

Parish Clerk - Mrs. L. C. Wood

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 2nd February 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere. (Due to the adverse weather conditions, this meeting was held in the Parish Council Office, Duchy Manor)

Present: Councillors R. Coward (Chairman), E. Mitchell (Vice-Chairman), M. Hall, C. Hazzard, G. Jeans, M. Peirce, R. Sims and Mrs. M. White.

Public Session – there were no members of the public present.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Coward, R. Hill, D. Sealy & Mrs. L. Traves. Also from County Cllr. Mrs. B. Wayman.

230. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Jeans declared a personal interest in Planning Application S/2009/21/TCA

231. Minutes – Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 12th January 2009 be approved as a correct record of proceedings. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mitchell and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 12.1.09

232. 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/2009/21/TCA – TREES CONS. AREA – FELL APPROX 10 ASSORTED TREES. CCROWN LIFT CATALPA TO APPROX 3.5M. CROWN THIN/REDUCE BEECH BY 15%
1 THE GRANGE, WATER STREET, MERE.

Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mitchell and carried with a unanimous vote. (Cllr. Jeans, having declared a personal interest, refrained from voting).

S/2009/52/FULL – FULL PLANNING ERECT DWELLING – CHANGE TO ORIGINAL PLANNING PERMISSION S/2008/0798
LAND OFF BUTTS PADDOCK, SHAFTESBURY ROAD, MERE.

Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the application should be recommended for refusal for the following reasons:

Reasons:

- The Parish Council considers this application to be overdevelopment of a small site. The height, scale and mass of the proposed building are too big for the size of the plot - this new application will increase the overall footprint of the house.
- 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.
- There is now a mini roundabout in the road on the junction between the walnut Tree Inn and the property adjacent to this site, known as Stumbledown. This mini roundabout has poor visibility coming out of Walnut Road turning south-east (towards the site) and vice versa – vehicles coming out of this site would not see if there are any vehicles at the roundabout coming from Walnut Road.

Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mitchell and carried with a vote of 6 for and 1 abstention. (Cllr. Jeans abstained).

b) Notification of Appeal – The Boardroom House, The Square, Mere
S/2008/1590 & S/2008/1591
Lipscombe Development Limited

The Clerk informed members that an Appeal had been made in respect of SDC's decision to refuse planning permission for the above development. The appeal was to be held in the form of written evidence. It was agreed that the Parish Council should submit, to the Planning Inspectorate, a copy of its consultation response and objections to the above planning application.

***c) Additional information for application for 6 X 120m high wind turbine generators etc. on land between West Bourton and Whistley Farm, Silton/Gillingham.** The Clerk informed members that North Dorset District Council had requested, from the applicants, additional information relating to an assessment of night-time lighting and four additional viewpoints for the Landscape & Visual Assessment. North Dorset District Council had informed the Clerk that the Parish Council did not need to provide a new response unless this new information caused it to reconsider, withdraw or modify its previous comments. Members agreed that the Parish Council should not reconsider, withdraw or modify its previous comments.

d) Report on Planning Training Seminar held on Friday, 30th January 2009 – Cllr. Mitchell & Cllr. Sims reported on the Planning Seminar and said that it had not been a very productive meeting because the officers present did not seem to have a definitive answer for many of the questions raised about the way the planning system would operate under the new Unitary Authority. There were discussions relating to Policy R2 and it was pointed out that between the end of March until the beginning of June, virtually 100% of all planning applications will be delegated to officers.

233. Matters Arising

a) Concerns relating to future distribution of Policy R2 funds – The Clerk read out a letter written by Jane Scott, Leader of Wiltshire County Council, which stated that existing R2 policy funds are 'ring fenced' and will have to be spent in accordance with the terms of the agreements made between SDC and the developers who made the contributions. However, with regard to developer contributions collected after 1 April 2009, under planning rules these will continue to be tied to geographic areas and parish councils will continue to have a leading role in their allocation. It was agreed to write back to say that the parish council is reassured that existing R2 funding will remain available for parishes to spend on improvements to recreational open space but that we remain concerned about the future distribution of funds collected after 1.4.09

b) County Councillors Report – Although County Cllr. Bridget Wayman could not get to the meeting because of the heavy snow, she did send an e-mail to report that she had spoken to Mark Cassidy from the Walnut Tree who was confident that his 'A' Boards would be returned from Wiltshire Highways Depot and the brown sign re-affixed shortly. She had also received an undertaking that the 'A' boards in Mere would not be removed quite so assiduously in the future.

c) District Councillors Report to include report on Western Area Committee meeting held 22.1.09 – Cllr. Jeans reported that the Western Area Committee had also considered the additional information relating to the application for wind turbines at Silton and had resolved to reaffirm their objection to the application. The last SWAG meeting had been held and Cllr. Jeans reported that the South West Wiltshire Area Board would now be named the Tisbury, Wilton and Mere Area Board and that the Area Board meetings would not be held around the area but would continue to be held in Tisbury.

d) Report from Community Safety Representative – Cllr. Sims reported that two new neighbourhood watch representatives had been recruited, one for Hazzards Hill and one for Pettridge Lane. Also, our new PCSO, Jake Noble, had been appointed.

e) Report from Transport Representative – Cllr. Sims reported that the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Transport Forum met on 19th January. The staffing of Gillingham Railway Station has again been reviewed but existing staffing levels will remain because the ticket machines are inadequate to cope with the vast variety of tickets required. Wiltshire bus service will be reviewed on 26.7.09 but it is currently losing £700,000 per year and Cllr. Sims was concerned that this level of loss may result in a reduction or loss of service. The new transport manager, David Gillett, came to Mere at the end of January and had a quick tour of the routes and timetables. He also visited the T.I.C. and Co-Op and received positive feedback.

f) Jubilee Gardens & Castle Hill Approach – to consider formal resolution to register land with Land Registry – send letter to B. Hill. The Council felt that it was appropriate to register all its land at some stage & called for a report at some later date. List of unregistered land.

234. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths & Transport

a) Parish Steward –job list for next visit

- Litter pick – Warminster Hollow
 - Salisbury Street Car Park
- Street light out from beginning of Mill Lane (attached to Edgebridge House)
- Street light out from Salisbury Street (outside F. J. Chalke’s office)
- Street light missing from Castle Street
- Broken manhole cover outside Marketplace House
- Large pothole in Denes Avenue
- Cut back overgrowth along Burton path.

***b) Notice of Order: No Waiting at Any Time** – various locations in Castle Street, Mere – members noted the information in the Clerks Report.

235. Buildings

a) Clock Tower repairs – Cllr. R. Hill - deferred

236. Finance & Resources

a) Payments: Cllr. Hall proposed that the following payments be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Sims and carried with a unanimous vote.

A. McCann	Repair stonework to south chapel	94.00
G. McCann	Repair stonework to south chapel	67.50
M. Robinson	Repair water meter for pavilion (frost damage)	196.30
Calor Gas Ltd	Calor Gas for Andy Young Pavilion	194.00
Scats Countrystores	Tools	85.11
Mere Youth Development	S. 137 Expenditure – Leisure Credit Scheme	300.00
Mere School	Changing Rooms – Gas 7.10.08 – 16.1.09	403.20

Mere School	Swimming Pool – Electricity	20.75	
	7.10.08 – 16.1.09		
Mere School	Changing Rooms – Electricity	126.60	
	7.10.08 – 16.1.09		
Mere School	Changing Rooms – Water &	39.63	
	Sewerage 7.10.08 – 16.1.09		
Mere School	Andy Young Pavilion – Water	12.45	
	& Sewerage 7.10.08 – 16.1.09		
Bow Fire Protection	Servicing & supplying fire	65.04	
	extinguishers		
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil	34.00	
Imprest Account (Cheque Nos. 2551 - 2559)	PAYE, Wages, Pension, Petty Cash etc.	2763.80	
M. J. Avery	Grazing land rental refund	486.00	already pd
A. Suter	Grounds maintenance	682.00	already pd.

***b) To approve Budget/Expenditure report for the period 1.4.08 – 31.12.08 and verify bank reconciliation at 31.12.08** – Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the budget report be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hall and carried with a unanimous vote. Cllr. Jeans confirmed that he had verified the bank reconciliation with the bank statements.

c) Transfer of The Cabin, White Road – the Clerk informed members that the Council’s solicitor, Jan Jolliffe, were advising that there are three restrictive covenants on The Cabin entered by the Duchy when it sold the land to Cornhill Estates. Mrs. Jolliffe was advising that an approach be made to the Duchy for a release of the covenants. The Clerk had therefore written to the Duchy to explain the situation and the Duchy, in turn, had written to their solicitors. Tim Gray from the Duchy had suggested that the Duchy could supply the Parish Council with a letter releasing the covenants and the Duchy’s solicitor had advised that as the covenants were imposed by Deed then the release should be by Deed also which would cost in the region of £350. However, if the Parish Council simply wanted consent while they owned the property, then a letter would be fine. Members asked the Clerk to establish whether the Duchy’s solicitors would remove all the covenants for £350.

d) Risk Management – It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged for 9th March at 7.30 in the Parish Council office in order to review the policies.

237. General Items

a) Invitation to Climate Change Workshop – Wednesday, 4th February 2009 – Salisbury City Hall, 6 – 8.30 p.m – There were no members able to attend.

b) Invitation to Mere & District Chamber of Trade speaking event – Wednesday, 18th February 2009 at 7.00 p.m. at the Grove Building. Alistair Cunningham, Service Director, Economy & Enterprise for Wiltshire County Council will be giving a talk on One Council. The Chairman agreed to attend the meeting.

c) Donation of 3 X 8’ lime trees – The Clerk informed members that she had received an email from Dr. Longbourne stating that his son, Peter, had 3 spare lime trees and he wondered whether the Parish Council would like them. It was agreed that Dr. Longbourne & his son should be thanked for this very generous offer and that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be delegated to decide where to plant the lime trees.

238. Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground - deferred

239. Clerks Report – to adopt Clerks Report and request future agenda items.- Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the Clerks Report be approved and adopted. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hall and carried with a unanimous vote.

240. Emergency Item

S/2008/1691 – Construction of earth bund (retrospective) at land at The Old Nurseries, Burton, Mere.

Cllr. Mitchell asked for this item to be raised because he felt very strongly that SDC should not have granted planning permission for this earth bund. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter to the Head of Development Services and also to the Environment Agency.