

*Parish Clerk - Mrs. L. C. Wood*

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 1st September 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.**

**Present:** Councillors R. Coward (Chairman), E. Mitchell (Vice-Chairman), C. Hazzard, R. Hughes, G. Jeans, Mrs. R. Porter, Mrs. L. Traves, Mrs. M. White  
Also County Cllr. Mrs. Bridget Wayman

- Also Mr. M. Whatley, Mrs. J. Sutton, Mr. R. Roberts, Mrs. R. Hyde, Mr. L. Stanton, Mr. B. Wagg, Mr. B. Hill, Mrs. S. Coward, Mr. T. Graham and Mr. Boshier, Mr. T. Traves and Mr. & Mrs. M. Durkee

**Public Session**

Mrs. Joan Sutton asked about river cleaning. The Chairman said that he was aware of the problems but that the Parish Council were unable to help at the present time and that, as far as we were aware, the Environment Agency were still scheduled to carry out a one-off clearance of the river this year.

Mrs. Hyde said that she attended a Parish Council meeting in June when the allotments at Wellhead were discussed. She pointed out that on Sunday she was approached by a couple who were outraged at the state of the allotment plot No. 14 at Wellhead and Mrs. Hyde felt that this allotment should be divided up and re-let to people who would gratefully cultivate it. Mr. Brian Hill said he had received a letter from Scottish & Southern Energy which confirmed, to him, that he is the owner of the 12' strip of land on which the Dilly House had been built. He also said that he had contacted the Land Registry and had received from them a document recording 26 properties from the Butt of Sherry up to the garage but there are now 27 properties and according to the Land Registry, Mr. Slater registered a property in a plot of land in Jubilee Gardens. Mr. Hill alleged that the Parish Council had given Castle Hill Approach or Jubilee Gardens to Mr. Slater but that Mr. Slater had built the property on the wrong piece of land. The Chairman asked Mr. Hill to appoint a solicitor to write to the Parish Council. Mr. Hill said that he did not need a solicitor as he had provided us with all the necessary details. The Chairman therefore advised Mr. Hill to write an official letter to the Parish Council, stating his claim. Mr. Hill also informed the Parish Council that they new development at Castle Hill Garage had been built on a right of way.

Mr. Quentin Skinner said that the new consultation document, issued by SDC 'Our Place in the Future' now envisaged even more houses for the Western Area. Mr. Skinner wanted to ensure that the consultation process is conducted in such a way that people could not complain about not having enough notice or enough information. Mr. Skinner said that he awaited tomorrow's public exhibition with interest but said that he understood that specific locations for future developments were not included in the consultation and he urged the Parish Council to be as explicit as possibly to ensure that a properly informed debate takes place at the outset. Mr. Skinner said that he was in the process of forming an independent committee of people from Mere & Zeals to ensure the maximum amount of communication to work in conjunction with both Mere & Zeals Parish Councils. Mr. Skinner also added that there was a large groundswell of opinion against the Siltion Wind Turbine proposals and he urged the Parish Council to submit an outright objection.

Bridget Wayman said that with reference to the exhibition tomorrow, she wondered if the Regional Spatial Strategy had taken into account the impact on this area of future development between Salisbury & Yeovil and gave for example the fact that the development

of 750 houses in Shaftesbury had been approved yet there was no parking at either Gillingham or Tisbury railway stations.

Mrs Lesley Traves said that she had met with a resident of 54 Bramley Hill regarding the poor state of the footpath and the fact that the hedge protrudes out onto the lane (along path from Bramley Hill to Castle Hill Lane) which made for poor visibility.

Mrs. Mary White said that there had been a lot of repair work to the road along The Causeway but there was one area, just before the roundabout that was in very poor condition. She also said that the surface along Mill Lane was in very bad condition and said that Mr. Terry Smith from WCC Highways had visited the site and assured her that it would be repaired but nothing had been done since and several residents were sending claims for car repairs to WCC.

Eric Mitchell said that the surface of the road along Pimperleaze Lane from Lawn Crossroads to Barrow Street was also full of potholes.

Clive Hazzard said that he felt that the threat to doctors surgeries in proposals to do away with their dispensing service should be of great concern to the Parish Council. The Chairman assured him that he had discussed this at the Western Area Committee but it was agreed that the Parish Council should write to Joe Howes of the PCT in support of the Mere Surgery.

**Apologies for absence** received from: Councillors P. Coward, M. Hall, R. Hill, D. Sealy, R. Sims & S. Squires. Also PCSO Mike Tryhorn & PC Richard Salter.

