

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 5th November 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in The Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

Present: Councillors: Mrs. L. Traves (Vice-Chairman), R. Coward, C. Hazzard, Mrs. J. Hurd, D. Hope, G. Jeans, Ann-Marie Long, E. Mitchell, B. Norris, D. Sealy, R. Sims
Also: Mrs. V. Horner, Mrs. F. Blend, Mr. D. Stone + PCSO Jacob Noble

Cllr. Mrs. Lesley Traves in The Chair

Public Session

The Chairman will convene the Parish Council meeting after the public session (please note that members of the public are no longer permitted to speak unless invited to do so by the Chairman).

Vicky Horner who lives at 3 North Street had a number of questions for the Parish Council in relation to the planning application for Chalke's Garage. Mrs. Horner said that the building is being erected at the present time and it was enormous. She said that every time she opened her front door all she sees is this huge building. Mrs. Horner said that it appears that this application is an amendment to that which was originally approved in 2011 and was amazed to see that the decision notice states that the "development would have no significant impact on the Conservation Area and would not result in any significant impact on residential amenity ..." Mrs. Horner failed to see how anyone could say that this new building does not have any significant impact on the residential amenity of North Street. She said that there is a huge visual impact and a huge loss of amenity to her property.

The Clerk said that she had been asked if the Parish Council had any feedback on the Firework Festival. Members asked the Clerk to write a letter to Penny Deeker and the committee, congratulating them on the wonderful event and to say how impressed they were by the array of activities and entertainments that were provided throughout the whole day for such a wide range of ages and interests, culminating in the spectacular firework display set to music.

Cllr. R. Sims said that the Shaftesbury & Gillingham Transport Forum had been re-established and that one of the issues arising from a recent meeting was that South West Coaches will be withdrawing 14 services, most of which will be provided by another bus company (except one). The Forum would like to investigate the possibility of containing all the local Link services under one call centre.

Cllr. Norris said that Mr. Ian Sheppard had attended a Flood Event on 17th October. We are now at maximum water levels and a potential 64 properties are liable to flood in Mere.

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs. P. Coward, R. Hill, R. Hughes & Mrs. M. White (Chairman).

To receive Declarations of Interest and to consider requests for dispensation.

Cllr. Jeans declared a non-pecuniary interest in Planning Application S/2012/1513 and a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 174 a)

Cllr. Hazzard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 174 a)

168. Minutes – Cllr. R. Sims proposed that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 1st October 2012 be approved as a correct record of proceedings. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 1.10.12

169 Matters Arising

a) Signage into Mere from Chetcombe Road – Cllr. Jeans confirmed that he had presented this request to the Community Area Transport Group.

170. Reports

a) Neighbourhood Policing Report – PCSO Jacob Noble reported that the police were carrying out local operations in connection with the milk thefts currently taking place. Cllr. Mrs. Hurd said that the Church was having food from the food box stolen on a regular basis and although they have made the police aware of this, they are not sure what else to do about it. Cllr. Sims made everyone aware that PCSO Jacob Noble would shortly be leaving the police in order to join the army. Members wished Jake the best of luck in his new career and agreed that he would be greatly missed in Mere. (for Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter see: <http://mereneighbours.co.uk/newsletters.html>)

b) Wiltshire Councillor's Report – Cllr. Jeans said that people with second homes in Mere may now have to pay up to 200% rates. Cllr. Jeans confirmed that there was nothing specifically relating to Mere discussed at the South West Wiltshire Area Board Meeting held on Wednesday, 17th October. (For Minutes see: <http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=169&Year>)

171. Planning

a) Applications: (All applications can be viewed on Wiltshire Council's website

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/planninganddevelopment/planningapplicationssearchonline/planningsearch.htm> – and type in the relevant application number)

Application Number: S/2012/1390 – Full Application + Application Number: S/2012/1391 – Listed Consent

Location: Burton Grange Burton Mere Warminster.

Proposal: Change of use and alterations to redundant farm buildings to form 3 no. holiday cottages and ancillary domestic uses, form, enlarge and block openings, remove lean-to, part replacement roof, infill open fronted buildings, replace (demolished) modern agricultural building with new ancillary domestic outbuildings to include, garage and machinery store buildings, swimming pool, pool side building and enclosing walls, paving and enclosing wall to principal dwelling, plant room and oil tank to swimming pool, tennis court, change of use of agricultural land to domestic use within defined residential curtilage (RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION)

Cllr. Hope proposed that the Parish Council should submit the following comments:

Mere Parish Council:

1. raises no objection to the current application as it appears from site inspection, and with regard to the National Planning Policy Framework, that there would be no significant adverse impacts upon the setting of the listed building or the local rural environment of Burton hamlet;
2. notes that parts of the application are retrospection, views unauthorised operations and changes of use with concern, expects applicants to seek prior approval for changes to existing permissions, and also to consult the local community if proposed changes would be significant;
3. considers that a condition should be applied that the permitted development ought to remain ancillary to the dwelling of Burton Grange, without further intensification of development or use within the defined curtilage or expansion beyond it.

Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sealy and carried with a vote of 6 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

Application Number: S/2012/1423

Location: Deans Orchard Church Street Mere Warminster.

Proposal: T1 - Gledistia Sunburst - Fell due to height and proximity to electricity and telephone cables

Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote of approval.

Application Number: S/2012/1453

Location: Chetcombe Farm Mere Warminster.
Proposal: Erection of agricultural worker's dwelling

Cllr. Mitchell proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sealy and carried with a majority vote in favour and 2 abstentions (Cllr. R. Coward & Cllr. G. Jeans)

Application Number: S/2012/1456

Location: The Hollies Manor Road Mere Warminster.
Proposal: Erection of 3 bed dwelling with garage and new vehicular access

Cllr. Norris proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a vote of 7 in favour and 3 abstentions. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

Application Number: S/2012/1513

Location: F J Chalke Ltd Talbot Garage Salisbury Street Mere Warminster.
Proposal: Demolition of existing valet building, erection of new workshop extension including new extension for mot facility (amendment to S/2011/1020)

As this application was an amendment in relation to positioning, Cllr. Norris proposed that the application should be recommended for approval on the basis that it is important for the economy of the town to keep the business viable. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sealy and carried with a majority vote in favour and 2 abstentions. As Cllr. Jeans had declared a non-pecuniary interest in this application, he abstained from discussion or voting.

***b) Gillingham Town Council, Neighbourhood Plan - Report on Visioning Workshop event for the**

Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr. Hope's report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Cllr. Hope added that he was impressed with the professional presentation.

c) Issues relating to new ATM machine at Lloyds Bank – Cllr. Hope reported that a local resident had written to him complaining about the brashness of the new ATM machine & bright lights surrounding it. This was the subject of a planning application which the Parish Council supported in March this year but which Wiltshire Council subsequently refused on the basis that the bright illumination and colouring will cause a negative impact on the conservation area and the setting of the adjacent listed buildings. Cllr. Hope confirmed that the Lloyds Bank building was not, in fact, a Listed Building. Some members said that they liked the fact that it was brighter and found the new ATM machine easier to use in the dark. Members agreed that the Parish Council should not support any objection to this new ATM machine on the basis that it may diminish the viability of the bank in Mere. However, if any individuals wanted to complain to the enforcement officer then they had a right to do so.

d) Community Infrastructure Levy – Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule – consultation – the Clerk confirmed that she had received notification of this consultation and comments were invited on the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule. The deadline for submission for comments was 12th November. The Clerk said that she had not yet had time to study the document but confirmed that the charges proposed were £70 per square metre on a residential property and £175 per square metre on retail warehouses, supermarkets and other similar developments. It was agreed that the Clerk should submit a response on the basis of the concerns already expressed by the Parish Council and in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman & Cllr. Jeans.

172. Open Spaces, Play Areas, Sports Grounds, Allotments + Cemetery

a) Pond at Southbrook – the Clerk informed members that with reference to minute No. 154 d), the Duchy of Cornwall had now informed her that Mr. Lagadu of Orchard House had subsequently agreed to purchase the 0.07 acres adjacent to his property which includes the pond. The Duchy had included a plan showing the area to be surrendered and this did not include the access track. The purchaser would be responsible for erecting a stock proof fence to the satisfaction of the Duchy's Land Steward and would be responsible for its maintenance thereafter. The Duchy of Cornwall wanted to know if the Parish Council would be willing to surrender this small area of land. Members agreed that the land should be surrendered but, in

view of the fact that the allotment lands are prone to flooding, the Clerk was asked to request that the Duchy of Cornwall seek some kind of condition that the pond should remain in situ in order to accept discharge water from the surrounding land.

