

MINUTES of the Meeting held by Lydiard Millicent Parish Council on Thursday 6th December 2018, in the Parish Hall, Lydiard Millicent, commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs Dean Cobb, Andrew Fletcher, Sarah Hill-Wheeler, Andre Kayani, Vernon Montgomery, Alan Pfleger (Chairman), Richard Selwood, Mike Sharp, Phil Shepherd. Mrs Deborah Bourne, (clerk).

Also Present: Wiltshire Councillor Mollie Groom, plus nine members of the public.

Public Question Time

Questions and comments raised by residents were answered by the Chairman at the meeting.

Community Neighbourhood Watch: No Reports.

Community Speed Watch: Not active at present, activity will increase as the weather improves.

Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group: No report at this time, comments are later within this meeting.

Wiltshire Council update: Cllr Mollie Groom advised she has been in attendance at a Planning Inquiry for the proposed development within Lydiard Tregoze, for a care home, supermarket and housing. Cllr Groom also reported that:

- She has been approached by someone wishing to develop an area behind The Moors and up Manor Hill; maybe in the form of a care home and sports facility.
- A meeting will take place with Highways Officers on 18 December to inspect damage to roads around the parish, a larger volume of traffic has occurred as a result of the road improvements at M4 J16.
- She will report the broken street light in front of the Church to Wiltshire Council.
- She will follow up previous communications regarding highway safety at the Elms.

Parish councillors asked for an explanation as to the process for raising an issue at the Community Area Transport Group (CATG), they had become aware different advice was now being given, especially in relation to Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs).

139/18 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

140/18 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest made regarding items on this agenda.

141/18 Minutes

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held Thursday 1st November 2018 were adopted as a true record of the meetings and duly signed by the Chairman.

142/18 Chairman's Announcements

The chairman thanked all the councillors, and families, who helped with erecting the Christmas tree in front of the Parish Hall. The tree was decorated just in time for the annual Christmas mince pie coffee morning in the Parish Hall.

143/18 **Working Group Reports**

Councillors noted written reports from the Communications Working Group, Highways Working Group and the Planning Working Group, which had been circulated with the agenda.

144/18 **Planning Matters**

a) The Council noted the following decisions made by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting:

- 18/09197/FUL – 2 Bakery Close, Lydiard Millicent
Propose to erect detached garage.

Decision : Approve with conditions

- 18/09007/FUL – Holly House 34 Greenhill, Royal Wootton Bassett
Proposed Construction of a Contemporary Timber Clad Garden Studio

Decision : Approve with conditions

- 18/08802/PNCOU – Land at Lydiard Green, Lydiard Millicent
Notification for Prior Approval under Class Q for a proposed conversion of agricultural buildings to create 3 x new dwellings.

Decision : Prior Approval Granted

- 18/08392/FUL – Plain Farm, Lydiard Plain
Construction of extension to silage clamp

Decision : Approve with conditions

b) The Council considered the Planning Working Group comments on the following Planning Applications from Wiltshire Council.

- 18/10111/FUL – 7 Washpool, Lydiard Millicent
Erection of single storey extension to front and single storey to rear.

RESOLVED to send No Objections to this application.

- 18/10201/FUL – 87 Chestnut Springs, Lydiard Millicent
Proposed Garage

Concern was expressed that the submitted plans do not give sufficient detail; it is difficult to comprehend the impact such a garage will have at this location. Concern for safety was also raised; from viewing the plans it would appear there is very little room for a vehicle to manoeuvre off the highway. Members are aware there have been issues regarding previous applications at this site, when permissions have been interpreted very loosely.

RESOLVED to object to this application, citing:

- i. The plans provided show insufficient detail to make an informed decision
- ii. Extra vehicle movements at this location will adversely affect highway safety
- iii. The addition of this garage to the property would constitute over development in this area of the village.

- 18/10269/VAR – 87 Chestnut Springs, Lydiard Millicent
Variation of conditions 2 & 4 on 17/03000/FUL to allow for changes to materials and positions of windows on elevations

The above application is presented due to breaches in the original permission. Members are aware of conflict with neighbours.

RESOLVED to object to these variations of the original permission, and to bring the planning officers attention to a possible breach of condition 3 of the original application; if the planning authority chooses to approve variation of conditions 2 & 4, the Parish Council would respectfully request a condition be added that the “new” window in the north east elevation has obscured glass, to support condition 3 of the existing permission (17/03000/FUL) and that the planning authority actively enforces this condition. The Parish Council understands that, despite the original condition and observations about the use of obscured glass contained in the planning officer’s report and subsequent permission statements, tinted glass has been used for the unlawfully positioned new window. The use of tinted glass at this location does nothing to protect *residential amenity and privacy*, the explicit reason given for imposing condition 3 in the original application.

Further RESOLVED to make a general comment; that when retrospective applications are submitted, like this one, where there is a clear breach of the original planning permission it serves to undermine public confidence in the Planning Systems when the variances are subsequently granted without penalty for the original breach.