#### **174. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. R. Hughes – declared a personal interest in Minute No. 176 – Planning Application S/2008/1409

Cllr. Hazzard declared a personal & prejudicial interest in Minute No.180 a) - Payments

Cllr. R. Coward declared a personal & prejudicial interest in Minute No. 180 a) - Payments

**175. Minutes** – Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 7th July 2008 be approved as a correct record of proceedings. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 7.7.08.

**176. Applications:** (All applications can be viewed on SDC's website [www.salisbury.gov.uk/planning](http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/planning) - application search - and type in the relevant number)

NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL 2/2008/0661 – ERECT 6 NO. 120M HIGH WIND TURBINE GENERATORS, CONSTRUCTION PADS, SUBSTATION, TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION COMPOUND, INFORMATION BOARD AND MODIFY VEHICULAR ACCESS. APPLICATION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY THE TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING [ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ENGLAND AND WALES)] REGULATIONS 1999 – LAND BETWEEN WEST BOURTON AND WHISTLEY FARM, B3081 (GILLINGHAM TO WINCANTON), SILTON/GILLINGHAM, DORSET.

Cllr. Hazzard said that the Parish Council was very wary about environmental impact and he felt that proposals to build these structures that would be taller than Salisbury Cathedral would cause excessive environmental impact. County Cllr. Mrs. Wayman said that under the government's policy on renewable energy, material considerations would be taken into account but none of the material considerations seemed to apply. Cllr. Mrs. White said that, apart from the visual impact, the energy provided is going to fluctuate, the environmental costs in terms of carbon footprint is excessive considering that the turbines only have a 30 year life span and that afterwards the concrete would remain permanently in the ground but it would be covered by 18" of topsoil. Cllr. Jeans informed members that the Western Area Committee had recommended that the application should be refused, although, at the time he

did not vote because he wanted to follow the Parish Council's view. He did say, however, that he felt that if they were permitted, it may set a precedent for other similar applications. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council should recommend that the application be REFUSED for the following reasons:

- VISUAL IMPACT – the six, extremely tall turbines that are alien to and intrusive in the landscape, will be visible from a number of locations in and around Mere, including Castle Hill and areas within the AONB. This will, in turn, have a detrimental effect on tourism and economy in the Mere area and surrounding villages.
- ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT – The Parish Council is aware that huge quantities of concrete will be required to provide the foundations for these wind turbines, yet the concrete industry is the biggest manmade source of CO2 on the planet. The effectiveness of the wind turbines in producing energy is reliant on the intermittent source of wind power and the Parish Council has seen no evidence to suggest that the amount of energy provided by these wind turbines will have wider environmental and economic benefits.
- IMPACT ON HIGHWAY NETWORK – The Parish Council considers that it is likely that most (if not all) the construction traffic will use the A303. Mere is located on the A303 corridor and within the parish boundary we have one section of the A303 that is dual carriageway and one section which is single carriageway. This, in itself, causes significant problems during heavy traffic periods when this stretch of the A303 in and around Mere becomes gridlocked. This, in turn, has a detrimental effect on residents from the area who need to use the A303 on a day-to-day basis and also has a detrimental effect in attracting visitors and tourists to the area. The A303 between Mere, West Knoyle and Chicklade is a notorious black-spot and has recently suffered many fatal accidents. There will be pockets along this stretch of the A303 where the wind turbines would be visible and these may cause a distraction to drivers thereby increasing the accident statistics.
- LOCAL EMPLOYMENT – The Parish Council is not aware that the wind turbines would bring any benefits in terms of local employment once they have been built

This proposal was carried with a unanimous vote.

**NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL 2/2008/0671 – ERECT 1 NO. 50M HIGH METEOROLOGICAL MONITORING MAST FOR A TEMPORARY PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS  
LAND BETWEEN WEST BOURTON AND WHISTLEY FARM, B3081,  
GILLINGHAM.**

Cllr. Jeans advised that the Parish Council should not consider the above application as it would not have any material impact on Mere and therefore the Parish Council should not participate in the consultation. Members unanimously agreed.

S/2008/1400 – TREES IN CONS. AREA – FELL 1 X SYCAMORE, COPPICE 1 X ASH, PRUNE 1 X HAZEL BY UP TO 30%, REMOVE BUSH, 3 x APPLE TREES PRUNE BY UP TO 20% AND 1 x PLUM TREE PRUNE BY UP TO 20%.  
THE COTTAGE, OLD HOLLOW, MERE.

