

Mere Parish Council

Clerks Report – December 2010

Agenda Items

6b) Casual Vacancy – the Parish Council has been informed by the Returning Officer that it may co-opt a new member to fill the vacancy. In view of the fact that there has been vague interest from various people, it is suggested that the Parish Council advertises for expressions of interest and that candidates be given information on eligibility and be invited to submit a personal statement.

9a) Information on water abstraction rates - I thought you may be interested in the following information which is an extract from a letter written by the Environment Agency to a third party and copied to me:

"I have checked the daily abstraction returns for the Wessex Water abstraction at Mere from 1 April 2010 to 31 October 10 and based on these, the abstracted amount is within the licensed limit"

"This abstraction was reviewed in considerable detail during AMP 4 (starting from April 2005). They carried out extensive monitoring of boreholes, wells, flow etc which must have been when he had contact with Wessex water staff. The investigation concluded in 2008 when a report was produced for the investigation steering group.

The investigation concluded that the abstraction does have an affect on flow but that these impacts are mitigated by additional spring flow below Mere. The majority of the impact is felt on the Ashfield Water with much smaller impacts on the Shreen Water flowing through Mere. In terms of the ecology it was felt to be quite robust and it was concluded that the abstraction although sizable was not having a significant detrimental effect on the watercourse.

In terms of flow this year, I think you're correct. The rivers are primarily responding to climatic conditions and this has been a dry year with low groundwater levels in this part of Wessex. Normally rainfall in October begins to get into the aquifer and flows rapidly recover but October has been relatively dry so far. We have received similar concerns from other locations especially on the Avon which have also been affected by low groundwater levels and correspondingly low river flows.

Whether flows recover will depend on the nature of this winter period and whether we receive sufficient rainfall."

10 e) To review Standing Orders – new model Standing Orders have been issued by NALC and these take into account new regulations etc. A copy is attached and the Parish Council may like to consider adopting these, in place of the old Standing Orders.

11 a) Local Policing Priorities - I have received the following letter from Christopher Hoare, Chairman of the Wiltshire Police Authority, dated 22nd November 2010: 'You are probably aware that Wiltshire Police Authority (WPA) needs to save millions of pounds over the next four years to meet the cuts in government funding that were outlined in the recent Comprehensive Spending Review announcement. Proposals from Wiltshire Police have identified savings of around £15 million over this period and it is expected that this amount should come close to meeting the predicted shortfall. The plans have been agreed in principle by WPA and will be subject to our ongoing scrutiny. **I am writing to you now because WPA is conducting a public consultation about the plans and we would like to invite the assistance of your Council – first, by letting us know the views of the Council itself – second, by helping to engage the public in this important process. Details of how this can be done are contained towards the end of this letter.**

The proposals are wide ranging and involve a thorough review of the organisation of Wiltshire Police. However, our overriding aim is to achieve the required savings from the review, yet maintain the same level of neighbourhood policing officers and community support officers working in your area to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour. Protecting frontline policing by ensuring that officers continue their regular patrols throughout Wiltshire & Swindon is a high priority for both WPA and Wiltshire Police. So, too, is maintaining public safety, protecting vulnerable people, those most at risk and bringing offenders to justice. In the plans put forward, Wiltshire Police would continue to have 11 Inspector-led sectors across their force area, aligned with Wiltshire Council's Community Area Boards and Swindon Borough Council's Area Clusters. More specialist police resources will be combined and deployed from a

smaller number of policing 'hubs', so removing artificial boundaries and providing a more consistent level of service to all the people of Wiltshire & Swindon.

Wiltshire Police has approached the re-modelling of the force so as to impact as minimally as possible on the policing services the public receive – though it would be unrealistic to suggest that there will not be some effects on the way that some non-urgent and administrative matters will be dealt with in future. Reconfiguring how Wiltshire Police operates will remove much duplication in processes. It will help make the force more efficient and the workforce more flexible, and thereby more available, for frontline duties. Police officers and police staff will be more effective by using better technology and/or through sharing services with partners; by strengthening our collaborative operational arrangements with other forces and by saving money through bulk buying as part of a common procurement agreement. Inevitably, finding millions of pounds in savings over the next four years will, unfortunately, lead to redundancies within Wiltshire Police. It is estimated that up to 150 police officer posts and up to 200 police staff posts will go by 2014. Wiltshire Police has already started an internal consultation process with the workforce.

