

Parish Clerk - Mrs. L. C. Wood

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 11th May 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Small Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street, Mere.

Present: Councillors R. Coward (Chairman), E. Mitchell (Vice-Chairman), P. Coward, C. Hazzard, R. Hill (from 7.35 p.m.), G. Jeans, M. Peirce, R. Sims, S. Squires & Mrs. M. White.

266. To elect Chairman of Mere Parish Council for 2009/10 – Cllr. Hazzard proposed that Cllr. E. Mitchell be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Jeans and carried with a unanimous vote.

Cllr. E. Mitchell in The Chair

267. To elect Vice-Chairman of Mere Parish Council for 2009/10 – Cllr. Mitchell proposed that Cllr. R. Coward be elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Squires. Cllr. Coward said that, if elected, he would be willing to act as Vice-Chairman for one year only. Cllr. Coward was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council with a unanimous vote.

Chairman & Vice-Chairman signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office

268. Representatives – the following representatives were appointed/re-appointed to outside bodies/organizations: The Clerk confirmed that both Mr. P. Button and Mrs. A. Howell were happy to remain as the Parish Council's representatives for Footpaths and the Mere & District Linkscheme respectively.

Organisation	2009/10 Representative
Youth Club	Cllrs. R. Coward & C. Hazzard
Cricket Club	Cllr. Mrs. Mary White
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
Footpaths & Rights of Way	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
Area Board	Chairman & Vice-Chairman
Community Area Partnership	Chairman & Vice-Chairman

269. To appoint/re-appoint Trustees for Forest Charities – The Existing Trustees were re-appointed (R. Coward, R. Hughes, G. Jeans and Mrs. Myrene Coward).

270. To consider bank accounts & signatory arrangements – it was agreed that the existing bank accounts and signatory arrangements should be maintained, with the addition of the Chairman as a new signatory. (Signatories: R. Coward, C. Hazzard, R. Hill, G. Jeans, E. Mitchell & Mrs. M. White)

271. To appoint/reappoint internal auditor – it was unanimously agreed that Mr. John Wilson should be re-appointed as the Parish Council's internal auditor.

The meeting was adjourned in order to hold the Public Session

Public Session

Rachel Hyde wondered if the Gardening Club could be asked to make some signs to go on the allotments at Wellhead because dogs were becoming an issue. She pointed out that some allotment holders had dogs and would allow them on to the allotments on long leads. It was felt that, as the Parish Council was responsible for the allotments, it would be the Parish Council's responsibility to erect any signs rather than the responsibility of the Gardening Club. The Clerk pointed out that the allotment tenancy agreements did not ban dogs from the allotments but did say that they must be kept on a lead at all times. The Clerk said that she would try and get some more signs erected around the allotments.

Madelaine Morris said that she hoped that the Parish Council would look sympathetically at providing a water supply for Wellhead Allotments. She also pointed out that she could not understand why the capital costs needed to be recovered from the allotment holders since, having seen the Parish Council's accounts at the Annual Parish Meeting, she noticed that the Parish Council held such a large amount of money in reserve and that, although the allotment holders were a minority group, so too were the sports groups which had benefited from a large amount of capital investment.

Mr. Saunt from Bramley House spoke in support of his planning application. He stated that Bramley House was registered for 37 residents and that currently they had 31 but the 10 new proposed bedrooms would allow them to have 37 residents. With reference to the two new proposed houses in the gardens of Bramley House, Mr. Saunt said that it was inevitable that the grounds would be developed at some point in the future. Mr. Saunt pointed out that his architects had involved the planning officers at Salisbury District Council.

Mr. John Allard spoke regarding the application for Bramley House and he was concerned about the ownership of the strip of land between his house and the two new houses. Mr. Allard said that more car parking needed to be created on the Bramley House site as 10 more bedrooms could potentially create 10 more visitors' cars.

Mr. Clive Hazzard said that he would need to declare an interest in the Parish Council meeting but wanted to point out that he had spoken to numerous local residents and that they are concerned that the existing tree screening should be left to continue providing a screen from the road. Mr. Hazzard also said that the issue of parking was also repeatedly mentioned and he wondered whether there could be an opportunity to gain increased on-site parking provision within this planning application.