b) Annual RoSPA Play Area Inspection Reports – the Clerk confirmed that the annual RoSPA play area inspection had been carried out in September. With regards to the Recreation Ground, there was a High Risk issue relating to the junior swings and the Clerk confirmed that the swings had now been taken away pending repair. There were other minor repair works identified. With reference to Castle Hill Play Area, there were no High Risk items identified but a number of medium risk issues relating to the equipment which was now old. There were no major issues identified at Walnut Road Play Area. The Clerk confirmed that she had met with a company to discuss repairs/renovations at Castle Hill Play Area and repairs at the Recreation Ground and that she was proposing to discuss these matters at the Annual Budget Meeting. Members agreed to discuss these matters at the Annual Budget Meeting.

c) Report on Sports development Meeting held on Wednesday, 24th October – Cllr. Hazzard reported that the meeting was very well attended and sport is flourishing in Mere, despite the weather. The mens' football team is top of their league and the archery clubs have two World Champions within their membership. The bowls club goes from strength to strength and a hundred or so youngsters regularly play football and cricket.

d) Container storage adjacent to Andy Young Pavilion – Cllr. Hazzard said that there had been some friction between the youth football club and the cricket club over storage as they had been sharing a storage container. Cllr. Hazzard said that the Clerk was hoping to get together with the football club in order to submit an Area Board Grant application so that the football club could have their own storage container and asked if the Parish Council would give permission to place a third storage container on the end of the existing container area (between the last container and the perimeter fence). Cllr. Mitchell pointed out that it had been suggested that the new storage container could go in the middle gap but that this gap had been left deliberately so that we could put the topper in there and it was hoped that this area would be covered to provide a dry storage area for the topper. On proposal made by Cllr. R. Coward, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hurd, members unanimously agreed with the storage additions and the positioning thereof.

e) Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme for Long Hill & Castle Hill – update – Cllr. R. Coward reported that there are now goats grazing on Long Hill and they are doing a superb job in eating the brambles, thorn bushes and hogweed. There has been a slight problem with one or two escapees initially, but it is hoped that this issue has now been resolved. Unfortunately, someone has removed the notices that we placed on the gates warning people that there were goats grazing and that dogs should be kept on leads. These notices have since been replaced.

173. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths, Traffic & Transport

a) Double yellow lines for Salisbury Street – the Clerk explained that following a request from Wiltshire Cllr. George Jeans to the Area Board Manager for a short stretch of double-yellow lines outside Wyvern House in Salisbury Street, he had been informed that a formal request needed to be submitted in a prescribed format from the Parish Council in the first instance. The Clerk reminded members that this matter had initially been raised at the Annual Parish Council meeting and related to the fact that cars parked close to the car park junction on the south side of Salisbury Street were obscuring sight lines at the junction and also obscuring visibility for drivers travelling west along Salisbury Street. The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should complete the prescribed forms, as appropriate & necessary, and submit the request to Wiltshire Council.

b) Termination of bus services by South West Coaches – the Clerk said that she had received copy emails from residents about the fact that South West Coaches were terminating various bus services. Cllr. Jeans confirmed that South West Coaches receive no subsidy from Wiltshire Council. However, he was hopeful that a number of the services would be picked up by other bus companies (Wilts & Dorset or Frome Minibuses) but one or two services would be lost completely. For example, it will no longer be possible to get from Mere to Salisbury Hospital on a Saturday. Cllr. Sims pointed out that the other issue of concern is that the Tuesday service to Salisbury, previously carried out by South West Coaches on a 51 seater coach,

is often full to capacity and Wilts & Dorset will be unable to carry this number of people on its smaller buses. The Clerk pointed out that there were various statements in the Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document suggesting that public transport should be improved in the Mere area. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter of concern to Mr. Phil Grocock, Wiltshire Council's Bus Network Manager with a copy to Cllr. Richard Gamble, Portfolio Holder for Public Transport.

c) Siting of skips on highways – Cllr. C. Hazzard said that he had asked for this matter to be raised because of a recent incident where a skip was located in Salisbury Street and was left in situ for months and although he is sure it was licensed officially, he felt that the location was not good from a highway safety point of view and must have had a detrimental effect on local traders. Cllr. Norris said that he had cause to telephone about this skip because there were no lights on it at one point. The Clerk was asked to write to the skip licencing department to ask if these things were taken into consideration when granting/renewing licences.

***d) Setting Local Speed Limits – Information item** – Cllr. David Hope had asked for this consultation information to be presented to the Parish Council (see Clerks Report) and said that, if approved, this should make it easier and increase flexibility for Local Authorities to set local speed limits.

e) Highway & footpath issues for parish steward + street lighting faults – it was pointed out that the steps on the footpath at the rear of Bramley Hill had not yet been repaired and the street light at the bottom of Springfield Road had not yet been repaired.

174. Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Payments – the following payments were approved on proposal made by Cllr. Norris, seconded by Cllr. Sealy and carried with a unanimous vote. (Cllr. Jeans & Cllr. Hazzard, having declared a pecuniary interest, left the meeting whilst this item was discussed).

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| Kingsdown Nurseries | Tripod Ladder | 390.24 |
| Jeans | HD Refuse sacks | 40.19 |
| The Cumbria Clock Company Ltd | Service Mere Town Clock | 222.00 |
| Mere School | Changing Rooms & Office – Electricity from 16.7.12 – 11.10.12 | 69.70 |
| Mere School | Changing Rooms – Gas from 16.7.12 – 11.10.12 | 122.21 |
| Mere School | AYP & Bowling Green – Water from 16.7.12 – 11.10.12 | 71.09 |
| Mere School | Changing Rooms – Water from 16.7.12 – 11.10.12 | 70.33 |
| Wessex Water | Water for new cemetery | 0.00 |
| Wessex Water | Water for trough at Long Hill | 50.87 |
| Jeans | Repair floodlight on Castle Hill | 119.99 |
| Playsafety Limited | Play Area Inspection Report (3 sites) | 262.80 |
| Sydenhams | | 11.88 |
| Forge Garages | Fuel & Oil | 186.83 |
| Imprest Account Cheque Nos. 1865 - 1871 | Wages, Petty Cash, Pension & PAYE | 4588.58 |
| Scats | New trough & fittings | 139.56 |
| Scats | Sundries – latex gloves | 7.25 |
| N. Maitland | Fencing , gates, scrub clearance and fitting water | 7086.00 Already paid |

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| | trough at Long Hill | |
| Batsford Timber | Fencing materials – Long Hill | 170.06 |
| North Street Nurseries Ltd | Winter planting of tubs | 804.00 |
| Tincknell Fuels Ltd | Gas Oil | 206.96 |
| CPRE | Membership subscription renewal | 29.00 |
| Jeans | Hoover for pavilion | 96.00 |
| Farnfields | Legal fees in connection with transfer of shed at White Road (now in abeyance) | £556.00 |

b) Legal work in connection with leases for Car Parks, Toilets & Office – the Clerk confirmed that she had received summaries of the leases from the Parish Council’s appointed solicitor. It was agreed that the Clerk, Chairman, Vice-Chairman & Cllr. Jeans be delegated authority to meet and discuss comments.

***c) Transfer of assets to include report from Mr. Tony Traves on old band hut** – with reference to the information in the Clerks Report, Cllr. Hazzard pointed out that the Croquet Club were very anxious that the Parish Council should proceed with the transfer of assets issue and said that the Council had a choice to either proceed with none, one or both of the assets (Band Hut and Croquet Club). Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the Parish Council should ask Wiltshire Council for the transfer of both assets. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Roy Sims and carried with a majority vote. Cllr. Brett Norris voted against the proposal and Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

175. General Items

a) Resurrection of Mere Footpath Group – the Clerk informed members that following interest from a parishioner, she had placed a notice in Mere Matters asking if there was any interest in reforming a Mere Footpath Group. Seven people had responded and the Clerk had arranged for those interested to attend a meeting to take place in the office next Tuesday afternoon with Wiltshire Council’s Senior Rights of Way Warden.

b) Mere Remembrance Service – the service will be held on Sunday 11th November and starts at 10.45 in The Square. The Chairman said that she hoped councillors would attend.

c) Christmas Tree Festival 2012 – the Clerk said that she had received an invitation from the Church, inviting the Parish Council to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival again this year. The Clerk confirmed that the Chairman had indicated that she would be unable to carry out this task this year and wondered if any other councillors would like to do so. Cllr. Hazzard said that he would donate the Xmas Tree and Cllr. Ann-Marie Long said that she would be willing to help with the decoration.

d) Extraordinary Area Board meeting 22.11.12 – Housing Need and upcoming review of Wiltshire Council’s Housing Allocations System – Cllr. Jeans said that he felt this was an important meeting as there were a lot of people who did not realise the implications of the new proposals that anyone who is in a Council property, on housing benefit and under retirement age will have a 14% reduction in their housing benefit if they have 1 bedroom in their property that is not used. If there is more than one bedroom not used then there will be a 20% reduction. It was agreed that some members would try and attend the meeting.

e) Date of January meeting – it was agreed that the January meeting would be held on Monday, 14th January 2013

f) Forthcoming meetings

- 22nd November 2012 – Extraordinary Area Board Meeting

176. Clerks Report – the Clerks Report was confirmed and adopted.