From today until 11th February 2011, Wiltshire Police Authority is consulting the public and our partner organisations to seek their views and opinions on the plans proposed by Wiltshire Police. So this letter is to invite you to take the opportunity for your Council to comment on the plans for policing in Wiltshire and Swindon and, through your Members, to encourage the public to do the same by responding to our consultation. There are a number of ways this can be done:

- 1. In the coming weeks, there will be presentations at meetings of Wiltshire Council's Community Area Boards and Swindon Borough Council's Area Clusters to invite public views and comments. Meeting dates are being planned and will be published shortly.**
- 2. The proposals can be viewed in more detail on the Wiltshire Police Authority website www.wiltshire-pa.gov.uk**
- 3. Also on our website is a questionnaire where you can quickly give your feedback and views.**

Finally, I want to assure you that Wiltshire Police Authority will ensure that throughout the necessary changes, Wiltshire Police will continue to provide a standard of service that will protect the people of Wiltshire & Swindon.

Information Items

Planning Enforcement Enquiries:

ADDRESS

Little Shotley, Angel Lane, Mere

ENQUIRY

Unauthorised roof repair and dormer windows in a Listed Building

RESULT

Retrospective application submitted and approved under Ref S/2010/1426

ADDRESS

Magnolia House, 3 Lovage Way, Mere

ENQUIRY

Unauthorised gates erected.

RESULT

Gates regarded as permitted development immune from enforcement action as they have been erected for more than 4 years. Proof provided.

Planning Applications determined:

Application Number:	S / 2010 / 1426
Location:	LITTLE SHOTLEY ANGEL LANE, MERE, WARMINSTER.
Proposal:	REPLACE COLLAPSED ROOF AND ADD 2 X DORMER WINDOWS (RETROSPECTIVE)
Agent:	PHILIP PROCTOR ASSOCIATES 7 GROSVENOR HOUSE BLEKE STREET SHAFTESBURY SP7 8AW.
Case Officer:	Mr S Banks
Category Of Application:	FULL PLANNING
Decision:	APPROVED
	Date of Decision: 25/11/2010
Application Number:	S / 2010 / 1539
Location:	SANDS COTTAGE MANOR ROAD, MERE, WARMINSTER.

Proposal: PROPOSED TWO STOREY EXTENSION TO NORTH WEST ELEVATION, SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION TO SOUTH WEST ELEVATION, DEMOLITION OF EXISTING OUTBUILDINGS

Agent:

Case Officer: Lucy Flindell

Category Of Application: FULL PLANNING

Decision: APPROVED

Date of Decision: 26/11/2010

Application Number: S / 2010 / 615

Location: BURTON FARMHOUSE BURTON, MERE, WARMINSTER.

Proposal: CHANGE OF USE OF OUTBUILDING TO RESIDENTIAL ANNEXE ANCILLARY TO BURTON FARMHOUSE

Agent: MR STEVEN NEAL 16B ALEXANDRA ROAD READING RG1 5PD.

Case Officer: Mr W Simmonds

Category Of Application: CHANGE OF USE

Decision: APPROVED

Date of Decision: 11/11/2010

Application Number: S / 2010 / 1488

Location: ANAHM SOUTHBROOK, MERE, WARMINSTER.

Proposal: PROPOSED REAR CONSERVATORY EXTENTION

Agent: MR NIGEL ORMONDROYD NIDD DESIGN 14 PANNAL ASH CLOSE HARROGATE HG2 9AE.

Case Officer: Mr T Wippell

Category Of Application: FULL PLANNING

Decision: APPROVED

Date of Decision: 15/11/2010

Wiltshire Council's Planning Enforcement Strategy

Wiltshire Council has now published its Planning Enforcement Strategy and I now have copies of the strategy and companion leaflet as a guide to the service available.

Newsletters, Magazines, Periodicals

Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2010 – Issue 72

First News – Community First Magazine – Winter 2010

War Memorials Trust Bulletin – November 2010, No. 47

Wiltshire Wildlife – September 2010

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust – Annual Review 2009-10

Natural World – The Magazine of The Wildlife Trusts