

Parish Clerk - Mrs. L. C. Wood

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

Present: Councillors: R. Coward (Chairman), E. Mitchell (Vice-Chairman), P. Coward, C. Hazzard, R. Hill, G. Jeans, D. Sealy, R. Sims, S. Squires, Mrs. L. Traves, & Mrs. M. White
Also: County Cllr. Mrs. B. Wayman, P. C. Richard Salter, Mr. R. Potter, Mr. M. Whatley and Mr. L. Stanton

Meeting convened at 7.37 p.m. with Public Session

P. C. Richard Salter was attending the meeting in order to give some feedback on issues raised last month:

Traffic Enforcement – PC Salter explained that the Speed Indicator Devices are implemented following a survey from a counter. He explained that Mere had just received a count survey but he did not yet know the results. Cllr. Sealy asked if it would be possible to have a traffic counter on the Shaftesbury Road. He had asked PCSO Michael Tryhorn to keep an eye on the parking issues along Castle Street, especially near the new development.

Thefts – PC Salter reported that enquiries were ongoing regarding the attempted theft of the flower tub. He explained that there were a number of recent burglaries, particularly in the Tisbury area, and he wanted people to be aware of these as it seemed to be a seasonal recurrence. PC Salter explained that the police liaison officer would be attending the A303 closure meeting on 4th December and on 7th December they would be running an operation to stop hare coursing and off-roading on private property.

Cllr. Jeans explained that the Parish Council would be reinstating the wooden stakes to stop vehicular access onto the Recreation ground and asked if the police would be able to take action in the event of someone pulling out the stakes and driving around the Recreation Ground. PC Salter said that he hopes they would send someone out to deal with such a problem.

PC Salter explained that in January, PCSO Michael Tryhorn is leaving in order to go to another posting because he wanted to work in a bigger town or city. His replacement is being trained at the present time and Michael Tryhorn will not leave until his replacement starts work.

Cllr. Sims asked if PC Salter was still receiving letters in his letter box in the post office and PC Salter replied that very occasionally he received some correspondence.

Apologies for absence received from Councillors M. Hall and M. Peirce.

213. Declarations of Interest – Cllr. R. Sims declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 218 a) - Payments.

214. Minutes – To approve Minutes of Parish Council meetings held on Monday, 6th October 2008 – Cllr. Hazzard said that, as he had taken the trouble to declare an interest and prepared a statement which he read out in the public session, he felt that his statement should have been summarized or become part of the Minutes. It was agreed that Page 1 of the Minutes would be amended to read ‘..... *Mr. Clive Hazzard said that he had an interest in the same issue and because he would need to declare an interest as a parish councillor, he read out a statement in the public session, as attached.....*’ (*The statement would henceforth be attached to the Minutes*). Cllr. Hazzard also said that he understood that, with reference to Minute No. 196 a), Cllr. Mrs. Porter had proposed that the letter should be sent to Mr.

Button's superiors and elected representatives **and the press**, outlining the points that had been raised in the public session. With these amendments, Cllr. Jeans proposed that the Minutes be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hill and carried with a majority vote of those present.

Monday, 20th October 2008 – Cllr. Squires proposed that the Minutes be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Sims and carried with a majority vote of those present.

Monday 3rd November 2008 – Cllr. P. Coward proposed that the Minutes be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. D. Sealy and carried with a majority vote of those present.

Minutes of Annual Budget Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th November 2008 – Cllr. Mitchell proposed that the Minutes be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Hill and carried with a majority vote of those present.

215. Planning

a) Applications: (All applications can be viewed on SDC's website www.salisbury.gov.uk/planning – application search – and type in the relevant number)

S/2008/1880 - FULL APPLICATION – ERECTION OF AGRICULTURAL DWELLING
SWAINSFORD FISH FARM, WOODLANDS ROAD, MERE

Cllr. Mrs. White explained that she had visited the site. The dwelling is to be beside the fishing lake, overlooking the lake, where, at the present time, there is a hut. Cllr. Jeans explained that there is a parallel planning application going through the system at the present time for an agricultural dwelling further away from the lake. However, this application has not yet been determined because they have found some protected species on the site. Members felt that this application was probably more likely to succeed than an application to build an agricultural dwelling further away from the lake and also because there is a hill behind the site which would screen the building. Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. White and carried with a vote of 8 for and 2 abstentions (Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting).

S/2008/1861 – FULL APPLICATION – PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR BEDROOM EXTENSION OVER EXISTING SINGLE STOREY REAR BATHROOM AND ATTIC CONVERSION
34 WHITE ROAD, MERE.

Cllr. Hill proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sims and carried with a vote of 9 for and 1 abstention (Cllr. Jeans abstained)

S/2008/1951 – TREES WITH TPO – CROWN REDUCTION OF A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 20 BEECH TREES (TPO 207)
CHARNAGE QUARRY, CHARNAGE, MERE.

