

# Mere Parish Council

*PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD*

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.**

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

Also P.C. Richard Salter & Mrs. D. Pringle, Mr. M. Whatley, L. Stanton, I. Stanley

## **Public Session**

The Clerk informed those present that Wiltshire Council's planned public consultation into possible changes to their Waste & Recycling Service will not now take place ahead of the General Election.

The Clerk informed those present that maintenance treatment works carried out on the carriageway between Park Corner Farm to Underhill, Barrow Street had failed due to adverse weather conditions. However, temporary and remedial works were planned and would be carried out by the contractor under the warranty they provided to Wiltshire Council.

Mrs. Pringle wanted to thank George Jeans for all his help with the Highways Agency over the A303 closure and the extra traffic through Mere. She said that the Highways Agency had responded positively by putting more signs out and traffic through Mere had been reduced. She also wanted to thank the police for their efforts and the team at CLARENCE. Mrs. Pringle said that everyone was doing their best to help us.

Mr. Ian Stanley from 5 The Square spoke about his planning application for Change of Use from Retail (A1) to Office (A2) that the Parish Council had considered in January. Mr. Stanley said that he was disappointed with the Parish Council's decision. Mr. Stanley said that it could open as another Charity Shop or a hamburger take-away which, he felt sure, the Parish Council would not want but he had been able to find someone that wanted to open it as an office and employ a couple of people. However, because the Parish Council had refused the application, he would now have to keep the shop shut until he could sort it out. Cllr. Mrs. White said that she was very glad that Mr. Stanley had explained the situation but pointed out that the Parish Council had adopted a policy to try and protect Mere's shops and retail premises. She explained that each application was considered carefully and that members were only able to consider the information contained within, or accompanying, each application. Cllr. Mrs. White suggested that Mr. Stanley re-apply for planning permission. Wiltshire Cllr. Jeans suggested to Mr. Stanley that he should come and talk to him about the application before resubmitting.

P. C. Richard Salter stated that Wiltshire Police had committed quite a lot of resources to the closure of the A303 and the diversion routes and they had received dozens of requests. All this had resulted in some fairly high level meetings and P. C. Salter was quite satisfied that Wiltshire Constabulary was committing as much as they could to the problems. The traffic department were sending down regular patrol cars to enforce weight restrictions; extra signage been put out and P. C. Salter had stopped 2 HGV's tonight, both foreign. He explained that it was not physically possible to stop all the HGVs coming through Mere but they were trying to stop as many as possible. The volume of traffic has caused a great deal of congestion along the official diversion routes as well as the unofficial ones and a lot of local traffic was using the roads through West Knoyle. P. C. Salter said that the police had been carrying out speed checks along the unofficial diversion routes but had found that speed was not really the problem.

**Apologies for absence** – none received

## **376. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Jeans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 381 (a)

**377. Minutes** – Cllr. R. Sims proposed that the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 be approved as a correct record of proceedings. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a majority vote of those present on 1.2.10.

### **378. Planning**

#### **a) Applications:**

S/2010/145/FULL – FULL PLANNING – PROPOSED POND AND TWO SOIL BANKS  
THE ACORNS, BARROW STREET, MERE.

Cllr. Mrs. White felt that, after having visited the site last year, this was a legitimate application. Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hughes and carried with a majority vote. (In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting).

S/2010/136/LBC – LISTED CONSENT – CONVERSION OF BARN TO A LIVE/WORK UNIT  
BARN AT BURTON GRANGE, BURTON, MERE.

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S/2010/137 – VARIATION CONDITION – VARIATION OF CONDITION 1 OF PLANNING PERMISSION S/2006/1644, TO ALLOW AN INCREASE IN TIME FOR DEVELOPMENT TO COMMENCE  
BARN AT BURTON GRANGE, BURTON, MERE.

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S/2010/138 – VARIATION OF CONDITION 1 OF LISTED BUILDING CONSENT S/2007/0714 (REBUILDING OF ROADSIDE WALL) TO ALLOW FOR TIME TO COMMENCE WORK.  
BARN AT BURTON GRANGE, BURTON, MERE.

Cllr. R. Coward proposed that the above three applications be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. M. Hall and carried with a majority vote. Cllr. Mrs. White abstained from voting and in his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

S/2010/203/FULL – FULL PLANNING – PUMP HOUSE EXTENSION ON TWO LEVELS FOR SMALL SCALE HYDRO INSTALLATION ON LAND TO REAR OF LORDSMEAD MILL  
LORDSMEAD MILL, EDGEBRIDGE, MERE.