Mr. Squires wished to make some complaints: firstly, the maximum three minute report time was not adhered to at the Annual Parish Meeting and several reports were far too long. There were several Parish Council members who were repeatedly not attending meetings and whilst Mr. Squires realized that circumstances precluded some from attending on a regular basis, he also felt that there were some who were not taking the position as seriously as they should.

Mr. Squires was pleased to say that the flower beds and tubs around the clock tower were looking great this year but, as the Clock Tower was one of the most photographed buildings in Mere, he felt that the 'A' frame advertising board on the island was not of a standard that

befitted such an area and wondered if the Parish Council could ask the Fish & Chip shop to furnish a proper 'A' board sign. A number of people had asked Mr. Squires to mention the fact that the Highways Authority had painted new lines in Church Street then resurfaced Church Street and put new lines down again and why was there such a large 'Keep Clear' sign outside No. 10 Church Street when there were no other large 'Keep Clear' signs outside other vehicular rights of way. Mr. Squires also said that he telephoned the police at 1.20 a.m. one morning because there were youths climbing the scaffolding in The Square. He waited until 2.30 a.m. but no-one turned up.

Mr. Jeans said that both he and the Clerk had sent notes to the Highways Authority regarding the new road markings in The Square. The give-way lines were on the wrong side of the clock tower and the double-yellow lines outside the Co-Op had been extended too far. Mr. Button from the Highways Authority was investigating this matter.

Meeting reconvened

It was noted that **apologies for absence** had been received from Councillors: M. Hall, R. Hughes & Mrs. L. Traves. Also P.C. Richard Salter and PCSO Jake Noble.

272. Declarations of Interest – Cllr. R. Coward declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 279 a) Finance (recipient).

Cllr. C. Hazzard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No.274, Planning Application S/2009/550/FULL and Minute No. 279a) Finance (recipient).

273. Minutes – Cllr. R. Coward proposed that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 6th April 2009 be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Sims and carried with a majority vote of those present on 6.4.09. Cllr. R. Coward proposed that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday, 15th April 2009 be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. White and carried with a majority vote of those present on 15.4.09.

274. 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/2009/550/FULL – FULL PLANNING – EXTENSION OF BRAMLEY HOUSE RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME TO PROVIDE 10 BEDROOMS WITH ENSUITE FACILITIES AT FIRST FLOOR WITH ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION AT GROUND FLOOR. ERECTION OF 2 No. SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES IN THE GROUNDS WITH GARAGE AND ASSOCIATED PARKING AREA AND NEW ACCESS TO BRAMLEY HILL.

BRAMLEY HOUSE, CASTLE STREET, MERE.

The Clerk read out a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Read of The Stables, Bramley Hill, which stated that whilst they were not opposed to the extension, they were concerned about the lack of extra parking facilities for visitors as, at times, both sides of the road can be filled up with parked cars and with the extra 10 bedrooms, this will mean extra traffic for staff, visitors and medical personnel. Cllr. R. Coward said that he was aware that there was often cars parked in the road. Cllr. Squires pointed out that there was inadequate parking provision for the application relating to The Boardroom which the Inspector has just allowed on appeal. Cllr. Peirce said that he has never seen cars parked all along the road at Bramley Hill. Cllr. Jeans said that he was aware that visitors to Bramley House did sometimes have to park along the road at Bramley Hill and that this was a public nuisance issue and he felt it was a pity that some of the land could not be used for additional parking. Cllr. Jeans said that he was aware that the planning statement had stated that the two new houses in the grounds would be enabling development (enabling the extension of Bramley House) and he was sure that Mr.

