

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of 2nd February 2012 held at LMPH 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs T Pepperall (Chair), T Blackmore, B Baker, S Burley, D Cobb, M Groom, A Harris, A Pflieger, B Quant.

1. Apologies for absence - Cllrs K Thomas, and S Mowbray.

2. Safety Briefing - given to 8 members of public and 8 Councillors.

3. Declarations of Interest - none.

4. Minutes of meeting Thursday 5th January 2012 - signed as a true copy.

5. Co-option - Steve Mowbray had signed his documentation with the Clerk and Chairman; however, due to family illness, was unable to attend the meeting.

6. Police Report. PC Steve Porter was in attendance and reported that the new neighbourhood task group priorities for the next 3 months was drug use in and around their area, and scrap metal dealers, which is proving very successful, targeting those who are buying it from the thieves. According to the log book, it had been relatively quiet in LM. He was asked about a couple of recent road traffic accidents at Greatfield Crossroads - he will check the logs and report any information available.

He was also asked to follow up some recent Metro Count results, of which one fell within the guidelines to allow Community 'Speedwatch', and two showed speeds high enough for SIDs. The question is, what happens next if SIDs do not work, and more information as to why 'Speedwatch' could not be implemented at those locations.

A copy of the Metro Count results is to be sent to the Officer.

7. Wiltshire Councillor Report and Questions arising.

a. The most recent copy of the Draft Core Strategy document has now been produced. This document has been produced in small sections, and is the best yet and easier to read.

b. Ridgeway Farm development Appeal will start in Chippenham on 9th May, and a letter of objection is to be sent as soon as possible, after the draft has been circulated to Cllrs.

c. Re-surfacing work will be carried out on part of the C414 Cricklade Road/Station Road, Purton from its junction with B4553 Packhorse Lane in a southerly direction to Widham Railway Bridge during the period February to May 2012. The road may be closed for a week or more, weather dependant. An alternative route via Station Road - C34 Church Street/Manor Hill - C16 Stone Lane - C70 Washpool Road - B4553 Common Platt/The Pry/Packhorse Lane, and vice versa is to be set up. Cllr Groom is challenging this route as some of it is unsuitable for large vehicles. It may be that an extra alternative route will be set for the larger vehicles.

d. It has been reported that some of the material, used to seal around road manhole covers, is not up to standard and has begun to wear away. Parishioners and Councillors need to report any road manhole covers where this erosion has taken place to the Clerk, or directly to WC with a copy to the Clerk.

8. Parishioner's Question Time.

a. Mrs Reed wished to publicise the Parish Hall committee's upcoming Valentine Barn Dance on Sat 18th 7.30 – 11, £10 - hot food will be provided but no bar has been applied for - bring own drinks.

b. Howard Taylor announced that his pub manager Caroline will be finishing this weekend and publicly gave thanks for her hard work. He will be moving into the pub accommodation, and being in Lydiard Millicent, will therefore be more available to help with the Working Group under the Parish Plan Update.

He is considering placing a Computer in the corner of the pub front room for public use, and would welcome feedback on this idea. He also reported that his bus in his car park will be leaving soon.

With regard to the Valentine Dance, he tries hard not to hold events which are in competition with the Parish Hall and was considering offering to do the bar on the night as it would show good community spirit to join in such an event.

c. Mrs Blakey referred to point 8a on Jan minutes and asked the Clerk if she could confirm that weekly notices had been agreed to be put up on the JCH noticeboard. The Clerk confirmed this, and the Chairman explained it was not necessary to do weekly notices, and should have amended the minutes to read 'notices would be placed when more than the usual six matches are to be played'. Mrs Blakey still considered that the Chairman should honour the commitment to notify, and be transparent about the week's matches including those of less than six, in order that the public would know if the field would be free. It was confirmed though that pitches not being used for matches were often being used for warm up exercises, and were still not available to parishioners while SFC are playing their scheduled games. Cllr Burley considered this to be appropriate to their professionalism. SFC do a good job of maintaining the field and bring in approx £3000 per year which covers the running costs. As reported in previous minutes, for LMPC to carry out a different system of managing the field would be much more costly, needing a Field Groundsman, and all field ground work to be paid for, much of which is now done by SFC members.