Cllr. Hughes proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Porter and carried with a unanimous vote.

S/2008/1409 – FULL APPLICATION – REPLACEMENT DWELLING & DETACHED GARAGE (REVISED SCHEME SUBSEQUENT TO PLANNING APPROVAL S/2007/2581)  
THE PAX, LIMPERS HILL, MERE.

Cllr. Mitchell proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a vote of 5 for and 1 abstention (Cllr. Jeans).  
Cllr. Hughes, having declared a personal interest, refrained from discussion or voting.

S/2008/1437 – FULL APPLICATION – DEMOLITION OF EXISTING SINGLE STOREY SWIMMING POOL BUILDING TOGETHER WITH EXTENSIONS/ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING BUILDING AND WALL TO SIDE DRIVE  
1 THE GRANGE, WATER STREET, MERE.

S/2008/1438 – CONS. AREA (DEMO) – DEMOLITION OF SINGLE STOREY SWIMMING POOL BUILDING AT REAR AND PART DEMOLITION OF SIDE WALL FOR RECONFIGURED SIDE ACCESS  
1 THE GRANGE, WATER STREET, MERE.

S/2008/1439 – L/BLDG DEMOLITION – DEMOLITION OF EXISTING SINGLE STOREY SWIMMING POOL BUILDING TOGETHER WITH EXTENSIONS/ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING BUILDING & WALL TO SIDE DRIVE  
1 THE GRANGE, WATER STREET, MERE.

Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the above three applications be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hughes and carried with a majority vote of 6 for and 1 abstention (Cllr. Jeans).

S/2008/1446 – FULL APPLICATION – ERECT NEW DWELLING ATTACHED TO BROCKHURST  
BROCKHURST, WHITE ROAD, MERE.

Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the Council should recommend refusal of the above application for the following reasons:

- Overdevelopment of site – this development would represent overdevelopment of the site which would result in a lack of private amenity space which would be detrimental to the potential occupiers of the dwellings and be contrary to Policy G2 of the SDC Local Plan.
- Lack of parking – the Parish Council feels that there is a lack of allocated parking on the site and that this will result in vehicles being unable to turn within the site, particularly when potential occupiers have visitors, deliveries etc.
- Lack of private amenity space – the overdevelopment will result in a lack of private amenity space
- Loss of amenity – the development will result in a loss of privacy for existing properties ‘Merendi’ to the west and ‘Gleanings’ to the north with first floor windows overlooking gardens etc.

Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. White and carried with a vote of 5 for and 2 abstentions.

**b) *Our Place in the Future*** – With reference to the new Local Development Framework consultation document that was distributed to each household in August, the Chairman said that he would urge all councillors to attend SDC’s exhibition tomorrow (Grove Buildings). It was agreed that the Parish Council should convene a public meeting so that the Parish Council can hear the views of the parishioners. It was agreed that, ideally, the public meeting should be held after the Western Area Committee meeting and before the next Parish Council meeting and that the Parish Council should try and book the school hall. It was agreed that the Parish Council would keep urging the District Council to send an officer to the meeting.

### **177. Matters Arising**

- a) *County Councillors Report* – nothing further to add  
b) *District Councillors Report to include report on Western Area Committee meetings held on Thursday, 24th July & Thursday, 21st August + communication regarding garages to service Clements Lane* – Cllr. Jeans confirmed that the Western Area Committee had discussed the issue of signs on the A303 and said that it seemed likely that there may be an Appeal on the Wookey Hole issue. There was also an update from the Primary Care Trust in which they denied any closure of surgeries in the Western Area.

Cllr. Jeans confirmed that in respect of the garages, he had recently discovered that there was no condition tying the four garages at the rear of the Huntsgate Development to the four council tenanted houses on Clements Lane, even though the whole idea of providing the garages was to get reduce on-street parking in Clements Lane. After much correspondence and discussion with officers, Cllr. Jeans had reached a compromise with SDC and asked the Clerk to minute the following:

Cllr. Jeans received a letter from Mr. C. L. Kemp, the Housing Manager for Area 2 which says ‘ I write to confirm that the garages have now either been let to, or are in the process of being let to, local people who live nearby. Where these people are not Council tenants, the garages have been let on the understanding (confirmed by way of letter) that their tenancy may be terminated in the future in favour of a tenant expressing a wish to rent one.’

Cllr. Jeans also confirmed that the Wookey Hole advertisement sign on the A303 had been discussed and that there was support from the Old Ship Hotel.

