

MINUTES of the Meeting held by Lydiard Millicent Parish Council on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019, in the Parish Hall, Lydiard Millicent, commencing at 7.30pm.

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

Also Present: Four members of the public.

### **Public Question Time**

Questions and comments raised by residents were answered by the Chairman. At the request of residents, working group reports will be appended to each agenda. The Chairman reminded all members that reports **must** be with the Clerk at least 8 days before the meeting for inclusion on the agenda.

*Community Neighbourhood Watch:* No Reports.

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

*Neighbourhood Plan SG:* A meeting will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019, following the Regulation 14 consultations.

151/18-001/19 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received by Cllr Andre Kayani.

152/18-002/19 **Declarations of Interest**

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

153/18-003/19 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 were adopted as a true record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

154/18-004/19 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

155/18-005/19 **Planning Matters**

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

- 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

*Decision :* Approve with conditions

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

*Decision* : Approve with conditions

- 18/101117/FUL – 7 Washpool, Swindon  
Erection of single storey extension to front and single storey to rear.

*Decision* : Approve with conditions

- 18/09333/FUL – Plain Farm, Lydiard Plain  
Construction of portal framed cattle building

*Decision* : Approve with conditions

- 18/09197/FUL – 2 Bakery Close, The Street, Lydiard Millicent  
Erect detached garage

*Decision* : Approve with conditions

- 18/05792/FUL – 6 Washpool, Peatmoor, Swindon  
Proposed Garden Room

*Decision* : Approve with conditions

- b) The Council noted the following decisions from the Planning Inspectorate with regards to planning appeals affecting Lydiard Millicent.

- 17/08735/FUL – Land at Church Place, Lydiard Millicent  
Proposed development of new public open space, footpath, play area, nine dwellings and associated infrastructure.

*Decision* : Appeal is dismissed

- c) The Council considered the Planning Working Group comments on the following Planning Applications from Wiltshire Council:

- 18/12136/DOC – Casa Paolo, Common Platt, Purton  
Discharge of conditions 5, 6 & 7 of planning application 18/05422/FUL (Erection of 2no dwellings and conversion of existing restaurant premises to provide separate self-contained dwelling hours)
- 19/00535/TCA – Honeywood Lodge, Church Place, Lydiard Millicent  
Fell 1 dead Yew and 1 dead Field Maple (T1 & T2), reduce 1 Yew by 25% over footpath (T3), crown raise 1 Norway Maple and 4 Sycamore trees to 6 metres above ground level (T4 & T5), pollard 3 Lime trees to 6 metres height (T6), fell 5 small Sycamore trees (T7), 25% crown reduction to Ash tree (T8), remove overhanging limb of Ash tree (T9).

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RESOLVED that no comments were needed on either of the above applications.

- d) It was requested that further members join this Working Group; there are currently only three members, Standing Orders state there should be at least four members.

Any interested Councillor should notify Cllr Hill Wheeler, and the clerk, prior to the next meeting.

156/18-006/19 **Finance**

There were no monthly accounts prepared for noting at this time.

157/18-007/19 **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.*

At last months meeting the Council set its budget for the 2019/20 financial year (min ref: 147/18). At that time, the Council was unable to reach agreement on setting its precept, with divergence on how to proceed with the Councils reserves so the decision was deferred to this meeting.

After the December meeting the RFO met with the Chairman of the Council and the chairman of the Finance Working Group to discuss a way forward. As a result the RFO recommendation is £52,800, an increase of 2.5% (extra £1.67 per year on a Band D house). The Finance Working Group put forward a recommendation of £24,859, a decrease of 51.7% (reduction of £34.66 per year on a Band D house).

The chairman of the Finance Working Group presented the working group majority recommendation of £24,859 for the Councils consideration.

The RFO advice contained on the agenda to this meeting was:

- i. The finance working group recommended (£24,859) precept is significantly lower than the councils agreed and adopted running costs;
- ii. This significant reduction prevents the council from fulfilling its project aspirations;
- iii. The specified figures fail to respond to Wiltshire Councils stated policy of devolving services down to parish councils.

Cllr Fletcher proposed, Cllr Selwood seconded that: The precept demand be for £24,859, which was the Finance Working Group recommendation.

As discussion continued comments from an individual councillor became more personal and offensive; the clerk reminded the Council that, as an Employer, it has a duty of care towards its employees. The Council should not allow individual Councillors to verbally assault employees, especially during a public meeting when

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they are unable to respond. The Clerk stated she would leave the room, and return when the Councillor apologised for his behaviour.

7.50pm MEETING ADJOURNED for 15 minutes

In the clerk's absence, Cllr Fletcher refused to apologise for his behaviour and so resigned during the adjournment; he removed himself to the public gallery for the remainder of the meeting.

