

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

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting to be held on Monday, 12th May 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Andy Young Pavilion, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere.**

**Present:** Councillors R. Coward (Chairman), Mrs. M. White (Vice-Chairman), C. Hazzard, R. Hill (from 8.20 p.m.), R. Hughes, G. Jeans, E. Mitchell, M. Peirce, D. Sealy, R. Sims, S. Squires, & Mrs. L. Traves.

Also: Mrs. A. Howell, T. Traves & L. Stanton.

Meeting convened at 7.35 p.m. Before the election of the Chairman took place, Cllr. Coward wanted to read out a letter from Mr. A. Holder stating his upset about the Chairmanship of the Annual Parish Meeting.

**138. To elect Chairman of Mere Parish Council for 2008/09**

Cllr. Hazzard proposed that Cllr. R. Coward be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. White and carried with a unanimous vote.

**139. To elect Vice-Chairman of Mere Parish Council for 2008/09**

Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that Cllr. E. Mitchell be elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hughes and carried with a unanimous vote. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs White for her help and support in her role as Vice-Chairman over the past year.

**The Chairman and Vice-Chairman signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and**

**Cllr. Rodney Coward in The Chair**

**140. Representatives – the following representatives were appointed/re-appointed to outside bodies/organisations:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>2008/09 Representative</b>
Youth Club	Cllrs. R. Coward & C. Hazzard
Cricket Club	Cllr. Mrs. Mary White
Western Area Committee	Chairman & Vice-Chairman
Health & Community Care	Cllr. R. Hill
Tennis Club	Cllr. G. Jeans
Football Club	Cllr. E. Mitchell
Public Transport	Cllr. Roy Sims
Mere & District Linkscheme	Mrs. Adrienne Howell
Museum Committee	Cllr. Mrs. Lesley Traves
Footpath Group	Mr. Pete Button
Chamber of Trade	Cllr. P. Coward
Friends of Mere Museum	Cllrs. Mrs. Lesley Traves
School Governor	Cllr. G. Jeans
Police Consultative Group	Cllr. M. Hall
Community Safety Partnership	Cllr. Roy Sims
Swimming Club	Cllr. R. Hughes
Mere Bowling Club	Cllr. S. Squires
Carnival Committee	Cllr. D. Sealy

#### **141. To appoint/re-appoint Trustees for Forest Charities**

The existing Trustees were re-appointed (R. Coward, R. Hughes, G. Jeans and Mrs. Myrene Coward).

#### **142. To consider bank accounts & signatory arrangements**

With reference to Minute No. 82e) of November 2007, the Clerk informed members that Lloyds TSB had not been able to offer any alternative solution to avoid the transaction charges as a business but that she had also received negative feedback on the free banking facilities offered by Co-operative Bank which would need to be operated through the local post office (cheques were sometimes lost and often took a long time to be credited to accounts). No action had therefore been taken. Members agreed that the convenience of local banking might outweigh the inconvenience and costs involved and it was agreed that this situation should be monitored and discussed again at the Annual Budget Meeting. In the meantime, Cllr. Jeans said that he would talk to the business manager at Lloyds TSB. It was agreed that the existing accounts and signatories should remain the same.

#### **Meeting closed for public session**

#### **Public Session**

Mrs. Adrienne Howell said that she thought the Chairman conducted the Annual Parish Meeting extremely well. Mrs. Howell asked the Parish Council to look into the possibility of transferring assets when SDC is dissolved and the Unitary Authority comes into effect. Mrs. Howell gave particular mention to the old band hut in Castle Street Car Park. It was agreed that this would be raised on the next agenda with a list of possible assets for transfer.

Mrs. Howell also spoke on behalf of the Shreenwater residents and said that the green area outside Shreenwater Cottages was still an awful mess and that the developers had leveled the Duchy field but had not done anything to The Green. Drainage water from Old Hollow Rise site was now going into the river at this point but the river was extremely overgrown.

Mr. Hazzard said that it had been mentioned to him repeatedly that the Mere website did not come up immediately when using a search engine such as Google and it was agreed that this situation should be rectified.

Mrs. White wanted to thank the Chairman and Cllr. Hazzard for their work in providing the new artificial cricket wicket.

Mr. Sims said that nothing had been done to repair the broken drain cover in Boar Street and said that there was an area outside Chalkes where the pavement was sinking and causing difficulties for the elderly and wheelchair users.

#### **Meeting reconvened**

**Apologies for absence** received from Councillors P. Coward & M. Hall. Also from PC Richard Salter and PCSO Michael Tryhorn.

