish Steward Tasks.**

Mud on kerb of Park Lane, bus stop corner.

26. **Correspondence.**

Wiltshire Police - a live public online chat on Thursday 3rd May 7pm to 8pm.

Royal Wootton Bassett Carnival 19th May 2012, and temporary road closures - see Clerk for details.

Olympic Torch Route, 23rd May 2012.

WALC Online Newsletter.

Wiltshire Council Online Newsletter.

SLCC Online Newsletter.

27. **Next meeting: Thursday 7th June 2012, 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.**

28. **AGM and APM - Thursday 24th May 2012, 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall,** with speakers and refreshments.

Meeting closed. 9.30 pm.

Minutes approved 3.6.12.