- 18/10159/FUL – Oaklands House, Wood Lane, Braydon
Erection of replacement dwelling, new garage with ancillary accommodation above, new stable building and widening access (minor alterations pursuant to extant planning permission 16/12421/FUL)

RESOLVED to send No Objections to this application.

145/18 **Neighbourhood Plan – Pre-submission Consultation and Publicity**

Cllr Mike Sharp, as chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group presented this report.

The Steering Group have consulted throughout the parish to produce this Neighbourhood Plan, which it is hoped will be adopted by the Council this evening. The Parish Council, as the relevant body¹ must formally adopt this document before the Steering Group can proceed with Regulation 14² which demands a six week pre-submission consultation and publicity prior to submission to the local Planning Authority.

RESOLVED to adopt this draft Neighbourhood Plan as presented by the chairman of the steering group, it was acknowledged that as it is a live document there will be some minor changes (correcting typing errors) to the document before submission,

¹ Town & Country Planning Act 1990 s61G

² The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

This pre-submission consultation must last for six weeks during which all interested parties will be invited to make comments.

146/18 Finance

The monthly payments schedule was noted. It was also noted that Two Councillors had previously scrutinised and signed cheques as detailed on this month's schedule.

147/18 Annual Estimates of Income and Expenditure

Councillors are advised that the effect of section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 is that if, when considering budgetary items, any Councillor is in arrears for more than two months with his/her Council Tax, he/she must declare that section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies and neither speak nor vote on the matter before Council. Failure to observe this renders the Councillor liable for prosecution by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

A draft budget for 2019/20 had previously been circulated to members. In his presentation, the chairman of the Finance Working Group explained the budget must be adopted first then a decision made as to what precept should be requested from Wiltshire Council. He recommended the budget be adopted; he considered this to be a sensible increase, and the precept charge would be increased slightly on a Band D house (increase £3.87 per year). This is still below the County average for parishes.

Cllr Fletcher wished to suggest the following:

- *Professional fees:* The projected figure (£3,500) should be reduced to £1,000 as it is not known if this will be required before April 2019. It was suggested that professional fees be built up to same level each year from reserves.
- *Salary:* suggested Budget figure (£18,305) is too inflated, this is pre-disposing the Council will be employing extra staff, the figure should be reduced to £10,000. Debate as to whether Council has indicated a desire to increase staff – at last meeting they instructed the Finance Working Group to investigate either extra hours or an independent assessment of the Councils work.
- *Income from Recreation Field:* Budget figure is too low (£3,300) Cllr Fletcher feels this is too pessimistic and should be at £4,500.
- *Income from Interest:* Again, a very unrealistically low figure, the Councils reserves must be made to work harder. Suggest £300 budget recommendation for 2019/20

RESOLVED that the draft budget be adopted with the following amendments: Salary Budget for 2019/20 to remain the same at £18,305; Professional Fees projected 2018/19 spend be reduced to £1,000; hire of Recreation Field budget income 2018/19 increased to £4,500; Interest increased to £300.

148/18 Precept to be levied on Wiltshire Council

The chairman of the Finance Working Group again presented the previously circulated figures. He had asked the RFO to prepare a number of options which she had done; his recommendation for 2019/20 was the figure (£54,490). Although this increase was still below what the Government had previously identified as a suitable Band D equivalent increase (3% or £5.00 whichever is the largest).

Cllr Fletcher advised members that in his opinion the chairman's recommended precept figure is too high – there should be general reserves of £30,000, therefore the precept figure should be the amount bringing the projected opening balance for 2019/20 back to £30,000. In this instance a precept of approximately £35-36,000 for next year should be levied. His reasoning of this figure is minute reference 120/18iv:

“RESOLVED to set a guide of £30,000 for the
General Reserves in 2019/20”

He went on to suggest that the contingency fund is too high and should be reduced.

RESOLVED to defer this item to the January meeting, where a decision must be made to meet with the Wiltshire Council deadline of 25th January 2019. Members also agreed to meet prior to this meeting in order to fully understand the long term implications of Cllr Fletcher's suggestions.

149/18 Establishment Levels

The Finance Working Group was directed at the last meeting to study the report on establishment levels and to bring a recommendation back to this meeting.

The Finance Working Group has not been able to determine which recommendation from the report should be taken, but to start an investigation themselves first. The clerk reminded members that the Council did already have 12 months evidence of hours worked, in the form of an authorised daily diary.

Any decision on this item will be deferred to the January meeting of this Council.

150/18 Councillors Observations and Date of Next Meeting

Members were invited to share any comments they have received from residents concerned about issues relating to Lydiard Millicent Parish Council.

It was noted that the next ordinary meeting of Lydiard Millicent Parish Council will take place on Thursday 24th January 2019 in the Jubilee Club House, Chestnut Springs, Lydiard Millicent, commencing at 7.30pm.

The chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas
and the meeting closed at 9.50pm

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Cllr Alan Pflieger
Chairman