#### **143. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr.G. Jeans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application S/2008/814 and also in Minute No. 150 a) (Finance)

Cllr. R. Coward declared a personal interest in planning application S/2008/814

Cllr. C. Hazzard declared a personal interest in planning application S/2008/814

Cllr. R. Hughes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 150 a) (Finance)

The Clerk, Mrs. L. Wood declared a personal interest in Minute No. 150 a) (Finance)

**144. Minutes** – Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 7th April 2008 be approved as a correct record of proceedings. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Sims and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 7.4.08.

## 145. Planning

a) 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)

S/2008/684 – FULL APPLICATION – ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR & SIDE EXTENSION  
MAGNOLIA HOUSE, 3 LOVAGE WAY, MERE.

Cllr. Squires proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Peirce and carried with a vote of 7 for and 3 abstentions.

S/2008/728 – FULL APPLICATION – CONVERSION OF LODGE TO PAIR OF RETIREMENT  
DWELLINGS (REVISIONS TO ELEVATIONAL TREATMENT AND INTERNAL REDESIGN)  
THE LODGE, CASTLE STREET, MERE.

Cllr. Peirce proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hazzard and carried with a vote of 8 for and 2 abstentions.

S/2008/729 – LISTED BLDG (WKS) – CONVERSION OF LODGE TO PAIR OF RETIREMENT  
DWELLINGS (REVISIONS TO ELEVATIONAL TREATMENT AND INTERNAL REDESIGN)  
THE LODGE, CASTLE STREET, MERE.

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

S/2008/798 – FULL APPLICATION – ERECT NEW DWELLING  
BUTTS PADDOCK, SOUTHBROOK, MERE.

Cllr. R. Hughes proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sealy but was lost with a vote of 3 for and 5 against.

It was therefore agreed to recommend refusal of the application for the following reasons:

- a) Overdevelopment – the Parish Council considers this application to be overdevelopment of a small site.
- b) Poor access – Not shown on the location plan is a mini roundabout in the road on the junction between the Walnut Tree Inn and the property adjacent to this site. This mini roundabout has poor visibility coming out of Walnut Road turning south-east (towards the site) and visa versa – vehicles coming out of this site would not see if there are any vehicles at the roundabout coming from Walnut Road.
- c) The Parish Council feels that this proposed development would have a detrimental effect on surrounding properties and their amenities.

S/2008/814 – FULL APPLICATION – INSERT ROOFLIGHT WINDOWS INTO NORTH AND EAST ROOF  
PLANES

3 BOAR STREET, MERE.

Cllr. Jeans, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, left the room whilst this item was discussed. Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Squires and carried with a vote of 7 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions. ( Cllr. R. Coward and C. Hazzard, having declared a personal interest in this item, refrained from voting or discussion.)

## 146. Matters Arising

**a) Report from County Councillor** – not present.

**b) Report from District Councillor to include report on Western Area Committee Meeting held on 1st May** – Cllr. Jeans reported that the last Western Area Committee meeting had discussed Rural Transport Issues and the need to make improvements to the A303.

**c) Report from Transport Representative** – Cllr. Sims attended an informative highways presentation at Wilton on 28th April covering issues on Office/IT Systems, Gritters & Weather Emergencies, Cleansing & Fingerpost signs.

**d) Report from Community Safety Representative** – Cllr. Sims stated that in the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter this month there is a request for information on CCTV coverage in the Mere area and there have been two thefts of fuel oil in the area – one in West Knoyle and one at Mere Swimming Pool. The new Community Contact Point in Mere Library works on the same principles as a police enquiry office. Cllr. Sims also reported on the Home Watch scheme which is being carried out by the rubbish collection staff.

**e) Siting of Christmas Tree (deferred from last meeting)** – The Chairman confirmed that he and the Clerk had met Mr. David Button from WCC Highways to discuss the issue of the Christmas Tree. It had been agreed to move the tree over towards Salisbury Street a little more so that it would not cause an overhang or obstruction issue.

**f) Bus shelter in The Square (deferred from last meeting)** – The Chairman and Clerk had also discussed with Mr. Button (WCC Highways) the possibility of providing a bus shelter in The Square (outside Balcony Cottages). Mr. Button felt that the County's standard bus shelters may not be considered suitable for a Conservation Area and that a more elaborate bus shelter would need to be funded by the Parish Council. Members expressed concern that a bus shelter in The Square could potentially become a youth shelter in the evenings which could cause noise problems. It was therefore agreed that no further action should be taken on this matter.

**g) Report on meeting held with Chamber of Trade + letter from Mere & District Chamber of Trade (deferred from last meeting)** – Cllr. Hazzard asked if the Parish Council could ask a representative of the Chamber of Trade to attend the next meeting in order to give a report.