Saunt was a man of his word but he wondered if a S. 106 agreement could be applied to impose more on-site parking. Cllr. Jeans also said that the Parish Council could ask the Planning Authority to remove all the permitted development rights in order to address concerns from the neighbour about the land between his house and the two new houses. Cllr. R. Coward proposed that the application be recommended for approval with concerns relating to the fact that there may not be adequate on-site parking and that parking on the road at Bramley Hill becomes a public nuisance and with the condition that the permitted development rights for the two cottages are removed. However, members were not prepared to second this proposal because they had concerns about setting a precedent over the removal of permitted development rights. Cllr. Coward therefore amended his proposal to:

Recommend approval with concerns: The Parish Council is concerned that there may not be adequate on-site parking provision. The residential care home currently has 31 residents with registration for 37. The extension will allow the residential home to increase the number of residents to its maximum registration capacity of 37. This will create more visitors. There are occasions when visitors park along the road at Bramley Hill and into the entrance road for Kingsmere (behind Bramley House) and this causes a public nuisance issue. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Squires and carried with a vote of 6 for, 2 abstentions and 0 against. (Cllr. Hazzard, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, left the room whilst this matter was discussed and did not vote).

b) Appeal Decision – Ref: APP/Y3940/A/09/2094426 & 427 – The Boardroom House, The Square, Mere.

The Clerk informed members that the Inspector had allowed the appeal - Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the Parish Council should write a letter stating its concern over the lack of parking provision within the development and the fact that potential residents & visitors will probably park in the centre of town which will take up car parking spaces for shoppers, cause more congestion and generally add to the deteriorating economic situation for the town centre shops and businesses. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote.

275. Matters Arising

a) Response from Southern Co-operative – Having written to Southern Co-operatives regarding the Parish Council's concern over the empty ex-NISA store, the Parish Council had received a response from Mark Smith, the Chief Executive stating that Southern Co-operative has acquired the lease to the former Nisa/Spar store in Mere which was purchased as part of a package of 13 stores acquired from the Administrators of Nearby Stores Ltd in December 2008. This is the only store in the group purchased that has an existing co-op store close by. The Co-op had been able to guarantee work to all those formerly employed at the Nisa store and were now looking to assign or underlet the store so that the site could continue as another type of retail outlet if possible, subject to landlord approval. Mr. Smith stated that the rent for the old Nisa property was high but they would do what they could to find a suitable new tenant on acceptable terms to all parties and they would be happy to receive suggestions from anyone who could help with finding a viable new tenant for the site. Cllr. P. Coward felt that the Co-Op were unlikely to want to leave the store empty if they are having to pay a high rent and it was agreed that the Parish Council should await developments with a view to writing again to the Co-Op if the store was still empty in six months time.

b) Invitation to follow-up meeting to discuss Community Area Partnership – It was agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk would attend the meeting on 12th May.

c) Report from Community Safety Representative – Cllr. Sims stated that the Community Safety Partnership were meeting tomorrow night.

- d) *Report from Transport Representative* – Cllr. Sims had nothing further to report.
- e) *Risk Assessment/Insurance review* – update report – deferred.

276. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths & Transport

a) *Parking issues at Walnut Road* – The Clerk informed members that an email had been received from a resident of Walnut Road regarding on-road parking and the possibility of this causing obstructions for emergency vehicles, The Clerk had written an informative response to the resident and the Parish Council agreed that there was not much more that could be done to address the problem.

b) *Parish Steward – job list for next visit & Appointed Contact Training Day* – The following jobs were identified:

Overhanging trees along narrowest part of Mill Lane.

Potholes in Chetcombe Road (outside Chetcombe House), and along Manor Road by junction with North Road and by junction with Jack Paul Close.

c) *Southbrook-Limpers Hill Road* – Cllr. Jeans pointed out that at the last meeting the Parish Council had approved a planning application for four new dwellings to be build along the Southbrook – Limpers Hill Road. He said that this road was probably the worse road in Mere and that it would deteriorate even more with all the heavy construction traffic. It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to the Highways Authority asking them to take this into consideration when consulting on this planning application.

277. Allotments

a) *To authorise signatures for new lease* – It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorized to sign the new lease.

b) *To authorise water supply connection for Wellhead Allotment site and how this should affect allotment rental fees* – The Clerk indicated that a quotation of £725.65 had been received from Wessex Water to install a water meter in the allotments, not far from the existing main that ran along the footpath between allotments 12 and 13. It was estimated that the total cost of the this + the trench digging, pipework and tap would cost in the region of £1,200 - £1,500. Cllr. Squires said that he had sympathy for everyone wanting water at the allotments but he had had two allotments at White Road for a number of years and managed perfectly well without water. Cllr. Jeans felt that, as money was obviously an issue both for the Parish Council and for the allotment holders, perhaps it would be an ideal project to apply for funding from the new Community Area Partnership. Cllr. P. Coward felt that it was inappropriate to charge some allotment holders and not others and although he was in favour of installing the water supply, he felt that the costs needed to be split fairly amongst all the allotment holders of the site. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should write a letter to the allotment holders, giving them a breakdown of the costs and how these costs would be reimbursed through the allotment rents and asking them to inform the Clerk of their views as to whether or not they wanted the water. The Parish Council would then proceed in line with the majority decision.