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S/2010/204/LBC – LISTED CONSENT – PUMP HOUSE EXTENSION ON TWO LEVELS FOR SMALL SCALE HYDRO INSTALLATION ON LAND TO REAR OF LORDSMEAD MILL  
LORDSMEAD MILL, EDGEBRIDGE, MERE.

Cllr. P. Coward proposed that the above two applications be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a majority vote in favour. (In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting).

S/2010/238/FULL – CONVERSION OF EXISTING DISUSED OUTBUILDING AT LORDSMEAD HOUSE TO FORM DETACHED SINGLE DWELLING WITH ATTACHED GARAGE & MAKING USE OF EXISTING VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FROM ADOPTED COUNTY ROAD.  
LORDSMEAD HOUSE, EDGEBRIDGE.

Although notice of the above application had not been given, it was agreed, on proposition made by Cllr. R. Coward and seconded by Cllr. P. Coward, that the application should be considered by the Parish Council at this meeting. It was noted that the conversion of this outbuilding had been approved at a previous meeting, although at that time it was to be occupied ancillary to Lordsmead House. Cllr. P. Coward proposed that the application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hall and carried with a vote of 8 for and 3 abstentions. (Cllrs. Mrs. White and Mrs. Traves abstained from voting and, in his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting).

**b) South Wiltshire Core Strategy Examination** – Cllr. Jeans reported that he would be attending the hearing meetings and that all the information had been sent off to the inspector and to Wiltshire Council's Forward Planning department.

### **379. Matters Arising**

**a) Wiltshire Councillors Report** – Cllr. Jeans reported that Wiltshire Council has been busy setting the council tax for the area and there will be a 2.5% increase. Cllr. Jeans reported that Wiltshire Council was reviewing its pest control service to harmonise the service across Wiltshire (at present some areas pay and some do not). As the old Salisbury District area did not pay for this service, it seems likely that we will be worse off under any new proposals. Cllr. R. Coward asked why Wiltshire Council was proposing to introduce car parking charges in this area and yet the council tax payers were subsidizing Salisbury's Park & Ride to the tune of £1 million and Cllr. Jeans said that he would investigate this matter.

**b) Report from Community Safety Representative** – Cllr. R. Sims reported that there was a meeting next Wednesday evening at the Butt of Sherry Public House and that it was open for anyone to attend.

**c) Report from Transport Representative** – Cllr. R. Sims reported that the A303 road closures were dominating all transport issues at the present time.

**d) Report from Community Area Partnership Representative** – Cllr. M. Hall reported that the Community Area Partnership held its inaugural public meeting last Thursday in Zeals. A committee was elected and in due course they will establish what the priority issues in the area will be. Access to services, local transport and broadband access seem to be the sort of issues of concern. The meeting was not particularly well attended by representatives from the outlying parishes. The next meeting will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**e) Resistance to car parking charges** – The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to Cllr. Richard Tonge who is the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport which he had acknowledged by saying that he had passed it on to the officer who will be conducting the consultation. Dr. Andrew Murrison, MP had also written to Wiltshire Council's Chief Executive. Cllr. Jeans stated that the Area Boards would be consulted on this report and stressed that this would be an opportunity for the Parish Council, residents and businesses to air their views.

**f) Castle Hill & Long Hill – report on meeting held with consultant to discuss Higher Level Environmental Scheme** – Cllr. R. Coward reported that he and the Clerk had met with Helen Pengelly who is an environmental consultant who specializes in farming and conservation advice, and works from an office based in Zeals. Helen Pengelly thought that Castle Hill & Long Hill would qualify for a Higher Level Environmental Scheme because the value of chalk grassland is considered high in ecological/environmental terms. On this basis, the Parish Council agreed to proceed with the application.

**g) Italian Markets** – the Clerk confirmed that she had met with officers from Wiltshire Council who confirmed that the Italian Market would consist of approximately 3 – 4 transit vans and they would sell products such as olive oils, balsamic vinegar, olives, cured meats, pasta etc. The Clerk had suggested that the market would not be successful unless it could be situated in the town centre and the officers had agreed that the market could take place in the parking spaces outside The George. The Clerk had consulted with the owners of The George, Tea Rooms and Co-Op and all had agreed that this was a good idea. The Clerk was now liaising with Wiltshire Council to fix a date.

