

Clerk - Mrs. L. C. Wood

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 2nd March 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

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

Meeting convened at 7.35 p.m. with Public Session

Rachel Hyde said that she understood that bus routes were revised at this time of year and wanted to say that she felt that the bus services in Mere were terrific and did not think that many car drivers were aware of how far you could travel by bus and how cheaply, if you had a bus pass. With regards to the allotments at Wellhead, Mrs. Hyde said that several allotment holders wanted the Council to consider installing a water supply similar to the one installed on the allotments at Jack Paul Close. Mrs. Hyde said that, although most allotment holders tried to collect rain water it was not sufficient and last year, they were very short of water. She asked if representatives from the Council would attend a meeting at the allotments to talk about this and other issues.

Mr. Boorn reiterated that a lot of the allotment plots at Wellhead had been sub-divided which meant that there were more allotment holders and he said that the consensus of the allotment holders was that they would be happy to pay more rent if they could have a water supply. The Chairman agreed that the matter would be discussed further.

Mr. Harland from Hatherleigh spoke in support of his planning application.

Mr. Clive Hazzard, speaking as a member of the public, said that he deeply regretted having to submit a planning application for change of use of his shop in North Street because it had been in the family for generations and was a great sadness to lose the shop. However, he explained that the shop had gradually declined and went from employing four staff a few years ago down to just one member of staff and since the dentist had relocated there had been a dramatic loss in custom. Mr. Hazzard said that the loss of the 'A' frame advertising sign, directing people to the shop had been the last straw.

Mr. Squires said that he had lodged an objection to the planning application for Little Shotley and that the size of the proposed property was his main objection. He wished to point out that the general public were not aware that they needed to send a copy of their objection to the Parish Council. The Chairman explained that it had always been the case that people needed to copy their objections to the Parish Council if they wanted them to be considered by the Parish Council.

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. P. Coward.

241. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Hazzard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application S/2009/160

Cllr. S. Squires declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application S/2009/136 & 137

Cllr. Jeans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No.249 a) (Payments)

Cllr. Coward declared a personal interest in planning application S/2009/160

Cllr. Jeans declared a personal interest in planning application S/2009/160

Cllr. Hughes declared a personal interest in planning application S/2009/160

Cllr. Hill declared a personal interest in planning application S/2009/160
Cllr. Hill declared a personal interest in planning application S/2009/172
Cllr. Hall declared a personal interest in planning application S/2009/160
Cllr. Mitchell declared a personal interest in planning application S/2009/160

242. Minutes – Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 2nd February 2009 be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sims and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 2.2.09

243. 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/2009/136 – FULL PLANNING – DEMOLISH EXISTING HOUSE AND REPLACE WITH NEW HOUSE, WIDEN EXISTING VEHICULAR ACCESS
LITTLE SHOTLEY, ANGEL LANE, MERE.

S/2009/137/CAD – CONS. AREA (DEMO) – DEMOLISH EXISTING HOUSE AND REPLACE WITH NEW HOUSE, WIDEN EXISTING VEHICULAR ACCESS
LITTLE SHOTLEY, ANGEL LANE, MERE.

The Clerk read out a letter from Mrs. Durkee. Cllr. Mrs. White said that she had sympathy with neighbours of this property because the proposed replacement house would overshadow them. She therefore proposed that the Parish Council should recommend refusal for the following reasons:

The Parish Council considers this application to be overdevelopment of the site. The scale and mass of the proposed building is too big for the size of the plot. The Parish Council feels that this proposed development will have a detrimental effect on surrounding properties and will result in a loss of amenity for surrounding residents.

Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a vote of 5 for and 7 abstentions.

S/2009/139/LBW – LISTED BLDG (WKS) – RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF 2 x UPVC & 3 x DUOTHERM WINDOWS AT THE REAR OF THE PROPERTY
HATHERLEIGH, PETTRIDGE LANE, MERE.

Cllr. Hill proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sims and carried with a vote of 12 for.

S/2009/160 – FULL PLANNING – CHANGE OF USE OF SHOP UNIT TO SELF-CONTAINED FLAT, WITH ASSOCIATED ALTERATIONS.
NORTH STREET NURSERY, NORTH STREET, MERE.

Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above planning application, Cllr. Hazzard left the room. As there were six councillors who had declared a personal interest in this matter, including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. White took the Chair. Cllr. Sealy felt that, whilst the Parish Council's policy is to resist applications for change of use, he felt that this particular shop was in a residential area and in a location where it would never be viable as a shop because it would not get any passing trade. Cllr. Mrs. White asked members if they felt it could be viable as a commercial premise. Cllr. Squires said that in other change of use cases, the District Council had imposed a 6 month policy whereby the shop needed to be advertised for sale or rent for six months before change of use would be considered. Cllr. Squires explained that, whilst he was not in favour of the six month advertising policy, he did believe that once a precedent had been set then it should be followed. Cllr. Sealy proposed that this application should be recommended for approval for the following reasons:

Whilst this decision goes against the Parish Council's policy to resist applications for change of use (commercial to residential) as outlined in the Parish Plan, the Parish Council is aware that this policy was agreed with the vision to create a prosperous central shopping centre. Whilst the loss of any shop is regrettable, the Parish Council felt that the location of this shop is unlikely to support its long-term viability.

Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sims and carried with a vote of 4 for and 0 abstentions. (Six councillors, having declared a personal interest, refrained from voting.)

S/2009/172/FULL – FULL PLANNING – 2 STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION TO FORM FAMILY ROOM AND STUDY AT GROUND FLOOR LEVEL AND FOURTH BEDROOM ON FIRST FLOOR
1 THE LYNCH, MERE.

Cllr. Mitchell 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. Jeans).

Cllr. Hill, having declared a personal interest, refrained from discussion or voting.

S/2009/245/TCA – TREES CONS. AREA – CROWN LIFT & CROWN REDUCTIN TO BEECH. CROWN THINNING TO HORSE CHESTNUT.
THE OLD BREWERY, WATER STREET, MERE.

Cllr. Hughes proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Squires and carried with a vote of 10 for.

b) S/2008/1691 – Construction of earth bund (retrospective) at land at The Old Nurseries, Mere - Correspondence relating to the Parish Council's opposition to the decision to grant planning permission. The Clerk read out a letter received from Judy Howles, SDC's Planning Team Leader, which stated that 'in considering the retention of the earth bund the principal planning consideration was the visual impact within the surrounding landscape. By reason of the very overgrown nature of the site and the undulating topography of the land, the bund was not considered prominent within wider views and the case officer noted that the bud was in fact not easy to find even at close quarters when walking within the Old Nurseries site. The bund appears to be constructed of inert materials (garden soil) and was considered to be sufficiently well screened and far away from the nearest neighbouring dwellings as to pose no undue impact on neighbor amenity. It therefore caused no demonstrable harm and there was no reason to refuse the application. The Environment Agency was consulted and raised no objection to the retention of the bund. Of the grounds for objection put forward by two neighbours, the majority of concerns relate to how the earth arrived on the site and what damage was caused to footpaths etc. As the application was retrospective, and the bund itself did not directly affect the footpath, such concerns were not material to the planning decision. However, I have instructed the case officer to make these matters known to the rights of way officer at WCC so that the issue in relation to the repositioning of the kissing gate may be addressed. In respect of the location of the earth bund (being approximately 2 metres in height) and its proximity to overhead wires, this is private land where children have no public right to play. The case officer was aware of the proximity of the wires; however, as the bund is well within the boundaries of private land, and is not readily visible within the surrounding landscape, it was considered that the proximity to the wires did not constitute a material reason to refuse this application.' Cllr. Mrs. White said that she found this response less than satisfactory. Cllr. Mitchell felt that the only good thing to come out of this application was the fact that investigations would now be made into the repositioning of the kissing gate. .

244. Matters Arising

a) Police report – P. C. Richard Salter confirmed that Jake Noble had been appointed as our Community Safety Officer and he had been in post for the last four weeks. He also explained

that within the new Local Authority structure, his district would essentially remain the same with the exception of Maiden Bradley which was moving to Warminster.

b) County Councillors Report – County Cllr. Mrs. Wayman reported that there would be a 3.8% increase in Council Tax for people living in SDC area. Wiltshire Council's top priorities will be maintenance of roads for which a higher budget has been allocated.

c) District Councillors Report to include report on Western Area Committee meeting held 19.2.09 – District Cllr. Jeans raised the issue of Area Boards, Community Area Partnerships and the A303. Cllr. Mrs. Catherine Spencer explained that there would be an interim planning and licensing committee which will operate for the whole of the Salisbury District Area. You will have to ask your councillor for any applications to be referred to committee. With reference to the Local Development Framework, there will be further public consultation in the summer but not on detail and specific sites will not be discussed for a long time yet.

The Chairman informed those present that this was the last Parish Council meeting at which Cllr. Jeans and Cllr. Mrs. Spencer would be able to present a District Councillor's report as Salisbury District Council would no longer be in existence from 31st March and he said that the Parish Council appreciated the hard work put in by both our district councillors and members asked for a vote of thanks to be recorded. Cllr. Mrs. Spencer said that it had been a privilege to represent Mere for the last 14 years and it was confirmed that both Cllr. Mrs. Spencer and Cllr. Jeans would be standing for election as a Wiltshire Councillor.

d) Report from Community Safety Representative –none

e) Report from Transport Representative - none

***f) A303 Willoughby Hedge to Mere – correspondence from North Dorset District Council** – with reference to the information in the Clerks Report, Cllr. Hazzard felt that the A303 should be dualled the entire length, not just from Willoughby Hedge to Mere but it was generally felt that Stonehenge would be a major stumbling block in the success of any requests to dual the A303 entirely. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council should ask for and support proposals to dual the A303 between Mere and Wylve as this was likely to be more effective in achieving support and funding.

g) Correspondence from Mr. B. Hill with request to seek solicitor's advice – The Clerk read out a letter written by Mr. Hill on 2nd February and enclosing various documents which he had asked the Parish Council to send to a solicitor. After much discussion on whether or not the Parish Council should spend public money on involving a solicitor in this case, members unanimously agreed that, in accordance with the letter submitted to Mr. Hill on 5th February 2009, the Parish Council should take no further action unless we receive a letter from Mr. Hill's solicitors or legal representatives.

245. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths & Transport

a) Parish Steward –it was agreed that the following jobs should be put forward:

- Angel Lane – clear mud from layby.
- Mill Lane – retrieve and re-lay curbing stones that have been knocked into stream.
- White Road (Spinners Way side) – repair deep ruts caused by tractor driving along grass verge.

246. Allotments

a) **Revised lease** – The Clerk said that she had read through the draft list prepared by the Duchy solicitor and had found one or two minor amendments. It was agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk be delegated authority to approve the final lease.

247 Sports Development

a) Report on Sports Development meeting held on 16th February 2009 – Cllr. Hazzard reported on the Sports Development meeting held on 16th February, stating that it was well attended and that there were no significant problems being experienced by the sports groups, although there were concerns about whether the swimming club would be able to raise enough funds to meet expenses.

** b) Request to support proposal to start Mere Archery Club* – With reference to the information in the Clerks Report, Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the Parish Council should agree to the establishment of Mere Archery Club along the lines of those set out in the letter from Gloria Mead and Gerald Farrell of 25th February, subject to agreement and harmony of other sports groups, users and activities. Proposal carried with a unanimous vote.

**c) Dog Policy for Duchy Manor* – With reference to the Draft Dog Policy distributed with the Clerks Report, members were happy to adopt the policy.

248. Buildings

a) Clock Tower repairs – Cllr. R. Hill reported that there was a blocked drain which the council should take steps to repair in the near future. He also confirmed that major repair would be required in the long-term future to replace timbers but that this would need consideration at a future budget meeting.

249. Finance & Resources

a) Payments: Cllr. Jeans made a statement regarding the invoice for Xmas Lights and said that he would welcome the Parish Council going out to tender for this job but that it was not just a straightforward job of erecting Xmas Lights. He explained that all the bulbs had exploded in the severely cold weather and that it was necessary to replace them. Cllr. Jeans, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, then left the meeting. Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the payments be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hall and carried with a unanimous vote of approval.

1. Suter	Grounds maintenance 4.2.09 – 17.2.09	682.00	already pd.
Focus	Paint for changing rooms	61.96	already pd.
United Heating	Service & repairs to boilers in Changing Rooms & AYP	416.70	
R. D. Snook	Expenses claim (travel expenses to Trowbridge for Occupational Health Referral)	17.60	
Jeans	Repairs to MUGA floodlights	496.10	
Jeans	Xmas lights for clock tower & tree	690.00	
Forge Garages	Fuel & oil	115.00	
Shaun Milligan	Repairs to wall at Walnut Road Play Area (insurance claim)	2597.16	
Imprest account (cheques - 2568)	Wages, PAYE, Petty Cash & Pension	3185.18	
Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership renewal	149.00	

250. General Items

- a) Councillors Training Day – Durrington Village Hall 25.4.09* – members noted the information but there were none able to attend.
- b) To arrange date, venue and details for Annual Parish Meeting* – it was agreed that the Annual Parish meeting would be held on Wednesday, 22nd April at 7.30 p.m., if possible in the Grove Buildings. It was agreed that the agenda should follow the traditional format.
- c) Report on meeting held with Wiltshire County Council officers & Community First to discuss representation on South West Wiltshire Area Board and Community Area Partnerships* – The Clerk, Vice-Chairman and Cllr. Mrs. White had met with Steve Milton (WCC), Helen Kreizman (WCC) and Lesley Taylor (Community First) to discuss how best Mere and the surrounding area should be represented on the South West Wiltshire Area Board. It was agreed that a meeting should be held on Tuesday, 31st March in the Lecture Hall in Mere to find out whether there was interest in forming a Community Area Partnership. Members were urged to attend this meeting.
- d) Handbook for Wiltshire’s Area Boards – Draft for Consultation* – Cllr. Mrs. White agreed to read the handbook and report back at the next meeting.
- e) Best Kept Village Competition – 2009* – it was agreed that Mere would enter the competition and the Clerk agreed to help with the submission.

251. Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground

- a) Annual Update 2008* – the Clerk confirmed that the Annual Update had been submitted and that the income for the year had been £7974 and the expenses for the year had been £7974

252. Clerks Report – Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the Clerks Report be confirmed and adopted. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Hill & carried with a unanimous vote.

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.