

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 5th July 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Small Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street, Mere.

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

Also: Mr. J. Hyde, Mrs. A. Howell, Mrs. D. Riddick, Mrs. Fricker, Mr. I. Sheppard, Mrs. R. Hyde, Mrs. Cardoza, M. Whatley, R. Potter.

Public Session

Mrs. Rachel Hyde said that she had recently visited a small town in Cornwall where she noticed small baskets were put out for people to recycle batteries and wondered whether Mere could do the same. Cllr. Jeans said that he was willing to accept batteries for recycling at his electrical shop and agreed to advertise this in Mere Matters.

Mr. Sheppard from Old Hollow spoke about the stream at Waterside and said that the riparian owners had cleared their part of the stream but said that the Parish Council had not done their bit and that weed had now been piled up on the bank adjacent to the footpath which was smelly and covered in flies. He asked the Parish Council to collect the weed.

Mrs. A. Howell said that the residents of Old Hollow and Waterside did not feel that much is being done for them and their main concern was the unkempt river. She said that *“residents had to put up with the smell and flies. On one side of the river from Salisbury Street to The Green there are no riparian owners. It is the safest way for children to come into school. The Parish Council encourages people to walk this way because it is one of the official Mere Walks yet the Parish Council takes no responsibility. Why should the householders do one side and no-one do the other side. Those who do clean it do not know what to do with the waste. We pay our rates and we don't want to walk past this mess. I have asked the Parish Council to take responsibility for this part of the river and the Parish Council will have problems if we have flash floods. We need to encourage visitors and the Parish Council seems to concentrate its efforts on flower tubs. Who is riparian owner on footpath side. If it is WC, get some money from them. We want it sorted out please before one of Mere's best assets is lost.”*

Mrs. Fricker reported that her son, who lives in America, came back to Mere to visit and saw the 3, Best Kept Village plaques on the Clock Tower and said that the judges obviously did not walk along Waterside. Mrs.

Riddick wanted to support both Mrs. Howell and Mrs. Fricker regarding the state of the river but also asked if the Parish Council could put pressure on Wiltshire Council to get something done about the state of Old Hollow Lane. She stated that the verges had only been cut on one side and the overgrowth was causing an obstruction in the narrow lane.

Cllr. R. Coward said that he was sympathetic but also pointed out that people should not be dumping weed and waste on the river bank. He also said that he was aware that Mrs. Howell has been a Parish Councillor and knows that the Parish Council endures a tough old budget meeting and is accountable for what it spends money on and how efficiently it spends money.

Cllr. Jeans said that he was sure that the Parish Council would put this matter back on the agenda for the next budget meeting in November.

Mr. John Hyde said that, with reference to planning application S/2010/865, it was no longer possible to see whether or not the rendering was defective because it had been removed. He said that the owner knew this was a Listed Building when he purchased it and yet the rendering was removed before the planning application was submitted. Mr. Hyde said that he had been trying to find out what the building is Listed as, 2 – 3 cottages or

1 house, as he felt this was relevant but he had not been able to get hold of an officer and could not find the answer.

Mr. Cardozo from Mapperton Hill Farm – read out statement in support of planning application S/2010/798 - as attached.

Mrs. Riddick asked about the grass cutting in Old Hollow and said that the contractors had only cut the verges on one side of the lane and the lane was now obstructed and narrowed by overgrown verges etc. Cllr. Mrs. White said that there were similar problems in Mill Lane and she had discovered that Wiltshire Council were now using new contractors. It was agreed that these matters would be taken up with Wiltshire Council. Also, Cllr. Mrs. White said that she had spoken to the Footpath Warden, Nick Cowen, to ask if anything could be done about the surface of the footpath from the end of Mill Lane to Ashfield Water. The surface is now extremely uneven as the last time it was tarmaced was in 1938.

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. Philip Coward and P. C. Richard Salter

422. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Hazzard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 428 (a) – recipient

Cllr. E. Mitchell declared a personal interest in Planning Application S/2010/798

Cllr. G. Jeans declared a personal interest in Planning Application S/2010/798 (related to the applicant's neighbour).

Cllr. Jeans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning Application S/2010/815 (applicant).