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

**a) Request for speed detection device across Mere Down** – Cllr. Jeans stated that, owing to the large volume of traffic now using the B3095 along Warminster Hollow (due to the closure of the A303), he had received a request for a speed detection device across Mere Down. However, members felt that in view of the information that had been provided by P. C. Salter, they were satisfied that this was a temporary problem and that speeding was not necessarily the main concern.

### **381. Finance & Resources**

#### **a) Payments: To approve payments as listed in payment schedule**

Cllr. Jeans, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, asked if he could explain his invoice for repairing the MUGA floodlights before he left the room. He explained that two of the MUGA lights had been repaired, changed the bulbs (£200 each), igniters (£100 each) and added timers and removed the meter. The other 2 lights were in working order. The work had been done at cost price and had he charged for the full cost of labour, the bill would have been over £2000.

Cllr. Jeans left the room whilst members considered the payments.

Cllr. R. Coward said that it was regretful that the cost of maintain the Multi Use Games Area and the floodlights was so expensive, but it was a well used facility. Cllr. P. Coward proposed that the payments be approved en bloc.

Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote of those present.

Cash (Crookers)	Reimbursement for key cutting	16.00
Scats	Protective clothing	23.15
Jeans	Sensor for light outside AYP (parts only)	58.75
TF Plant Hire	Balance of hire charge for scaffold boards	47.94
Mr.Flag.com Ltd	Union flag	104.81
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil	117.96
Imprest Account – cheques 2641 - 2646	Petty Cash, Salaries, Pension etc.	3788.71
Jeans	MUGA floodlights	1175.00
Cash	Reimbursement for Mobile phone top-up	10.00

**b) To approve Budget/Expenditure report for quarter ending 31.12.09** – Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the Budget Report be approved without further comment. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a unanimous decision.

**c) To approve recommendations made of Health & Safety/Insurance review meeting held on 24.2.10** - deferred

**d) Signs: Quotations for cemetery signs** – the Clerk explained that she had received two quotations so far but that they were not comparable in terms of specification. She was therefore asked to give the companies further information in order to make the specifications similar but was authorized to accept the cheapest quotation.

**Signs for Duchy Manor** – Cllr. Hazzard explained that the dentist is proposing to arrange for a large sign to be erected somewhere around the vicinity of the school entrance to indicate what facilities are within the site (e.g. Dentist, Footprints, Parish Council Office). The dentist is proposing to pay for the sign but the Parish Council would need to pay for the lettering it requires. The Parish Council was in full agreement to paying for the lettering.

**e) Lease for Bowling Club & Swimming Club** – with reference to the last Parish Council discussion at the Budget Meeting, the Clerk explained that she was in receipt of constitutions for both clubs, letters from the Duchy of Cornwall and Wiltshire Council indicating their consent to the subleases (subject to formal request) and the Parish Council had submitted statements of intent for Mere Bowling Club and Mere Swimming Club and that neither club had requested particular covenants relating to hours of use, restrictions, parking or other access requirements. This paperwork was now being collated in order to send on to the Parish Council’s solicitor for this matter. However, there was one condition that needed to be met and that related to security fencing for the swimming pool boundary which needed to be replaced before the Swimming Club were prepared to sign any lease. The Clerk and Chairman were also anxious that this fencing should be replaced before the swimming pool re-opens this summer. The Parish Council therefore agreed to investigate the costs of providing secure fencing around the swimming pool and to investigate funding/grant options.

**f) Training** – The Clerk mentioned various possible training days for councilors and staff, in particular, a health & safety training day at Swindon on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April at a cost of £95. Members were happy for the Clerk to attend if considered appropriate.

### 382. General Items

**a) Best Kept Village Competition – 2010** – The Clerk informed members that the paperwork for the Best Kept Village Competition had been received. Members agreed that, as Mrs. Way had indicated an interest in Mere entering the competition last year, she should be asked if she would like to assist with submission of this year’s entry.

**b) Area Board Review Workshop** – Cllr. Jeans and the Clerk agreed to attend the meeting

**c) Annual Parish Meeting – to set date, time, venue & topics for discussion – 28<sup>th</sup> April, Grove Building (if possible),**  
**Agenda Items:** Car Parking Charges; Castle Hill & Long Hill; Refreshments will be provided

**383. Clerks Report –** Cllr. R. Coward proposed that the Clerks Report be confirmed and adopted. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. White and carried with a unanimous vote.