

Mere Parish Council

Clerks Report – November 2010

Agenda Items

5 e) Car Parking Strategy

i) Response from Jane Scott, OBE, Leader of Wiltshire Council – ‘Thank you for your letter of 28th September 2010. Your views are well outlined. I will make sure that they form part of the response to the consultation on parking in the County and that those views are taken into account if you are not able to attend when the issue is discussed at Cabinet.’

ii) Band 4 Car Parks – Framework for a lease

Band 4 Car Parks Framework for a lease

This document has been prepared to set a framework for a lease should the Cabinet agree to offer delegation of Band 4 car parks to the relevant Town and Parish Councils as an alternative to car parking charges. The recipient may be the Town or Parish Council or a Charity where the Council is the sole Trustee.

It is expected that the term of the lease will be initially for a two year period renewable annually.

The recipient will;

1. Pay Wiltshire Council for electricity and insurance for (car park description) as shown on the attachment, escalated by the increase in the level of Council Tax annually.
2. Pay any other costs directly, including non domestic rates and third party insurance cover.
3. Not apply car parking charges, but can lease parking places to local business as they wish and at a cost determined locally.
4. Allow Wiltshire Council employees reasonable access.
5. Carry out litter picking, leave removal and other tasks that are required to keep the car park in a tidy condition.
6. Keep the surface of the car park and the boundary walls in a safe condition.

Should the recipient wish to return the car park to Wiltshire Council at some time in the future it will be passed back in the same condition as when handed over at the start of the lease.

Wiltshire Council will;

1. Provide a condition survey at the time of handover to be agreed with the recipient before the lease is signed.
2. Remove any signs denoting that the car park is operated by Wiltshire Council and any other fixtures and fittings.
3. Provide technical advice on request and at no cost to the recipient.
4. Not enforce the car park or be responsible for it in any way.
5. Not salt during bad weather but will supply 1 tonne bags of salt on request.

In the case of Box

WC will maintain the conduit under the car park.

In the case of Mere and Tisbury

WC will continue to be responsible for the public toilets and pay all associated costs.

Please also see attached spreadsheet.

iii) Public Conveniences – Framework for a lease

**Public Conveniences
Framework for a lease**

This document has been prepared to propose a framework for a lease to offer the delegation of Public Conveniences to the relevant Town and Parish Councils. The recipient may be the Town or Parish Council or a Charitable Trust where the Council is the sole Trustee.

It is expected that the term of the lease will be initially for a two year period renewable annually.

The recipient will;

1. Ensure the facility and associated land is maintained in a safe condition at all times as determined by Wiltshire Council. An example being salting during icy conditions.
2. Ensure the facility is regularly open, safe and fit for use during times to be agreed with Wiltshire Council.
3. Pay for all costs that will include: electricity/water/sewage; insurances; repair and maintenance of the building, fixtures / fixings and associated land; National Non Domestic Rates; cleaning of facility and associated land.
4. Pay any other costs directly
5. Allow Wiltshire Council employees reasonable access.
6. Carry out litter picking, leaf removal and other regular maintenance tasks that are required to keep the associated land in a safe and tidy condition.

Should the recipient wish to return the Public Convenience to Wiltshire Council at some time in the future it will be passed back in the same condition as when handed over at the start of the lease.

Wiltshire Council will;

1. Provide a condition survey at the time of handover to be agreed with the recipient before the lease is signed.
2. Remove any signs denoting that the public convenience is operated by Wiltshire Council and any other fixtures and fittings.
3. Provide technical advice on request and at no cost to the recipient.
4. Annually pay the relevant Town or Parish Council the sum equivalent to the annual direct costs at the time of commencement of lease adjusted annually by any increase/decrease in the level of Council Tax as set by Wiltshire Council.
 - i) Facilities at Mere and Tisbury currently assessed as costing £5,932 each per annum.
 - ii) In addition annually pay the sum equivalent to half the saving in transport costs to each council if both Mere and Tisbury enter into a lease, currently assessed at £1,210 in total therefore £605 per council per annum.

