

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of 5th January 2012 held at LMPH 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs T Pepperall (Chair), T Blackmore, B Baker, D Cobb, A Harris, A Pflieger, K Thomas.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllrs S Burley, M Groom, B Quant. The Chairman wished all a happy New Year.
2. **Safety Briefing.** Given to 7 members of public and 7 councillors.
3. **Declarations of Interest.** None
4. **Minutes of meeting Thursday 1st December 2011.** Signed as true copy.
5. **Co-option papers.** Mr Mowbray had given his apologies. Item deferred, but it was agreed that he could sign the papers in the presence of the Clerk prior to next meeting.
6. **Police Report.** No report.
7. **Wiltshire Councillor Report and Questions arising.** Cllr Groom's apologies received - no report.
8. **Parishioner's Question Time.**

a. A question was asked why, after agreeing to put up SFC match dates on a weekly basis, it has only happened twice. The Chairman thought he had agreed to put them up only when there were to be more than the agreed 6 Sunday matches, and that he had not agreed to confirm practice sessions, which are often un-programmed. Clerk will check the wording of the previous minutes and confirm.

It was questioned who was practising on the field on Saturday 31st Dec. Cllr Pflieger was working on the play area gate and confirmed it was SFC.

The parishioner is concerned as to how the Parish Council reconciles fees, if they do not know how many matches or practice sessions there are, in any one month. She claims, after obtaining a copy of the contract between SFC and LMPC that SFC are in breach of contract as it states that LMPC should know two months prior to the season starting when matches will be played.

The Chairman confirmed that this was the case in the past, and that many minor alterations had been agreed at Council since, but individually they did not constitute a large enough change to warrant a new contract. The same applied to the fact that matches used to only be played on Sundays between Sept to May, and the fact they now occasionally play at other times. The Council is progressing a new draft contract, but agreement has not yet been reached.

The pitch fees are checked in line with other clubs and organisations but are not directly comparable as other grounds set everything up, and do the grass cutting and white lining, ready for clubs to just arrive and play. If the Council were to adopt this style of management we would have to employ staff to carry out jobs that SFC currently carry out. The £100 paid to SFC for lining the pitches is used to for SFC projects.

b. Mrs Reed had received a copy of a letter to WC from a resident, requesting that a new road sign at Meadow Springs be installed as the current one is indistinct, and the cul-de-sac sign is missing. The Council agrees, and will also request a new sign, as it is unlikely that WC will act on a resident's request.

c. A manhole cover on the pavement at Church Place was reported as having a sizeable gap around its edges and was a trip hazard. The description led LMPC to believe this is a BT cover but will confirm before reporting the matter.

d. It was again asked if anything will be done about re-instating the drainage ditches in Greenhill, especially since they now have a decent road surface. This matter is difficult and complex and has no immediate resolution at present, due to insufficient and incomplete data. To be pursued asap.

e. The field hedge opposite the first property in Greenhill was reported as in need of cutting back. Hedge to be identified, ownership to be confirmed, and a cut requested.

f. Concerns made over rumours that 'Clarks Farm' may have been purchased by a scrap metal dealer who is likely to tip on the site. Site will need monitoring and reporting to the Environmental Team if necessary.

g. Recreation Field - it was reported that one of the post hole covers had gone missing and there was now an uncovered hole on the field. Chairman to check site on Friday.

h. A resident gave his considerations on the work to be done on the path behind Park View Drive - see Item 13.

9. Councillors' Reports of Parishioners' queries.

a. Cllr Pflieger had put forward to Mr Marklove that some form of chain be installed at the end of the Hall car park to prevent the lane being churned up and parked on, both causing a nuisance to Cemetery users and landowner alike. Response awaited.

b. It was confirmed that Mr. Godwin had been cutting the area of grass adjacent to 17 Chestnut Springs on behalf of WCC, and then WC, for at least 15 years.

c. It was noted that no acknowledgement for the Christmas tree gift from the Pfliegers had been made. Chair to rectify.

d. Cllr Harris noted that litter is on the increase in the village, especially between Tewksbury Way down to Washpool and asked if anyone had any ideas how to tackle this. Cllrs agreed that this was an unsociable problem, and other than asking the Parish Steward and WC, who has a statutory requirement to do litter picking when requested on a regular basis, no other ideas were offered. Cllr Harris had helped WC to successful prosecute a fly-tipper for dumping on the bridleway behind his property.

e. Another request was made to have an extra 7.5 ton limit sign added to the junction between Tewskbury Way and Nine Elms. Previously WC has considered the signage adequate, but some HGV drivers still believe that the restriction only applies if travelling towards Holborn.

10. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention. The Clerk wished all at the meeting a happy New Year.

11. Report on matters arising from 1st December 2011 not on the main agenda.

8j - The Chairman had seen paper evidence that the piece of land referred to still belongs to the Moody family and the majority of the fencing had now been removed. The Moody family will request that the last piece of fence be removed. This had now raised the question as to how many other little pieces of land in the Chestnut Springs area are also still owned by the family, and will advise us on any course of action affecting the areas.

Further to this matter as reported in PQT, WC had maintained the land by its grass cutting. Cllr Baker showed on a local map that an old footpath numbered 77 may well extend over it, running between Chestnut Springs and The Close. Clerk to check on the footpath 77 written description.

11a. The Bier had been examined by a joiner who thought that it would cost less than £300 to restore it, and that it is too valuable a piece of history to be destroyed. Cllr Blackmore offered to house it temporarily, whilst restoration took place. It was agreed to ask if the Church would donate the bier to LMPC.

12. Planning Applications

N/11/03860/FUL 18 The Street - replacement detached dwelling.

The owner of 17 The Street was happy with the plan in general, but very concerned about his party wall, which will need to become an exterior wall. The Cllrs agreed that if plans were agreed to put a semi-detached property on the site, then the priority must be to re-instate the party wall as an outside wall.

In doing this, it was thought that the party wall would necessarily end up over the boundary of the property, and that a further gap would need to be maintained between the properties to allow for maintenance. This in turn raised concerns whether the new building would be too big for the remaining site.

Cllrs remained split over their decision, but our comments would be passed to WC Planning Dept.

Wiltshire Council approvals

The approvals details in the December minutes were read out along with the current approvals.

N/11/03292/LBC The Stables, 19 Lydiard Green. Secondary Glazing to listed building.

N/11/03670/FUL 5 The Moors. Single storey side extension.

N/11/03688/FUL 25 The Beeches. 16 Solar Panels.

13. Accounts (*incl. VAT)

		£'s
R Leckie	Wages	296.25
R Leckie	Expenses - Tel, Stationery, Fuel, *	53.28*
LMPHall	Hire of Hall	23.00
Enlan Ltd	Groundsman Fee	504.00*
Shaw Football Club	White Lining fee	100.00
Avoncrop	White Liner Fluid	608.40*
TH Pepperall	Viking - PPU Envelopes	34.16
	- Cartridges	<u>39.11</u>
Bevirs	Legal cost re Holborn Footpath	480.00*
S Burley	Logs for flower beds	60.00
A Pflieger	Xmas tree lights	15.98*
Cllr Baker proposed and Cllr Blackmore seconded, and payments were approved unanimously.		
Cotswold Tree Surgeons	Quote for Park View Drive hedge	450.00*
Amherst Contractors	Quote for Park View Drive hedge	352.00
Votes were cast 3 each, with the Chairman's casting vote in favour of Cotswold Tree Surgeons.		
Usual DDs	Chairs broadband & Utilities	

13a Agree Precept 2012/13

Precept projections had been put forward at £14,000 and copies of the proposed figures were available to both the public and Cllrs prior to the meeting. It was asked why a reduction in usage of the field was predicted. This is due to the fact that SFC has been asked to play fewer matches, which will decrease the income.

Cllr Harris proposed a 5% cut to the Precept in line with the general economy, but this was not supported.

It was agreed that in continuing to not raise the precept for 3 consecutive years, that this effected a small reduction.