278. Sport Development

a) *Request for support from Mere Swimming Pool* – Cllr. Hazzard informed members that the swimming pool was struggling financially to get the pool in use and although he was pleased to report that they had a full committee again, he said that the pool needed help to repair the pump which had broken following the burst water pipes in the winter. Cllr. Hazzard pointed out that the Parish Council had committed a lot of funds to this facility but wondered if the Parish Council would agree to fund the repairs or replacement of the pump. Cllr. Coward also pointed out that there would be a private donation of £1000 for sports

facilities in Mere and that, in the past, this money had been directed towards the swimming pool. He wondered whether we could suggest that this money is again donated to the swimming pool. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to request for the private donation to be given to the swimming pool and also that the Parish Council should pay to repair or replace the pump. It was also agreed that, rather than providing a direction sign in the centre of town, the swimming pool committee should be asked to include directions in their promotional material.

279. Finance

a) Payments: Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the following payments be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. S. Squires and carried with a majority vote. (Cllrs. R. Coward & C. Hazzard, having declared an interest, refrained from discussion or voting).

Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil	160.00
Allianz Insurance	Local Council Policy	2963.25
Mere Fabricating & Welding Services	Repairs to MUGA	230.00
Mere Fabricating & Welding Services	Repairs to MUGA	977.50
Cash	Reimbursement for online order of England Flag (St. Georges)	18.99
Cash	Reimbursement (key cutting – crockers + mobile phone top up)	16.00
Scats	Sundries	24.73
Piggotts Co. Ltd	Union flag	171.64 already pd.
North Street Nurseries Ltd	Planting for Spring 2009	437.00
Community First	Annual Subscription	36.00
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	Annual subscription	36.00
R. Coward	Chairman's Expenses for 2008/09	250.00
Tincknell Fuels Ltd	Gas Oil	172.20
Shaftesbury Garden Machinery	Repairs to Husqvarna ride-on mower	107.75
Rutter & Rutter	Additional insurance premium for tractor	36.75
Sydenhams	Cement	18.35
Wiltshire Association of Local Councils	Annual subscription	713.77
Imprest Account (cheque Nos. 2579 - 2589)	Wages, PAYE, pension, petty cash etc.	3695.98
Cash	Reimbursement for maps bought	10.00
Mere Lecture Hall Trust	Room Hire	15.00

b) To agree and authorize unanticipated expenditure for new tractor – Cllr. R. Coward confirmed that the Parish Council's tractor was no longer operational and A. R. Diesels had inspected it and given an estimate for repair which was prohibitively expensive. Quotations for a new tractor had been received, which had included a part-exchange value for the old tractor. The cheapest quotation had been supplied by C. & O. Tractors. The Policy R2 Officer had indicated that it would be satisfactory to use some of our R2 funds towards this project and the Parish Council had set aside £2,000 for capital expenditure towards grounds machinery at the last budget meeting. However, there would be a surplus to pay and Council approval was needed to authorize this unanticipated expenditure. Cllr. Hazzard proposed that

the tractor from C & O Tractors should be purchased. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Squires and carried with a unanimous vote.

c) Report on 'Accounting Solutions Seminar' attended by the Clerk on Tuesday, 17th March at Devizes – deferred.

280. General Items

a) Invitation to stand for election for Sowing Seeds Executive Board – Cllr. Sims took the information.

b) Public Sector Duties relating to Equality & Human Rights – the Clerk informed members that the Equalities & Human Rights Commission had written to say that the forthcoming Equality Bill will harmonise the existing three public sector duties into one equality duty – which will also be extended to cover all seven equality strands (Age, Disability, Gender, Gender Identity, Race, Religion or Belief and Sexual Orientation). An information booklet accompanies this letter. Members noted the information.

Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.