

# Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

## CLERKS REPORT – December 2013

### Agenda Items

**5c) Request for parking restrictions in Water Street/Ivymead – Minute 80b)** – Cllr. Jordan has sent me the following report/information:



The junction of Water Street, Salisbury Street and Hazzards Hill is difficult enough for coaches and emergency vehicles to negotiate without any cars parked near the junction. However, the combination of the traffic island at the north end of Water Street and cars parked on either side of Water Street can make it impassable. It is the case that coaches transporting pupils to and from Mere School cannot get through and have to drop and collect pupils from Salisbury Street. This is an unnecessarily dangerous process. The problem could be resolved by putting yellow lines at the points indicated in the drawing above. They are running on the East side of Water Street from the entrance to Yapps' yard to a point past the next entrance gate (indeed along the whole length of that stretch of Water Street would be useful). On the West side of the road yellow lines should run from the junction to where the road narrows. The problem for coaches and emergency vehicles going to the school means that restrictions could be made for school hours only. However, it must be a concern that emergency vehicles will struggle to gain access to the neighbourhood at other times.

**8a) Request for litter bin and signs along verge at Gillingham Road** – Mr. Doggrell telephoned me because he has just taken on some land on the Gillingham Road (just beyond Gillingham Corner). Where the footpath comes out onto the road at the field entrance an unofficial layby has been created and Mr. Doggrell keeps finding bags of rubbish, glass bottles, tin cans etc. Sometimes this is thrown over the hedge into the field and he is worried that it will cause harm to his cattle. Also, it just looks extremely untidy. Mr. Doggrell has asked if the Parish Council would

provide a litter bin but I explained that that would be extremely unlikely as we would not have the resources to empty it. I did, however, suggest that perhaps the Parish Council could request that Wiltshire Council provide a litter bin and signs. He wanted me to ask the Parish Council to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

## **Information Items**

The Parochial Church Council have sent their contribution towards the upkeep of the Churchyard in 2013 and have said how much they appreciate all the hard work that goes into keeping the Church surrounds neat and tidy.

---

**MERE RIVERS GROUP MEETING WITH WESSEX WATER  
TO DISCUSS THE SUMMER 2013 LOWERING OF EXTRACTION TRIAL ON THE SHREEN  
AND ASHFIELD WATER  
FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 2013, ANDY YOUNG PAVILION,  
FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF THE BURTON FIELD PUMPING STATION**

Ian Sheppard, the group spokesperson, had invited riparian owners and Mere residents who had previously expressed an interest in the effect of extraction on the two rivers to attend. Also present were Tony Denham of the Water Consumer Council, Christopher Greenwood of the Environment Agency and Mathew Manning of Blackmore Vale News and around six Wessex Water (WW) representatives. In all there were around 30 people at the meeting. It had been decided not to call a full public meeting but to ask WW to give a detailed report of the outcome of the trials, and their future extraction proposals, so that the information could be digested before issues to be raised at a possible future public meeting could be defined.

The trial covered :

- the effect on groundwater and flows in the Shreen and Ashfield of a cessation of abstraction and export of 4 million litres day to Yeovil;
- the impact of water efficiency information, provided in Mere on 2 occasions, on the use of water in Mere;
- monitoring the local demand in Mere and areas to the south supplied with Mere Source Water (Gillingham North, South and West, Stour and Bowden);
- the monitoring of the ecology and bio-diversity of the Shreen and Ashfield by Mere volunteers and Wessex Water.

### **Fiona Bowles report (Wessex water)**

The trial plan meant that WW reduced export of 4ml/day to Yeovil (so supplying around 4ml/day only to Mere and southwards) In August and September 2013 no water was exported to Yeovil direction. In early October export to Yeovil was resumed. WW wanted to find out if their understanding from the 2008 trial on the Ashfield was sound, and whether this 2013 trial was successful.

Graphs were shown which indicated that Mere residents did not significantly reduce their water consumption as a result of the Mere Rivers Group efforts to distribute information and aids at 2 public events in the summer. The usage figures for all 6 local units supplied from Mere source rose and fell in harmony and heightened usage was noted in the very hot weather in July 2013.

### **Ian Colley, hydrologist, report (Wessex water)**

Ian Colley discussed in detail the local aquifer. When export abstraction stopped this August and September 2013 and reduced to local use (around 4ml/day) the reduction was reflected in half a megalitre a day increase in flow on both the Shreen and the Ashfield rivers.

**Ian Shepard (Mere Rivers Group)**

Ian said that in terms of the extraction licence, maintaining the ecology is the real test. The question is, is the ecology representative

The Shreen at Steep Street has a moderate conservation value of 7.5;

the Ashfield at White Bridge has a moderate value of 8.5 and

the Ashfield upstream at Burton (the source?) has a fairly high value of 15.0 because it has more rare flies and midges.

**Christopher Greenwood, Environment Agency**

Noted an impressive reaction of both streams to the elimination of export to Yeovil. In regard to the ecological data, there may be issues related to management of the water courses which would affect species numbers. Fiona will ask the WW contractor to assess WW data and that outcome will be ready in December. The 2009 Water Framework directive, which looked at the conservation value of the Shreen only dealt with the delivery of water at Gillingham. Christopher noted that the dry weather will have affected the biology and that there may be a reduction in the number of species. He said that the EA may look at fisheries as well.

**Luke de Vial, Head of Environment and Resources, (Wessex water)**

He outlined the options open to the company. Firstly, to use up to the licence level would be the traditional water industry response. In this case the local people object. Secondly, to stop all export would mean that WW would have to build costly reservoirs. This would not be what WW would do if there is no proven environment impact. The third option would be to minimize export when flows are low so that the rivers will flow a little higher for a little longer. This will give WW some resilience.

The trials are to be run again in 2014