5 g) Casual Vacancy – Please note that a public notice has been posted saying that due to the resignation of Mr. Martin Peirce, a vacancy has arisen in the Office of councillor for the Parish Council. If by 3rd November, 2010 (14 days after the date of this notice) a request for an election to fill said vacancy is made in writing to the Returning Officer by TEN electors for Mere, an election will be held to fill the said vacancy, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option. If an election is called, it will take place not later than 11th January 2011. If the Parish Council can co-opt it will do so at its meeting on 6th December 2010.

Information Items

Planning Applications determined

Application Number: S / 2010 / 1070

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 UTBUILDINGS,

Agent:

Case Officer: Lucy Flindell

Category Of Application: FULL PLANNING

Decision: REFUSED Date of Decision: 15/09/2010

Application Number: S / 2010 / 1073

Location: ROSEMARY HOUSE THE FIELDS, MERE, WARMINSTER.

Proposal: ERECT REAR PORCH

Agent: CHRISTOPHER J GREENWOOD CHERITON MILTON-ON-STOUR GILLINGHAM SP8 5PX.

Case Officer: Mr S Banks

Category Of Application: FULL PLANNING

Decision: APPROVED Date of Decision: 09/09/2010

Application Number: S / 2010 / 1122

Location: 16 SOUTHBROOK, MERE,

Proposal: THE REMOVAL OF ONE WINDOW AND THE INSERTION OF ONE WINDOW AND DOOR

Agent:

Case Officer: Mr S Banks

Category Of Application: FULL PLANNING

Decision: APPROVED Date of Decision: 14/09/2010

Application Number: S / 2010 / 620

Location: DOWN VIEW FARM LIMPERS HILL, MERE, WARMINSTER.

Proposal: ERECTION OF AGRICULTURAL LIVESTOCK BUILDING, STATIONING MOBILE HOME AND CONSTRUCTION OF FARM TRACK, TOGETHER WITH CONTAINMENT OF COMPLEX WITH POST AND

Agent: DAMEN ASSOCIATES 101 WILTON ROAD SALISBURY SP2 7HU.

Case Officer: Mr O Marigold

Category Of Application: FULL PLANNING

Decision: APPROVE Date of Decision: 28/09/2010

Application Number: S / 2010 / 1125

Location: WINDY RIDGE THE LYNCH, MERE, WARMINSTER.

Proposal: EXCAVATION OF FRONT GARDEN TO FORM NEW CAR PARKING AREA

Agent: ICHARD ADAMS SOVEREIGN SITEWORKS LTD 8 DENES AVENUE WARMINSTER BA126HW.

Case Officer: Charlie Bruce-White

Category Of Application: FULL PLANNING

Decision: REFUSE Date of Decision: 28/09/2010

Application Number: S / 2010 / 1126

Location: ST MATTHEWS HOUSE WET LANE, MERE, WARMINSTER.
Proposal: RE POSITION DOOR ON THE SOUTH ELEVATION AND AMEND INTERNAL LAYOUT TO FORM KITCHEN, UTILITY, BEDROOM AND BATHROOM
Agent: M. L. LAWSON MCIAT THE SQUARE GILLINGHAM SP8 4AY.
Case Officer: Mr Andrew Minting
Category Of Application: LISTED CONSENT
Decision: APPROVE Date of Decision: 27/09/2010

Application Number: S / 2010 / 1203

Location: BROADWATER FARM WOODLANDS ROAD, MERE, WARMINSTER.
Proposal: ERECTION OF GARAGE/OFFICE
Agent: BRIMBLE LEA & PARTNERS WESSEX HOUSE HIGH STREET GILLINGHAM SP8 4AG.
Case Officer: Charlie Bruce-White
Category Of Application: VARIATION CONDITION
Decision: APPROVED Date of Decision: 11/10/2010

Application Number: S / 2010 / 1250

Location: 11 BARNES PLACE, MERE, WARMINSTER.
Proposal: TWO STOREY AND SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSIONS, NEW PORCH AND ASSOCIATED WORKS
Agent:
Case Officer: Mr S Banks
Category Of Application: FULL PLANNING
Decision: APPROVE Date of Decision: 14/10/2010