8.05pm MEETING RESUMED

Discussion resumed on the amount of precept that should be demanded.  
Members considered:

- Concern over what appears to be large reserve amounts
- A feared "yo-yo" effect would not happen, if managed carefully any peaks and troughs will be levelled out
- The increase is £1.67 over the year, or a drop of £34.66 for this year and then increase next year, estimated at £53.25
- Questions as to what, if anything, Wiltshire Council would be devolving down to Lydiard Millicent
- All Highways works now require a Parish Council contribution, residents are most vocal about the condition of roads around the parish
- Question: Is it a Wiltshire Council statutory obligation to maintain highways?

The chairman requested that a recorded vote be taken.

It was proposed by Cllr Sharp, seconded by Cllr Hill Wheeler that: A precept of £24,859 is levied for the financial year 2019/20. Recorded vote, results as shown below:

Name	Cobb	Pfleger	Selwood	Sharp	Shepherd	Hill Wheeler
For			X			X
Against	X	X			X	
Abstain				X		

This proposal was defeated.

It was then proposed by Cllr Shepherd, seconded by Cllr Cobb, that: A precept of £52,800 is levied for the financial year 2019/20.

The chairman requested another recorded vote, results as shown below:

Name	Cobb	Pfleger	Selwood	Sharp	Shepherd	Hill Wheeler
For	X	X			X	
Against			X			
Abstain				X		X

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RESOLVED that the Councils set precept demand for £52,800 (Fifty Two Thousand, Eight Hundred Pounds) be sent to Wiltshire Council for collection from residents.

**008/19 Pocket Park**

Cllr Shepherd presented this project, outlining progress so far. There had been some concern over the Councils right of access to the field, and whether this did include general public access when the scheme was completed. A general discussion was held about the Councils other land assets.

RESOLVED that the Council researches the issue of gaining access rights to the Community Field, making use of appropriate legal advice and paying for such legal advice from the budget set for furtherance of this project by Council Resolution in November 2018. It was further resolved that the clerk include all Council land assets whilst seeking legal advice.

**009/19 Speed Indicator Device**

Cllr Montgomery was not present but he had provided a written report.

This project will now progress in two parts: The purchase of the Speed Indicator Device; and the infrastructure. It will be necessary for Wiltshire Council to approve site locations. This must be carried out under the CAT-G<sup>1</sup> process, and time will need to be allocated from there, even though the Parish Council is funding the installation of the necessary poles.

The above progress was noted, it was also noted that the approximate cost of completing this project is in the region of £4,200. Thanks will be passed to Cllr Montgomery for his work on this project.

**010/19 Annual Litter Pick & Upkeep of Parish Flowerbeds**

Each year the council facilitates a parish litter pick, usually during the months of March or April. This year the date has been set for Saturday morning 16 March.

Discussion held about continuing as this event has not been successful in encouraging residents to take part, other considerations included:

- Arranging event within the national Keep Britain Tidy Campaign,
- Collection of litter by Wiltshire Council after the event
- Separation of plastics etc that can be recycled
- Acknowledgement of residents who regularly pick litter up throughout the parish
- Families becoming involved, although some of the areas are dangerous due to speeding traffic.

RESOLVED that equipment will be available between 9.00am and 11.30am at The Sun Inn car park, as in previous years. To encourage more community involvement the Council will provide hot drinks and refreshments at the Jubilee Club House.

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<sup>1</sup> Community Area Transport Group

Members also noted that Mr Cooper had contacted the Council regarding the flowerbeds in front of the Church. He has again volunteered to provide the plants but will need help in maintaining the area, especially if the weather is dry.

Further RESOLVED to find additional volunteers to work with Mr Cooper and the ladies who have maintained these beds for several years. Members are very appreciative of what is achieved in this area, providing colour and a sense of community in this area of the village.

011/19 **Councillors Observations and Date of Next Meeting**

Discussion on advantages and disadvantages of having a 20mph zone through The Street. Considerations included:

- Nationally, lower speed limits are being encouraged
- Would be safer route for walking to schools
- Additional costs for implementing the scheme
- Consideration should be given to whole parish, not just between the school and through to Holborn
- Views of residents should be sought, wide consultations using several methods

Members will consider these points before any formal decision is taken.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 7 March 2019 in Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall, commencing at 7.30pm. A written invitation is being sent to all local community groups, requesting their attendance. Refreshments will be served and a friendly relaxed atmosphere will be encouraged.

It was noted that the next ordinary meeting of Lydiard Millicent Parish Council will take place on Thursday 14 March 2019 in the **Jubilee Club House**, Chestnut Springs, Lydiard Millicent, commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm

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Cllr Alan Pfleger  
Chairman

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