Cllr. Jeans explained that Vodafone was the applicant and the works were proposed because the trees had grown to block the dish signal from the adjacent Vodafone mast providing intermittent coverage. Members felt that these trees were very prominent when viewed from Castle Hill and also from the Charnage Junction on to the A303 opposite and that they made a significant contribution to the visual amenity of the area. Cllr. Mitchell proposed that the application should be recommended for refusal because the crown reduction of the trees would be detrimental to visual amenity. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. White and carried with a vote of 9 for and 1 abstention (Cllr. Jeans).

216. Matters Arising

a) *County Councillors Report* – Cllr. Mrs. Wayman reported that County Cllr. Tony Deane (Nadder Valley ward) had collected the confiscated 'A' frame signs from the Wilton Depot and had delivered them to Cllr. Jeans. She said she was still willing to take the matter further

should the Parish Council wish. Mrs. Wayman also reported that Bishopstone Parish Council had raised worries about the possibility of changes to the way Policy R2 funds will be distributed under policies made by the new Wiltshire Council. It is anticipated that the funds will be distributed via the Area Boards rather than via the individual Parish Councils. The Parish Council expressed a strong feeling against these new proposals – as was already expressed by the majority of Parish Councils at the Parish & Town Council Liaison Meeting hosted by Salisbury District Council – and the Clerk was asked to write to the Chairman of the Implementation Executive.

b) District Councillors Report to include report on Western Area Committee meeting held on 13.11.08 – Cllr. Jeans reported that the Western Area Committee had reached a compromise situation regarding the Wookey Hole sign on the A303 and it would now be granted permission under a S. 106 legal agreement. Cllr. Jeans also reported that the Area Boards had found it necessary to amend their minutes and he was going to explain the new structure in Mere Matters for everyone to see.

c) Advertising signs –information from G. Jeans – Cllr. Jeans informed those present that he had learnt, at the meeting of Market Towns in Wiltshire, that some towns do not want any ‘A’ frame advertising boards. Cllr. Jeans agreed that the Fish and Chip shop and the Café both needed to have some kind of town centre advertising in order to attract the attention of those passing through the town (as they were off the main road) but he felt that the Parish Council should decide their preferred policy. Cllr. Hazzard said that the Parish Council was objecting to the inconsistency of the enforcement of the planning law and it was agreed that the previous objection letter should be sent to the press.

e) Report from Community Safety Representative – Cllr. Sims reported that there had been no meeting since his last report.

f) Report from Transport Representative – Cllr. Sims reported that those associated with Connect 2 had expressed concerns relating to the uncertainty of future funding given the new authority arrangements.

217. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths & Transport

a) Parish Steward –job list for next visit – members identified the following jobs:

- Drain cover outside Marketplace House
- Large pothole in Woodlands Road (outside Hill Brush Company offices) and others near junction with Shaftesbury Road.
- Sinking road along Mill Lane

b) Closure of A303T – Report on meeting convened by InterRoute on 5th November and implications of road closure on Mere and surrounding area – The Clerk informed members that she had attended part of the meeting in Wincanton on 5th November and was surprised to see so many Gillingham & Shaftesbury Town, District & County Councillors present but no councillors from Wiltshire. The team discussed their proposals to close the A303 for a 12 week period starting in February and discussed the official diversions for eastbound traffic and westbound traffic, although they stressed that there would obviously be some drivers that would try and take shorter diversion routes, either those with local knowledge or those relying on SatNavs. The Clerk pointed out to the team that the shortest diversion would be through Mere and West Knoyle both east and west bound and the team were unaware that this could be done so she had to show them on a map. The Clerk pointed out that she was very unhappy that this meeting was supposed to have been a key stakeholder meeting and yet there were no local councillors present and indeed, the Clerk had only found out about the meeting by chance. The InterRoute team were holding a series of three discussion meetings,

one of which would be in the Lecture Hall, Mere on Thursday, 4th December. County Cllr. Bridget Wayman explained that she had never received any correspondence from the Highways Agency or InterRoute about the proposals to close the A303 or the stakeholder meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to InterRoute expressing our dismay at their lack of consultation/communication and stating our worries for traffic congestion in Mere should drivers decide to take the shortest diversion. It was agreed that a copy of this letter should be sent to Dr. Andrew Murrison, MP. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman confirmed that they would be at the discussion meeting on 4th December at 5.00 p.m.

c) Parish Improvement Grant to help parishes improve their rights of way - deferred

218. Finance & Resources

a) Payments: Cllr. Squires felt that the Parish Council should use an on-line comparison site for the commercial van insurance as he felt this was quite expensive. It was agreed that this would be done next year. Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the payments be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. White and carried with a majority vote. (Cllr. Sims, who declared a personal and prejudicial interest, left the room whilst the matter was discussed).

Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd	Grounds Equipment for bowling green	3790.78
Mere Fabricating & Welding Services	To repair MUGA fencing	3710.65
Tincknell Fuels	Gas oil	182.96
Gordon Gill Fine Turf Maintenance Ltd	Treatment to cricket square	82.25
Rochford Garden Machinery	Strimmers	628.00
Rochford Garden Machinery	Strimmer line	34.99
D. Phillips (Insurance Brokers) Ltd	Commercial Van Insurance renewal (Diahatsu)	391.42
Shaftesbury Garden Machinery	Service to Husqvarna ride-on mower	276.13
Shaftesbury Garden Machinery	Repairs to Echo hedge-trimmer	34.66
Rochford Garden Machinery Ltd	New strimmers	662.99
Rochford Garden Machinery Ltd	Equipment for Croquet/boules	2043.58
R. Sims	Travel expenses to Corsham Town Hall	28.70
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil	73.71
Imprest Account (cheque Nos. 2529 - 2542)	Salaries, PAYE, Pension, Petty Cash	946.23
Bourton Fencing	Wooden stakes for Rec.	20.56

b) To approve recommendations made by Budget Committee as set out in Minutes of Annual Budget Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th November 2008 - Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the recommendations be approved without amendment. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a unanimous vote.

c) To approve Precept on Salisbury District Council for 2009/10 – as recommended in the Minutes of the Annual Budget meeting, members approved a Precept requirement of £76,978 for the 2009/10 financial year.

219. General Items

a) Policy on the use of e-mails and ICT (Information & Communications Technology) – guidance from SDC – The Clerk informed members that during September 2008 the Standards committee conducted a hearing into an allegation that a parish councillor had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct through showing lack of respect for others. The Committee concluded that the allegation had been substantiated and much of the evidence supporting this was in the content of e-mails which had been circulated. At the time of the complaint the parish concerned did not have a policy on the use of e-mail although it has subsequently adopted one. The Standards Committee were commending that those parish councils which have not yet adopted such a policy should do so. SDC had attached a copy of their policy which was quite extensive. Members asked the Clerk to produce a simplified draft version for adoption at a future meeting.

b) Report on South West Wiltshire Area Board Steering Group Meeting (Wednesday, 5th November) – the Clerk and Chairman had attended this meeting.

c) Report on meeting to discuss special issues relating to Market Towns of Wiltshire (Wednesday, 12th November 2008) – Cllr. Jeans and Cllr. Sims attended the meeting which, they said, was informative and useful. They discussed issues relating to the new Unitary Authority and how it proposed to deliver services and functions.

d) Report on Parish & Town Council Liaison Meeting – Salisbury City Hall (Wednesday, 19th November) – The Clerk, Chairman and Cllr. Hazzard had attended the meeting. Those present received an update on the Local Government Reorganisation. Cllr. Hazzard raised the subject of cross border funding for leisure and sports centres and stated that the Unitary Authority had agreed to fund Salisbury Arts Funds for further 2 years. Cllr. Hazzard also raised the issue of advertising boards. There was a general discussion on the issue of R2 monies and the Chief Executive undertook to write to WCC to request information as to whether parish councils will continue to allocate this money.

e) Report on Pre-Launch Briefing on the Tisbury & Parishes Community Area Partnership (Wednesday, 26th November) – The Clerk explained that she had attended this meeting and was made aware that East Knoyle Parish Council along with Semley & Sedgehill Parish Council had expressed interest in joining the Tisbury & Parishes Community Area Partnership. The Clerk was slightly concerned that this would leave the Mere Area Community Partnership rather small, since Maiden Bradley would also not now be inclusive. However, there were some thoughts that this would not necessarily be disadvantageous and parishes were being encouraged to join other Community Partnerships if there were common matters of interest to debate/discuss. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to East Knoyle, Kilmington, Maiden Bradley & Yarnfield, Stourton with Gasper, Sedgehill & Semley, West Knoyle & Zeals Parish Councils to assess interest and involvement in a Community Area Partnership to influence the South West Wiltshire Area Board.

220. Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground – no discussion

Cllr. Mrs. Traves volunteered to judge the xmas lights this year again.

The Parish Council expressed their gratitude to Cllr. P. Coward for his help in erecting the Xmas Tree and lights. The Parish Council also agreed that a letter should be sent to Melinda Emby to thank her for organizing the Xmas Lighting ceremony.

The Clerk confirmed that the January meeting would take place on Monday, 12th January 2009

Exclusion of the Press & Public

It was resolved that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by S100 of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public for the remaining items of the agenda and the minutes for the remainder of this meeting would not be available to the press and public since it would represent a disclosure of personal information involving staff.