One formal vote against the proposed precept was given. The remainder of Cllrs voted to retain the precept at £14000.

The precept was duly set at £14000

13b Grit Bins/Salt Spreader

Spreader received, and the ton of salt bagged. Thanks were given to Cllrs Burley and Blackmore.

In relation to the previous proposal to review our salt bins, 6 of the newly proposed 11 are on a Primary Gritting Route, which are not areas where WC would place bins. One is on a Swindon bus route and is also routinely salted. It was agreed to consider placing bins at Washpool, Nine Elms, Greenhill, and Greatfield. The proposed bin at Nine Elms would need to be placed on the Swindon side of the road - SBC to be asked to approve.

Any new LMPC bins would need to be lockable and insured, and the appropriate grade of salt would need to be purchased, to prevent blockage of drains or claims for damage. These bins would be serviced and used by a LMPC approved contractor, or supervised volunteers, in the event of severe weather.

It was agreed to cost out the private purchase of bins and salt, as well as to ask WC for the 4 extra bins.

However, Cllrs were advised that WC has stated that they will install no further bins this year.

13c Clerks Hours

Clerk agreed to accept the offer made last month, that she would be paid an extra hour per week wef 1st January 2012. A further review at March 2012 meeting will discuss an extra lump sum to cover any excess hours for 2011/12.

14. Holborn Footpath - proposed lease - update re strip of footpath land.

Valuation by WC has been chased up, but may well be a futile exercise.

It was agreed to contact Mr Croucher and discuss all the options, to include the possibility of purchasing the strip of land, or rent the strip of land (he has suggested £500 p.a. for 10 years), together with any possibilities not yet aired with Mr Croucher. It remains important that the Council complete this footpath as soon as possible under the mandate of the Parish Plan. Legal costs of £480 have already been incurred, as well as funds already spent on groundwork. Working Group (Cllrs TP, TB and DC) set up, to meet with Mr. Croucher.

15. Other Committee Reports

Rec.Field - hole in the pitch noted for inspection.

JCH - nothing to report.

Play Area - Cllr Baker to complete inspection - Gate repair needed.

Cemetery - nothing to report.

Community Planning - see items 18 and 19.

Highways - Finger Post opposite Casa Paola - quotation required for repair.

Area Board Transport meeting, Jan 12, 6pm, at Chippenham - Cllr Pepperall to attend.

16. Parish Plan - volunteers needed to deliver PPlan documents.

17. Parish Steward Tasks - litter picking around village. Graffiti on road signs to be removed.

Resident at Common Platt to be asked again to clear debris from verge.

18. Community Led Planning Networking - under the grant received for our Parish Plan Update, we need to continue to offer support for other local parishes creating their own parish plans.

19. RWB&C Area Neighbourhood Development Plan

Input is necessary to create a formative document, ready to influence core strategy, within the next 12m.

It was agreed that LMPC formally support our involvement through Cllrs Pepperall and Blackmore.

20. White Gates Project

Initially, when Broad Town's scheme was approved, we took opportunity to ask for a similar scheme. Our share of cost was initially estimated at £250. Following WC proposed plan, cost to the Parish was quoted at £1450. The cost could be reduced by using some existing signage, rather than new ones. It was proposed by Cllr Blackmore, seconded by Cllr Thomas and approved, that LMPC spend up to £1500, and that Cllr Pepperall would negotiate with WC.

21. Correspondence

Living Landscape Conference - no requests to attend received.

Planning Explained - booklet - Cllr Cobb took one to read and Cllr Baker next to receive copy.

Response from Complete Land Management re Nine Elms/Washpool hedge. It was agreed to request hedge cutting as detailed on an enclosed map, and to write again to the other Land Agent.

Safe Drive Stay Alive - support for pre-driving lessons at Wroughton Airfield. More detail needed from Cllr Groom.

Various newsletters, SLCC, WALC, WC.

Community Payback Project - graffiti at JCH. It was agreed to ask them to see if our project is big enough to qualify.

22. Date of next meeting: Thursday 2nd February 2012, in the Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.