

# Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

## CLERKS REPORT – June 2013

### Agenda Items

**7b) Response from C. G. Fry & Son regarding vehicular access & highway issues relating to the Hill Brush Company redevelopment proposals** – David Lohfink, Land and Planning Manager of C. G. Fry & Son replies: 'We do completely sympathise with the Parish Council regarding the existing roundabout into our previous "Walnut Road" development. We have discussed the matter with our Highways Consultant and the Highway Authority and considered options. One key issue is that the whole of the development has been subject to detailed viability modelling and discussions with Wiltshire Council in order to derive a package of planning obligations (including financial contributions and a level of affordable housing) that enables Hill Brush to move to the new site. Regretfully, we cannot fund, in addition, the works to the Walnut Road/Shafesbury Road junction. We have, however, revised the proposed site layout plan so that sufficient land and visibility is available for Wiltshire Council to convert the existing mini-roundabout into a standard "T-junction". There is a consensus between our Highways Consultant and the Highway Authority that a larger roundabout would not be appropriate or necessary and that a standard T-junction would be a perfectly sensible solution. Whilst we could not provide these works as part of our overall development, it would be possible for Wiltshire Council to carry out the works themselves assuming there is the political will and funding available. I suppose it is also possible that Wiltshire Council could look at its priorities and use some of the £600,000 Section 106 planning obligations for this purpose. Turning to the prospects of an additional access off Shafesbury Road, again there is a consensus between our Highway Consultant and the Highway Authority that no vehicular access (beyond an emergency access) is required off Shafesbury Road. Pedestrian and cycle connections will be made. I appreciate this response falls short of meeting the Parish Council's aspirations, although I hope members will understand the difficult financial position we find ourselves in in facilitating Hill Brush's move and consolidating and improving the town's employment offer. Finally, we will not be able to make the Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June but would be happy to attend the next available meeting. It is highly unlikely that planning applications will be submitted before July. Please let me know future dates.'

**9a) Request for traffic calming in Pettridge Lane** – Mr. Partridge from Fairhaven, Pettridge Lane writes: 'I am quite concerned at the speed people are driving through Pettridge Lane at. It narrows to a single lane in front of our house for about 50 metres. The speed limit is 30 mph. I am seeing near miss after near miss with people screeching to a halt by not anticipating oncoming traffic. The problem is that drivers are mounting the pavement or striking the gravel on our side which is slippery under a wheel. They are also driving too fast. Can we look at a speed bump in the middle of the single lane section. Prevention is better than cure.'

**10 d) Internal Audit Report** – Mr. John Wilson writes: 'I have carried out a final internal audit of the Mere Parish Council Financial Statements for the year ending 30 March 2013. In my opinion the Council has maintained proper account records and the financial statements have been properly prepared. Two areas where I suggest action to be taken are:

#### Insurance

- (a) I understand that the new insurers, Aviva, have recommended a valuation review of the Council's buildings i.e. Clock Tower, Cemetery Chapels etc. I suggest that this is carried out sooner rather than later.
- (b) The extent of the Council's responsibility for maintenance of the churchyard and its knock-on effect on public liability issues needs to be clarified with the Parochial Church Council, and documented.

#### Car Park & Toilets:

A system needs to be established to ensure that monies due from Wiltshire Council in respect of the car parks/toilets are received in a timely manner. It was noted that no payment had yet been received

in respect of the period from 1 March 2013 (when the Parish Council assumed responsibility) to the end of the financial year.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance I have received from the Clerk, Lindsey Wood. As always she makes this task easier by having everything ready to hand and in such good order.

## Information Items

**Application Number:** S / 2013 / 36  
**Location:** Greenacres Castle Street, Mere, Warminster.  
**Proposal:** T1 Coriscan Pine - Crown lift shortening approx seven lower lateral branches, reduce by approx 2m T2 Beech - Crown lift shortening 2 lower lateral branches, shorten secondary and tertiary branches by  
**Agent:** Mr David Harness Church Gate Milton On Stour Gillingham SP8 5QD.  
**Case Officer:** Mr Shane Verrion  
**Category Of Application:** TPO TREES  
**Decision:** APPROVED **Date of Decision:** 07/03/2013

**Application Number:** S / 2013 / 48  
**Location:** 6 Hillside Close, Mere, Warminster.  
**Proposal:** T1 - Ash - Reduce by 33%  
**Agent:**  
**Case Officer:** Mr Shane Verrion  
**Category Of Application:** TPO TREES  
**Decision:** APPROVED **Date of Decision:** 07/03/2013

**Application Number:** S / 2013 / 78  
**Location:** Old Forge North Street, Mere, Warminster.  
**Proposal:** The subdivision of one dwelling into two separate dwellings.  
**Agent:**  
**Case Officer:** Mr S Banks  
**Category Of Application:** FULL PLANNING  
**Decision:** APPROVED **Date of Decision:** 12/03/2013

**Application Number:** S / 2013 / 16  
**Location:** 8 Nursery Gardens, Mere, Warminster.  
**Proposal:** The construction of a two storey front extension, the removal of a porch roof, the reduction in the width of the existing porch and the construction of a porch roof.  
**Agent:** Mr S P Mankin Swift Architectural Design 21 Denison Rise Bishopdown Salisbury SP1 3EW.  
**Case Officer:** Mr S Banks  
**Category Of Application:** FULL PLANNING  
**Decision:** APPROVED **Date of Decision:** 28/02/2013

**Application Number:** S / 2012 / 1832  
**Location:** Wheelright Cottage Burton, Mere, Warminster.  
**Proposal:** The removal of a single storey side structure and rear structure and the construct of a two storey side extension, two storey rear extension and front porch.  
**Agent:**  
**Case Officer:** Mr S Banks  
**Category Of Application:** FULL PLANNING  
**Decision:** APPROVED **Date of Decision:** 25/02/2013

**Application Number:** S / 2012 / 1587  
**Location:** Ashwell Nursery Ashwell, Mere, Warminster.  
**Proposal:** Conversion of barn into dwelling, erection of equine dental surgery, hay store and stables, change of use of land from agriculture to equestrian use and formation of new vehicular and pedestrian access  
**Agent:** Brimble, Lea & Partners Wessex House High Street Gillingham SP8 4AG.  
**Case Officer:** Mr S Banks  
**Category Of Application:** FULL PLANNING  
**Decision:** APPROVED **Date of Decision:** 05/02/2013