

Parish Clerk - Mrs. L. C. Wood

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 1st June 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

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

Also P. C. Richard Salter,

Also P. Button, Mrs. R. Hyde, L. Stanton, R. Potter and M. Whatley.

Public Session

Mr. Peter Button pointed out that access to footpaths in Mere is not generally a problem but some newer landowners had taken to fencing off their land and leaving alleys where the footpaths run and in many cases the footpaths are running alongside hedges which have now become overgrown and the enclosed footpath therefore becomes obstructed. Mr. Button said that Footpaths 23 and 24 were affected around the Burton/Mill Lane areas. Cllr. Mrs. White said that she had spoken to the Rights of Way Warden about this problem. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the landowners to inform them of their responsibilities.

P. C. Richard Salter wished to make a statement relating to an incident two weeks ago involving an attempted abduction in the Castle Hill Area. P. C. Salter explained that a press release had been issued and wanted to reassure residents and especially parents that there was nothing to worry about and that the incident was of a suspicious nature.

Mrs. Traves reported that the notice at the bottom of Castle Hill Approach had broken and was in pieces and that there was a loose hand rail on the steps leading up to the pavement along Castle Street (opposite the car park).

Mr. Squires reported that the road lines had been repainted in The Square and Church Street and that the 6' lettering for the Keep Clear sign in Church Street remained in place. Mr. Squires understood that this size lettering should only be allowed on dual carriageways and motorways and certainly not in Conservation Areas.

The Clerk reported that Jeans Electricals and the Hill Brush Company had completed the necessary solar powered fittings for the old gas light in the cemetery.

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. P. Coward.

281. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Hill declared a personal interest in Planning Application S/2009/698 and in Minute No. 289

Cllr. G. Jeans declared a personal interest in Planning Application S/2009/655

Cllr. C. Hazzard declared a personal & prejudicial interest in Minute No. 290a)

282. Minutes – Cllr. Squires proposed that the Minutes of Parish Council meetings held on Monday, 11th May 2009 be approved as a correct record of proceedings. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sims and carried with a unanimous vote.

283. 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/2009/655/FULL – FULL PLANNING – PROPOSED DWELLING INCLUDING ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING VEHICULAR ACCESS.

LAND ADJ. TO BIRCHLEA, BOAR STREET, MERE.

Cllr. Mrs. White pointed out that the county archaeologist had recommended that an archaeological survey should be undertaken before work is started.

Cllr. Squires proposed that the application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hill and carried with a vote of 8 for and 3 abstentions. Cllr. Jeans, who had declared a personal interest, left the room whilst this matter was discussed.

S/2009/692/FULL – FULL PLANNING – ERECTION OF A PAIR OF SEMI-DETACHED 2 STOREY DWELLINGS

2 WHITE ROAD, MERE

Cllr. Mrs. White pointed out that the application states that three trees will be felled and she also said that she could not find any mention of sewerage and water drainage within the application paperwork. Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the application should be recommended for approval but that it should be noted that there is a well-used children's play area and recreation ground adjacent to the proposed development and that the design of these properties should take this into account so that there are no future complaints about noise or intrusion. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sealy and carried with a majority vote (2 abstentions).

S/2009/705/FULL – FULL PLANNING – SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AND PORCH. AMENDMENTS TO PARKING/TURNING AREA.

THE MEADOWS, LIMPERS HILL, MERE.

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

S/2009/698/TCA – TREES CONS. AREA – FELL 2 NO. THUJA

2 THE GRANGE, WATER STREET, MERE.

Cllr. R. Hughes proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a majority vote. Cllr. Hill, having declared a personal interest, refrained from discussion or voting.

b) Statement of Community Involvement – Preliminary Consultation – the Clerk informed members that a letter from Wiltshire Council had been received stating that they would be using the minimum requirements for consultations, as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended) as a basis for a new Statement of Community Involvement to be used for consultations on Local Development Documents. The Wiltshire Council did not want to use the four separate Statements of Community Involvement that had been adopted by the District Councils because they felt that the different consultation arrangements in different parts of Wiltshire would cause confusion. Wiltshire Council is therefore developing a new Statement of Community Involvement as a means of determining how local input into the Local Development Framework will be gathered. Wiltshire Council would welcome thoughts on what the new Wiltshire SCI should contain. The Clerk suggested that Wiltshire Council should be asked to advertise any consultation events, meetings & documents in the Blackmore Vale as well as other local newspapers.

284. Matters Arising

a) Wiltshire Councillors Report - none

b) Report from Community Safety Representative - none

c) Report from Transport Representative - none

285. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths & Transport

a) Parish Steward –job list for next visit:

- Potholes along Shaftesbury Road, just before reaching mini-roundabout.
- Hedge creeping out to obstruct junction sign just before the bridge at Edgebridge.
- Grass cutting along Burton Path – area by White Bridge (near seat) does not appear to have been transferred to new authority.