Cllr. Jeans declared a personal interest in Minute No. 428 (a)

Cllr. Hughes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 428 (a) - recipient

423. Minutes – Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 7th June 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 7.6.10

424. Planning

a) Applications: (All applications can be viewed on Wiltshire Council's website

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/planninganddevelopment/planningapplicationssearchonline/planningsearch.htm> – and type in the relevant application number)

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| Application Number: | S/2010/798/FULL |
| Location: | MAPPERTON HILL FARM, GILLINGHAM ROAD, MERE. |
| Proposal: | CHANGE OF USE OF LAND TO EXTENSION OF RESIDENTIAL CURTILAGE, DEMOLITION OF OUTBUILDING AND ERECTION OF BUILDING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION. |

Cllr. Michael Hall in The Chair

Cllr. Hazzard said that he had visited the site and studied the plans and felt that the new building had been sympathetically designed to look like a barn conversion and, although he was aware that councilors were concerned about setting a precedent in approving this application, he felt that these circumstances were extraordinary and that the applicants' genuinely wanted to stay in the property where they contributed towards community life and ran a business in the town. Cllr. Mrs. White said that she was minded to approve the application having heard that it will be conditioned to be kept as one entity and that the original house will not be sold off separately. The Clerk read out the objection that had been received from the Highways Department. Cllr. R. Coward proposed that, regardless of the highway objections, the Parish Council should recommend approval of this application. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hazzard and carried with a vote of 6 for, 0 objections & 3 abstentions. (Cllr. E. Mitchell & G. Jeans, having declared an interest, refrained from voting).

Cllr. E. Mitchell in The Chair

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| Application Number: | S/2010/815/TCA |
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Location: THE COTTAGE, SALISBURY STREET, MERE.
Proposal: FELL 1 x CHRISTMAS TREE AND REDUCE BY UP TO 30% AND RESHAPE CROWN 1 x FIR

Cllr. R. Coward proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. White and carried with a majority vote in favour. (Cllr. Jeans, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, left the room whilst this matter was discussed).

Application Number: S/2010/865/LBC
Location: THE MANSE, BOAR STREET, MERE.
Proposal: LISTED CONSENT – REMOVE DEEFECTIVE RENDERING ON SOUTH ELEVATION AND RE-POINT EXISTING STONE WALL.

Cllr. Hazzard said that, even though he could not answer the question made in the public session about the actual Listed structures of this building, he felt that the house without rendering looked rather nice. Cllr. Mrs. Traves said she understood that the property was rendered in the Victorian era when it was fashionable to render buildings next to churches so as not to distract from the church. Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a majority vote in favour. (In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting).

Application Number: S/2010/901/FULL
Location: PLOT ADJACENT TO ROWNEY, MANOR ROAD, MERE.
Proposal: ERECT NEW DWELLING (REVISION TO PREVIOUSLY APPROVED DWELLING DESIGN S/2009/0971)

Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hall and carried with a majority vote in favour. Cllr. Mrs. White abstained from voting. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans also abstained from voting.

Application Number: S/2010/945/LBC
Location: HABBERLEY, WATER STREET, MERE.
Proposal: LISTED CONSENT – FORM ENSUITE TO MAIN BEDROOM: RELOCATE BOILER FLUE TO outhouse.

Although advance notice of the above planning application had not been given, members agreed that the application should be considered at the meeting in order to submit a response within the consultation deadline. Cllr. Hall proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hughes and carried with a unanimous vote of approval.

Application Number: S/2010/784/FULL
Location: LAND AT LONGCROSS, ZEALS.
Proposal: CHANGE OF USE OF LAND FROM AGRICULTURAL TO HGV TRAILER STORAGE, FORM NEW VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND RELOCATE LAYBY

The Clerk informed members that this item had been raised on the agenda following a request from a Zeals resident at the previous Parish Council meeting.

Cllr. Hazzard reminded members that the Parish Council has a general policy that it does not become involved in planning applications outside the parish unless they have a direct impact upon Mere. Members agreed that this planning application would not have a direct impact upon Mere and it was therefore inappropriate to submit comment on the application.

b) South Wiltshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document – Notice of possible Major Changes to submitted Development Plan Document – the Clerk informed members that paperwork had been received and she had briefly read through the document but could find no specific mention of the Mere area or issues of particular relevance to Mere. Cllr. Jeans confirmed that the number of houses proposed would not change that much in this region.