- c) *Report from Community Safety Representative* – deferred  
d) *Report from Transport Representative* – deferred  
e) *Best Kept Village Competition – County Round Results 2008* – deferred  
f) *One Council for Wiltshire* – invitation to meeting at Wilton on 13th October – deferred  
Update on Area Board/Community Area Partnership  
situation – deferred

Report on meeting with Richard Munro – deferred

Delegation to Town & Parish Councils – deferred

### **178. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths & Transport**

- a) *Parish Steward* – it was agreed to ask the Parish Steward to spray the footpath from the end of Mill Lane leading to Ashfield Water and to clear the vegetation from around the road sign by the Walnut Tree.

### **179. Allotments**

- a) *Request to erect shed at Southbrook Allotments* – members were happy to grant permission for the shed as detailed in the letter from Mrs. Phillips.

### **180. Finance & Resources**

- a) *Payments:* Cllr. Jeans proposed that the following accounts be approved for payment. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. White and carried with a majority vote. Cllrs. R. Coward and C. Hazzard, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, left the room whilst this item was discussed.

North Street Nurseries	Memorial Wreath for Wessex Memorial	25.00
1. R. Diesels	Repairs for tractor	152.71

Mere Swimming Pool	Insurance claim – donation	521.90
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil for July	155.00
		already pd
R. J. Coward	Travel expenses since 1.1.08 (6 meetings in Salisbury & 2 in Dinton)	118.40
North Street Nurseries	Summer planting of tubs and beds	660.35
T. Thornley	Repairs to computer	60.33 already pd
Rutter & Rutter Solicitors	Norwich Union insurance renewal for Ford New Holland Tractor	375.83
Mere School	Electricity 16.4.08 – 2.7.08 – Changing Rooms	43.44
Mere School	Electricity 16.4.08 – 2.7.08 – Swimming Pool	245.59
Mere School	Gas 16.4.08 – 2.7.08 – Changing Rooms	81.80
Mere School	Water & Sewerage 16.4.08 – 2.7.08 – Swimming Pool	248.75
Mere School	Water & Sewerage 16.4.08 – 2.7.08 – Changing Rooms	22.00
Mere School	Water & Sewerage 16.4.08 – 2.7.08 – Bowling Green & Pavilion	37.60
Tincknell Fuels Ltd	Fuel & Oil	182.96 + 49.02
Cash	Groundsman’s mobile phone top-up	10.00
Cash	Reimbursement for new mobile phone	55.00
B & S Chains	Swing seats for Castle Hill Play Area	174.38
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil for August	144.16
Imprest Account (Cheque Nos. 2498 - 2508	PAYE, Wages, pension, petty cash	????
Shaftesbury Garden Machinery	Repairs to ride-on mower & hedgecutter	128.70
T. Thornley	Domain renewal (5 years)	83.20

**b) Application for Policy R2 funding from Mere Boules & Croquet Club** – The Chairman allowed Julian Mackie, Chairman of the Mere Croquet & Boules Club, to speak – Mr. Mackie said that the club now had 30 members and a commitment from SDC for a 10 year lease on the site. They had received a grant for £2k from SWAG which we would be put towards a pavilion and legal fees but this left them with little funds for ground maintenance and refurbishment. Cllr. Hazzard said that the Club was requesting funds for a mower, strimmer and hedgecutter and stand-alone toilet and croquet equipment up to a total cost of £2,600 to be funded from R2 (providing the R2 officer agrees). Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the quotations should be forwarded to SDC to confirm that the equipment was compliant. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hughes and carried with a unanimous vote. The Clerk stated that, if Policy R2 Developers Funds were appropriate, the Croquet & Boules Club would need to be aware that the machinery and equipment would legally belong to the Parish Council and that there would be conditions as to the use of the machinery, insurance and maintenance. Cllr. Hazzard congratulated the Croquet and Boules Club on their progress.

**c) Sale of Assets** - deferred

**d) Employment Issues** - deferred

1. Clarification on situation regarding felled timber

2. Update and revision of Contracts of Employment, Grievance Procedure & Disciplinary Procedure
3. To consider Grievance Procedure (Draft Consultation document attached)

### **181. General Items**

- a) *Register land with Land Registry* - deferred
- b) *Mere Walks* - deferred

### **12. Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground**

#### **13. Clerks Report**

Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the Clerks Report be confirmed and adopted. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hazzard and carried with a unanimous vote.

Owing to the lateness (9.48 p.m.), it was agreed that the Council would hold a further meeting on 15th September in order to discuss the deferred items.