Application Number: S / 2010 / 1308

Location: THE COTTAGE OLD HOLLOW, MERE, WARMINSTER.
Proposal: 1X WEEPING WILLOW - POLLARD TO A MAXIMUM OF 30%
Agent:
Case Officer: Mr Shane Verrion
Category Of Application: TREES CONS AREA
Decision: APPROVE Date of Decision: 18/10/2010

Application Number: S / 2010 / 1299

Location: BROADVIEW WATER STREET, MERE, WARMINSTER.
Proposal: THE ERECTION OF A REAR CONSERVATORY
Agent: VALECRAFT PLASTICS LTD UNIT 5-7 OLD MARKET CENTRE LOWER STATION ROAD GILLINGHAM SP8 4QQ.
Case Officer: Mr S Banks
Category Of Application: CERTLAW PROP USE
Decision: APPROVE Date of Decision: 18/10/2010

Application Number: S / 2010 / 1327

Location: WILLOW COTTAGE WATERSIDE, MERE, WARMINSTER.
Proposal: T1. WILLOW TREE - CROWN REDUCTION UP TO 30%
Agent:
Case Officer: Mr Shane Verrion
Category Of Application: TREES CONS AREA
Decision: APPROVED Date of Decision: 22/10/2010

Planning Enforcement Investigations**ADDRESS**

Jasmine Cottage, The Fields, Mere

ENQUIRY

Unauthorised roof light in Conservation area

RESULT

Compliance after negotiation to remove and replace with acceptable replacement.

Newsletters, Magazines & Periodicals

LCR (Local Council Review) Autumn 2010

The Clerk – The Journal of the Society of Local Council Clerks – September 2010

Avon Calling – The Living River Newsletter – Autumn 2010

Grant Shapps to abolish century-old payment rules for parish councils

Published 9th October 2010

Local Government Minister, Grant Shapps, has today unveiled plans to free England's 9,000 parish councils from archaic rules which prevent them from using modern banking methods and making fast and easy payments to the small businesses they employ.

Parish councils spend over £340million each year. But under laws introduced in 1894, even the smallest payments must be signed off by at two members of the council - creating a time-consuming process and leading them to use cheques instead of quick electronic transfers. In contrast, the Payments Council reports that cheque usage fell by £21.5billion in the last year alone.

So the Minister has confirmed that from 2011, parish councils will be given the freedom to use modern banking methods - in time for the abolition of cheques in eight years' time. These changes are set to benefit the many private companies that parish councils employ, as they should now be paid faster.

The National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks will now work together to put important safeguards in place so all payments made by parish councils are legitimate and there is no misuse of the system.

Local Government Minister Grant Shapps said:

"Parish Councils have been around for over a hundred years, but it doesn't mean they should be bound by outdated rules which make it harder for them to serve their local community.

"It's time to bring Parish Councils into the 21st Century so they can get on and do their jobs in a faster and simpler way.

"This is about removing the barriers so that local people can deliver the services that their communities care about, but it could also help hard pressed contractors who rely on quick payments to survive."

The move has also been supported by the National Association of Local Councils, whose Chairman Councillor Michael Chater said:

"I am delighted that the Government is making it easier for local councils to get on and do their job through modernising the rules on the way they can make payments.

"This much needed reform is very welcome and underlines the important role local councils play in their communities supporting local people and local businesses.

"This initiative will give a much welcome boost to local councils to help them operate more efficiently and effectively and enable them to continue to play their role at the heart of localism and Big Society."

Mere Children's Centre

Jane Batten, the Acting Centre Manager of Mere & District Footprints has sent me an email informing me that she has written an article in this month's Mere Matters which outlines Wiltshire Council's proposals for consultation on the closure of the Children's Centre in Mere.

In the article she suggests that readers might like to make their local politicians aware of their views and therefore felt that the Parish Council should be aware of the article.

Jane believes that the Footprints Centre provides a vital lifeline to many deprived and isolated families in this remote part of rural Wiltshire, and its closure would impact adversely and significantly on them and many others within the catchment area. Jane has also said that she would be happy to discuss the background and relevant facts in more detail and would be willing to attend a Parish Council meeting for further discussion if members would find this helpful.