425. Matters Arising

a) Resistance to car parking charges – The Clerk informed members that the consultation had been delayed and that the Area Board consultation would take place in August and the Consultation documents are expected to be out in July.

b) Wiltshire Councillors Report – Cllr. Jeans reported that he had attended a meeting to discuss proposed changes to the way that Developers Contributions are collected and allocated. They will be called CILS and will be based on a broader range of community needs rather than the current approach which concentrates on recreational needs. Cllr. Jeans had also attended an open day for services for older people entitled ‘A Senior Moment’ and he congratulated the Rosemary Goddard Centre on raising £1200 by organizing an Open Garden Day.

c) Report from Community Safety Representative – Cllr. Sims reported that he had attended two meetings recently, one at Tisbury and one at Salisbury. Had an interesting talk about Emergency Planning and the Emergency Planning team is looking for parish councilors to volunteer. Cllr. Sims also explained the purpose of ‘Smart Water’ – this is dabbed onto any items owned of value and if they are stolen and recovered by the police, it enables the police to trace the goods to rightful owners. The Bobby Van is still issuing free fridge medical information emergency tubs but this charity is now desperate for money. Cllr. Sims proposed that the Parish Council should make a donation to the Bobby Van and it was agreed that this would be raised on the next budget meeting.

d) Report from Transport Representative – nothing to report.

***e) Suggestion for reducing street lights or reduced lighting times** – Cllr. Sims reported that some residents living in Long Hill had suggested that every other light could be switched off. On the whole, however, the Parish Council felt unable to identify any areas where they thought that reduced street lighting would be appropriate. Indeed, they identified areas where extra street lighting was required in order to reduce the feeling of vulnerability and safety when walking in the dark – e.g. Old Hollow and Dark Lane. Members felt that our existing street lights helped to reduce anxiety about safety amongst residents. It was agreed, however, that Wiltshire Council should be asked to repair the street lights that aren’t working, including those that are switched on all day, as this may reduce electric costs.

f) Forging closer links with the National Trust and Stourhead – Cllr. Hazzard said that he was arranging a time and date to meet with Mr. McCormack

426. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths & Transport

a) Parish Steward –job list for next visit:

- Trimming banks at Old Hollow and Clay Knapp (junction with Pettridge Lane & The Lynch)
- Trimming visibility splays at junctions.
- Fill pot holes on surface of road by roundabout outside Walnut Tree and all the way along to Southbrook road junction.

427. Allotments

a) Letter from Duchy of Cornwall asking us to surrender, from the lease, a small area of land (approximately 0.01 acre/0.004hectares) comprising of a ditch at Southbrook allotments. – Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the Parish Council should surrender this tiny area from the lease of the allotments at Southbrook as it was of no use or purpose to the Parish Council. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote in favour.

b) Concerns regarding state of Wellhead allotment car parking area – the Clerk explained that she was still waiting to hear back from residents of Wellhead.

428. Finance & Resources

a) Payments: On proposal made by Cllr. Mrs. Traves, seconded by Cllr. R. Coward, it was resolved to agree the following payments: (Cllrs. Hazzard, R. Hughes & G. Jeans, having declared interests, refrained from discussion or voting).