The Chairman reported that SFC was unhappy with the current and continuing complaints about how they run the club. They had started taking more of their matches to Lydiard Park, reducing the income to LMPC, and were

considering pulling out altogether from Lydiard Millicent after playing on this site for more than 20 years.

It was noted by Councillors that LMPC had been unable to secure a suitable meeting time with SFC for the past two months in order to discuss the current situation, and that it was now very urgent to find some middle ground between all concerned. Chair will redouble efforts to arrange a meeting.

d. Mr Merrick, the new owner of 6 Common Platt, introduced himself and asked that LMPC help him to get action from WC to have some broken and blocked drains repaired around the corner of the B4553, which will help prevent the property from flooding. He had also uncovered a fire hydrant sign which needs reporting to the Water board for a service, and a finger post which needs replacing.

Further he requested that the Council consider requesting that the speed limit around the corner of the B4553 be reduced. To help maintain the verge around his property, he asked LMPC about the possibility of WC putting in kerb stones and a pedestrian pavement around this corner. A written submission of these requests was received by the Chairman and Clerk prior to the meeting.

The Chairman advised that WC approve new Speed Limit requests only once a year, and that LMPC submits such requests regularly, with occasional success. W/C also currently have a moratorium on new kerbing, of which we have several areas in the Parish with similar needs. These are now submitted to the Area Board, to be approved in competition with all other highway requests, which may take some years to accomplish.

Mr Merrick commented that the possible alternative route for traffic during road closures included Bremhill Bridge, which he did not consider suitable for large vehicles.

e. He also kindly offered his services as a Dial a Ride Midas driver for future Parish needs.

f. It was reported that during the week prior to the meeting, a road sweeper went around Chestnut Springs at 7 a.m. and another followed at 11 a.m., then another team came with a leaf blower and cleaned the pavements blowing debris back onto the road. W.C. to be advised of the lack of communication between its teams, and a poor use of resources.

9. Councillors' Reports of Parishioners' queries.

a. Cllr Baker asked if the Council could establish whether or not the top end of Stone Lane/Church Place, which was resurfaced some time back, will ever get its' centre white lines back. Similarly Holborn, and part of Lydiard Green had no white lines added to finish the task.

b. Cllr Burley referred to January minutes and asked if the 'Bier' has been offered to a museum. Purton museum already has one. It was noted recently that the Clerk of RWB was considering a site for a museum. Clerk to contact Jonathon Bourne RWBTC.

c. Cllr Burley asked if the annual Litter pick could take place on Sunday 26th February this year, and asked if he could get some signage made up. This was agreed. He also took the opportunity to ask Howard if The Sun Inn would be prepared to be part of the event, and perhaps offer incentives to those taking part. This was agreed in principle - Cllr Burley to liaise with Mr Taylor on details.

d. After watching and noting for some time that the Chairman, and his knowledge from running the Council, would be very difficult to replace in the future. Cllr Burley asked the Chairman to consider delegating some responsibilities both at full Council and Committee level. This would train up others to support the Chairman, and prompt the Cllrs to take on more responsibilities. There was a general consensus that each Councillor could to be responsible for different areas of Council work, and that the Chairman did not need to respond at the time.

10. Clerks Report on matters brought to her attention. Request received for grass verge to be cut back from the pavement, from Greenhill crossroads to Riffs Bar.

11. Report on matters arising from 5th January 2012 not on the main agenda.

8c. - Uncovered hole in the field. A metal goal post cover was irresponsibly removed, but quickly replaced by SFC.

9a - Cemetery gate - no response from Mrs Marklove, no further action to be taken.

9e - HGV signs, email response received from WC indicated signage was to usual standard and adequate.

11-8j- Land adjacent to 18 Chestnut springs - it was thought that there was a danger of illegal access to adjoining properties in The Close via the remaining fencing. Chairman had written a letter to owner requesting removal.

11-11a Bier - still need to confirm in writing that the church is willing to gift it to LMPC.

15. Chairman attended Area Board Transport meeting to discuss White Gates. Final figure agreed at consultation was £485. This figure to be added to be approved in Accounts in order that the invoice can be paid when received.