**h) Report on Parish Meeting & Greet Evening** – Cllr. Mrs. White reported on the meeting held on Tuesday 22nd April which was hosted by WCC to discuss proposals under Unitary Authority. Jane Scott, the Leader of Wiltshire County Council chaired the meeting and we were informed that there were going to be in the region of 98 Unitary councillors elected in May 2009 and there will be further consideration of the actual boundaries that those councillors will cover. There were discussions about the services and assets that Parish Councils might like to take on and it was suggested that the Unitary Authority might transfer assets solely used for community purposes to Parish & Town Councils. There were discussions on Parish Council alliances, where a group of Parish Councils might like to join together to deliver certain services and share the costs. Area Boards were talked about and several Parish Councils aired their concerns about the make-up of these boards which could include unelected representatives of groups like the police, health services etc, and whether or not they would be accountable to the public. The Unitary Authority is envisaging 20 community areas. Cllr. Jeans said that he was concerned about Development Control and said that at the moment all District Councillors actively participated in planning but in the new Authority there will be only 1 in every 2 councillors involved in planning and many more of the planning decisions will be delegated to officers.

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

**a) Suggestion to gather team of volunteers to build/refurbish stiles (last month's public session)** – with reference to the information that was brought up by Mr. Button, it was agreed to place a notice in Mere Matters.

**b) Letter from Miss J. Blower regarding suggestion for one-way traffic at Manor Road to North Street and Upper Water Street** – The Council had received correspondence from Mrs. Bower suggesting the one-way traffic flow to alleviate the problem of traffic congestion along Upper Water Street. It was felt that although the idea, in principle, might seem a good one, it would not be practical because large delivery vehicles and farm vehicles would not be able to negotiate the one-way system.

## 148. Allotments

a) *Allotment rent audit* – deferred.

b) *Site meeting at Wellhead allotments* – it was agreed that Cllr. S. Squires, Mrs. M. White & the Chairman would meet the Clerk on site on Wednesday, 21st May at 10 a.m.

## 149. Sport Development

a) *Sport Development Meeting* – it was agreed that a Sports Development Meeting would be arranged for Wednesday, 28th May at 7.30 p.m. in Andy Young Pavilion.

## 150. Finance

a) *Payments:* Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the following accounts be approved for payment. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sims and carried with a vote of 8 for. (Cllrs. Hughes & Jeans, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, left the room whilst this item was discussed).

Cash	Reimbursement for mobile phone top-up	£10.00
Allianz Insurance plc	Additional premium	£46.74
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil	125.26
C & O Tractors Ltd	New trailer	1821.25
Shaftesbury Garden Machinery	New Husqvarna Brushcutter	259.99
Shaftesbury Garden Machinery	Backpack sprayer	59.95
Community First	Membership & company guarantor	34.00
Cash	Padlock (security for Duchy grounds) – Sydenhams	25.40
Jeans Electricals	Repairs to outdoor light for Andy Young Pavilion	34.01
Piggotts	New Union flag	175.37
Scats Countrystores	Health & Safety – Protective boots	39.99
Richard Hughes	Tree planting in cemetery	344.50
Richard Hughes	New gate + repairs to gate at Castle Hill Play Area	118.00
Somerset County Council	Affiliate/Associate Membership to South West Provincial Employers Organisation	293.75
ClufTurf Cricket Limited	30m ClubTurf ‘International’ Pitch	8413.00
Mere School	Water & Sewerage for Changing Rooms 9.1.08 – 16.4.08	56.30
Mere School	Electricity for swimming pool 9.1.08 – 16.4.08	4.30
Mere School	Electricity for Changing Rooms – 9.1.08 – 16.4.08	89.66
Mere School	Gas for changing rooms – 9.1.08 – 16.4.08	244.03
Mere School	Water & Sewerage for bowling green – 9.1.08 – 16.4.08	14.46
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	Membership renewal	36.00
Agri-Line	Drilling-re-seed Duchy Manor grounds	229.13
AR Diesels	Repairs to New Holland tractor	106.63
Allianz Insurance plc	Local Council Insurance – Annual Premium	2266.58
Wiltshire Association of Local Councils	Annual Subscription	709.36
Imprest Account	Payroll, petty cash reimbursement etc.	????
Wessex Water	Standpipe at Manor Road allotments	8.95

b) *To approve Budget/Expenditure Report at 31.3.08 and verify bank balances* – deferred.

## 151. General Items

*a) General Community Fund* – information from SDC on new grant scheme (deferred from last meeting) – the Clerk informed members about the fund and it was agreed that those members who represent groups and organizations would pass on the information.

**152. Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity** – nothing discussed

Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.