***b) Letter from InterRoute providing update on proposed works for A303 Willoughby Hedge to Mere** – members noted the information in the Clerks Report.

286. Allotments

a) Permission to erect shed on allotment at Southbrook – Members agreed that permission should be granted for Mr. Rollins-Priest to erect a shed onto his allotment as specified in his letter of 20th May.

***b) Water Supply for Wellhead Allotments** - With reference to the information in the Clerks Report, the Parish Council said that the Clerk should proceed with the survey, giving allotment holders all the relevant information, and that the Parish Council should proceed with installing the water if that was the wish of the majority of allotment holders.

287. Sports Development

a) Official opening ceremony for Cricket facilities – the Clerk informed members that a condition of the grant made by the Landfill Communities Fund was that we should hold some form of publicity event. It had therefore been agreed that an official opening ceremony of the cricket facilities should take place on Tuesday, 16th June. Members agreed that the vicar should be asked to perform the actual opening ceremony and Cllr. Hazzard agreed to ask Mark Cassidy if he would provide some refreshments.

288. Health & Safety

a) Water Hygiene – the Clerk pointed out to members that she felt there was a need for the Parish Council to take safety precautions with regard to water testing for bacteria, especially legionella, in respect of the changing rooms and Andy Young Pavilion. Members agreed that the Clerk should obtain quotations to carry out water tests on an annual basis.

b) Guide to Health & Safety for Local Councils – the Clerk informed members that she had become aware, through the Society of Local Council Clerks, of a guide to Health & Safety for Local Councils that had been specially written for local councils by a former health & safety inspector and clerk. Subjects covered include risk assessment, safety policies, fire safety, work at heights, stress, occupier's liability, training, chemicals and many more relevant to the everyday work of local councils. The Clerk pointed out that the regular price of this guide was £145 but it was available to SLCC members for £116. Members agreed that the guide should be purchased.

289. Cemetery

a) Land adjacent to new cemetery - The Chairman pointed reminded members that the new cemetery land, purchased by the Parish Council, had been divided up for ease of maintenance and that there had been suggestions that the area outside the fence could be used to generate some money, perhaps by letting it for grazing. At present the Parish Council has an arrangement with a local farmer who cuts the grass periodically. Cllr. R. Coward felt that the Parish Council should consider the idea of turning the area, or part of the area, into allotments and he proposed that the Parish Council should continue with the present arrangement for the time being but that we should put a notice in Mere Matters asking people what they thought

about the idea of having allotments adjacent to the new cemetery. This proposal met with general agreement.

290. Finance & Resources

a) Payments: Cllr. R. Coward proposed that the payments, as listed in the payment schedule, be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a majority vote. Cllr. Hazzard, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, left the room whilst the matter was discussed.

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| Rutter & Rutter | Additional premium to insure new tractor | 34.86 |
| E. G. Coles & Son | New tractor £10206.25 less p/ex for old tractor £1000 | 9206.25 |
| 1. R. Diesels | New Holland Tractor | 179.29 |
| Forge Garages | Fuel & Oil | 159.78 |
| Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity | Donation | 10,000.00 |
| Bourton Fencing | Posts for Recreation Ground | 16.10 |
| N. R. Howell Ltd | 1 day hire of tractor & toppler | 69.00 |
| Imprest Account (cheque Nos. 2590 – 2598) | Payroll, PAYE, pension, petty cash etc. | 3349.61 |
| North Street Nurseries | Floral Enhancement planting | 694.60 |
| Rutter & Rutter | Insurance for ride-on mower | 150.27 |
| Rochford Garden Machinery | Strimmer line spool | 44.99 |

b) To approve Budget/Expenditure Report – The Clerk asked members to pay particular attention to the summary for the Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity as this would be used as a basis for the Annual Return submission to the Charity Commission. Members agreed that this had been carried out in a reasonable manner. Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the Budget/Expenditure report should be adopted. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hall and carried with a unanimous vote.

c) To set date for meeting to report Accounts and complete Annual Return (must be before 30.6.09) – it was agreed that the meeting would be held on Monday, 22nd June 2009.

291. General Items

a) Invitation to Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Annual Forum to be held at Dinton Village Hall on Wednesday, June 17th (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) – members noted the invitation.

292. Staff Issues – the Clerk confirmed that Mr. Barry Hansford had agreed to take on the role of street cleaner once Mr. Pike retires on 30th June. The Clerk also confirmed that Mr. Pike had agreed to act as honorary caretaker of the Clock Tower and would continue to open it up in the mornings and lock it in the evenings.

293. Clerks Report – to adopt Clerks Report and request future agenda items – members adopted the Clerks report and asked for the following items to be included on the next agenda:

Grant application to continue with management plan on Long Hill/Castle Hill.
Film Shows – Distribution of Funds & Accounts.

294. Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity

As trustees of the above charity, Cllr. Hall proposed that the following payment should be made. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote.

Payment: Donation to Mere Parish Council for expenses incurred throughout 2008/09
£9807.87

Meeting closed at 8.37 p.m.