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| Shaftesbury Garden Machinery | Repairs to Husqvarna ride-on | 173.43 |
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| | mower | |
| E. G. Coles & Son | Parts for topper mower | 156.23 |
| Sydenhams | Nuts & bolts | 10.27 |
| D & H Pengelly | Farm Environment Plan & HLS Application Advice | 140.91 |
| Mere & District Linkscheme | S. 137 Donation | 300.00 |
| Mere Matters | S. 137 Donation | 600.00 |
| Mere Youth Development Centre | S. 137 Donation – Leisure Credit Scheme | 300.00 |
| Mere Brownies | S. 137 Donation – Flag Raising | 75.00 |
| Mere School | Swimming Pool – water used from 5.3.10 – 9.6.10 | 351.12 |
| Mere School | Cricket Club – water used from 5.3.10 – 9.6.10 | 49.22 |
| Mere School | AYP & Bowling Green – water used from 5.3.10 – 9.6.10 | 383.94 |
| Mere School | Swimming Pool – electricity used from 5.3.10 – 9.6.10 | 127.06 |
| Mere School | Changing Rooms – electricity used from 5.3.10 – 9.6.10 | 70.58 |
| Mere School | Changing Rooms – gas used from 5.3.10 – 9.6.10 | 133.95 |
| Mere School | Changing Rooms – water used from 5.3.10 – 9.6.10 | 33.52 |
| Richard Hughes | Supply Xmas Tree & spraying paths in cemetery | 225.00 |
| Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal | Poppy Wreaths | £50.00 already paid. (£25 to be reimbursed by Cllr. Jeans). |
| Forge Garages | Fuel & Oil for June | 193.99 |
| Imprest Account – cheque Nos. 2662 - 2667 | Petty cash, wages, pension, PAYE | 5954.15 |
| Southern Electric | Supply to Clock Tower | 17.35 |
| Mere Lecture Hall Trust | Hire of rooms | 30.00 |
| North Street Nurseries | Summer planting – floral tubs | 826.03 |

b) Review of Banking Facilities – letter from Lloyds TSB – The Clerk informed members that she had received a letter from the bank saying that when the Parish Council first opened its Treasurers’ Account, they were able to offer us free banking as our turnover was below £50,000. However, as our turnover is now over £50,000 per annum, from 10th May they will transfer us onto their standard Business Extra Account. Councillor Jeans said that he would try, once again, to persuade the bank to waive these charges in the interests of the community and would liaise with the Clerk. If unsuccessful, the Clerk said that she would explore other options for free banking.

429. Health & Safety

a) Concerns raised by school over cricket shed – The Clerk reported that the school bursar had raised concerns that the cricket shed was dangerous in that children could climb on top of the roof and the roof or structure of the shed may not be sound. The Chairman reported that he and Cllr. Hall had assessed the structure and whilst

it may be true that that youths could climb on top of the shed there are plenty of other opportunities where children can climb on top of buildings. It was agreed to raise the subject at the next Sports Development Meeting in order to ask the cricket club for their opinion.

430. General Items

a) Xmas Lights - The Chairman suggested that the tree growing in the centre island could be used to display some net lights this Xmas instead of purchasing a xmas tree, erecting it and erecting the large bulb lights. The Chairman felt that this would be more visible and would be less of safety risk in terms and would cost less money but he did concede that the Parish Council would need to find some way of overcoming the lack of power supply. Cllr. R. Coward said that he agreed with the argument on economics but not with the argument on aesthetics. Cllr. Jeans said that he agreed that the nets would have less health & safety risk implications and agreed to look at the electrical connections and investigate options. Cllr. Jeans said that he was also prepared to offer a tree for the centre of town as he had one ready to be felled but he did not know whether it would be feasible. Cllr. Hughes agreed to look at this tree.

b) Annual 43rd (Wessex) Division Memorial Service & Parade – members were reminded that the parade would take place this Sunday, 11th July 2010

c) Community Heartbeat – Public Access Defibrillator – it was agreed to ask for a demonstration.

431. 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. The Clerk was asked to write to the Landlord of The George Inn and to Hall & Woodhouse, congratulating them on a wonderful floral display this summer.

* Further information on these items in Clerks Report.

432. Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity

Request from Mere Youth Development Centre for container storage for bikes etc. – Cllrs. C. Hazzard and R. Coward declared an interest. The Chairman confirmed that he and the Vice-Chairman had visited the site this afternoon and had agreed that it would be inappropriate to site a container in the front of the youth club. However, they felt that the rear of the youth club would be fine, as long as it was not causing an obstruction for the Tennis Club who used to use that area for car parking. It was agreed that a container, length 20' X width 8' X height 8'6" would be acceptable, agreed on the same terms as those applied to the Bowls Club and for a rental of £10 p.a. (in order to meet the Charity Commission's requirements). Also to point out that the Youth Club must be responsible for obtaining all other necessary permissions & meeting conditions of those permissions.