12. Planning Applications

N/11/04167/FUL **23 Chestnut Springs.** Front and rear extensions. **No adverse comments.**

N/12/00126/FUL **38 Stone Lane.** Erection of detached garage with ancillary accommodation above, following demolition of existing garage. **No adverse comments.**

Planning Appeal at Chippenham from May 9th, 10 a.m. re N/10/04575/OUTRidgeway Farm development - copy of response to all councillors by 15th Feb.

13. Accounts		(*incl. VAT)
Expenditure		£'s
R Leckie	Wages	333.25
R Leckie	Expenses - Tel, Stationery, Fuel,	53.95*
LMPHall	Hire of Hall	25.00
Enlan Ltd	Groundsman Fee	504.00*
Shaw Football Club	White Lining fee	100.00
Parish Plan	Postage	14.72
Venture Finance PLC	H&W - Parish Plan Prints	632.00
SLCC	Annual Membership fee	83.00*
Usual DDs	Chairs broadband & Utilities	
Approval for expenditure		
WC	White Gates.	485.00

Cllr Cobb proposed and Cllr Baker seconded, and payments were approved. Cheques circulated for signature.

13a Bank of Ireland - Following the Clerk's attempt to close the account using the three remaining signatories on the account, the Bank of Ireland returned the closure mandate noting that only one of the signatories was correct. They still have a mandate with Mr Bennett and Mr Holloway to sign. It was agreed that a cheque be raised for £584.99 and signed according to Bank of Ireland suggestion. Mr Bennett and Mr Holloway approved to sign the cheque with Chair.

14. Holborn Footpath - Chair to arrange a meeting with Mr Croucher & the 3 appointed Cllrs prior to next meeting.

15. Youth Club - will start on the 7th Feb at 6.30 p.m. in the JCH. More parishioner volunteers are needed on the rota for future Youth Club meetings.

16. Other Committee Reports:

Rec.Field - urgent meeting needed between Council and SFC.

JCH - regular use from Parish Plan working groups.

Play Area - Cllr Thomas to provide Clerk with report before next meeting - no known issues.

Cemetery - no issues this month.

CSW/Metro Counts - Cllr Pflieger to chase the CSW training. Chair - copy of results to PC Porter.

Road repairs/closures - Cllr Groom looking at the issues around the alternative routes with WC.

HGV figures - Possibility to be investigated of re-grading bus routes to local buses only via PPU S/comm.

Stile Repairs - 1 new kissing gate required to replace a broken stile. Cllr Harris to provide Cllr Blackmore with details of the previous contractor.

Weight Limit Signs – see Item 11,9e. LMPC to try again for extra sign.

Salt Bins - Quotes had been produced for bins and salt, but too many questions remain unanswered.

It was agreed that any new bins agreed would be ordered in the summer when better prices could be sought. In the meantime our stock of spare salt could be used on key highlighted areas if necessary, but how would it be done?

6 Common Platt verge/Casa Paola corner - Clerk to pass on Mr Merrick's requests to relevant authorities.

17. Parish Plan - Working groups now being formed: 8th March - Housing group JCH, 7.30pm - additional parishioners are needed to help formulate a plan. Retail group - to be held at Sun Inn on Tuesday 6 March at 11am.

18. Butts Parking - our Waiting Area signage request has been acknowledged and will be considered by WC shortly.

19. Diamond Jubilee and Olympic - Lunch Club having a party. Parish Hall to discuss this after the Valentines dance, School - unknown. Prior to the meeting, some Councillors were considering the planting of English trees - possible sites to be sought where the entire Parish could enjoy them. Mugs were considered - Cllr Burley to cost. LMPC has already precepted £1000 expenditure, some of which could go towards the other events in the Parish.

20. Parish Steward Tasks - Pavement at Greenhill crossroad to Riffs bar? Some unofficial shrubs on the opposite side of road to the pavement - Council to establish land ownership. Grafitti on highway sign opposite Rose Hall, Washpool. Common Platt sign to be replaced in the original position.

21. Correspondence -

Your CAN - online newsletter,

Rural Services Network - online newsletter,

Wiltshire Council Newsletter - online, and linked to our Website.

22. Date of next meeting: Thursday 1st March 2012, 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Meeting Closed 10.10.

Minutes approved 1.3.2012.