

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 1st August 2011 at 7.30 p.m. in The Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

Present: Councillors Mrs. Mary White (Chairman), Mrs. L. Traves (Vice-Chairman), R. Coward, C. Hazzard, Mrs. J. Hurd, G. Jeans, E. Mitchell, B. Norris, R. Sims & S. Squires

Public Session

Lyn Williamson spoke about residents serious concerns regarding the level of the water in the stream along Waterside which has gone down year by year. She said that the problem was due to over-extraction by Wessex Water and she had carried out some research on their website which implied that they had a stream support system where they can pump some water back into the stream. She said that the water voles and kingfishers had disappeared and there were now lots of rats and, when cleared, the river bed had about 6" of silt and it was supposed to be a gravel chalk stream.

Ian Sheppard, recently became a river warden for Wiltshire Wildlife and his role is to monitor the wildlife and insects but there is no stream to monitor at the moment. He pointed out that the History of Mere quotes that Mere has an abundance of water supply but the water has now diminished and the wildlife it supported is dying or disappearing and he was concerned that there would be no stream for the next generation to enjoy. Mr. Sheppard said that the Environment Agency had stated that the abstraction of water by Wessex Water had not noticeably affected the ecology of the stream and he urged the Parish Council to help and arrange an open meeting with Wessex Water and the Environment Agency & Wiltshire Wildlife.

Mrs. Howell said that the residents agreed that Waterside and Steep Street were now sadly neglected. The roads and pavements were not swept and there was a horrible thick slime all along the river which represented a health hazard. She said that the Parish Council's decision to pass responsibility for clearing the river was not working. She said that some residents still dumped weed on the public footpath side of the river and, no doubt they and the Parish Council would complain if it was dumped elsewhere. The smell and the flies were unacceptable. Mr. Marks said that the nub of the problem was tackling Wessex Water and the Environment Agency. He said that the river was at a critical stage and was in danger of losing its aquatic life and that small fish were presently circling and trying to find somewhere deeper.

Jane Batten from Crossways said that she had noticed a considerable change in the river wildlife over the years and urged all residents to write letters to Wessex Water & the Environment Agency so that Mere becomes a thorn in their side. She pointed out that there is no water along Ashfield either and the duck pond at Burton is completely dry.

Cllr. Rodney Coward said that he had total support for the residents over this issue and said that the Parish Council should contact the Environment Agency because they had responsibility. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had contacted Wessex Water in the recent past who had said that they were not abstracting more than they were licensed to abstract but it was agreed to contact both Wessex Water and the Environment Agency pointing out how strongly the residents feel and to try and get some help, advice and assistance over this issue.

Mr. Eric Mitchell confirmed that a resident had approach him regarding the 'Give Way' situation in Pettridge Lane. The resident said that the tarmac was being damaged and the 'Give Way' signs should be reversed. Wiltshire Councillor Jeans said that there were strict criteria on 'Give Way' priorities and that the existing design was the only one that met these criteria.

Mrs. White said that there was a growing hole at the bottom of the wall in Dark Lane where stones had been carefully lifted and removed.

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. P. Coward

35. To receive Declarations of Interest

Cllr. R. Coward declared a personal interest in planning application S/2011/973

Cllr. Jeans declared a personal interest in planning applications S/2011/1020 & 1021

Cllr. Mitchell declared a personal interest in planning application S/2011/1033

Cllr. Mrs. White declared a personal interest in planning application S/2011/1070

36. 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)

Parish or Ward: MERE

Application Number: S/2011/973

Location: Land adjacent Hazelwood House Limpers Hill Mere Warminster.

Proposal: Erection of portal frame barn for storage of agricultural and forestry equipment

Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mitchell and carried with a vote of 8 for. Cllr. R. Coward, having declared a personal interest, refrained from discussion or voting. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

Parish or Ward: MERE

Application Number: S/2011/1020/FULL & S/2011/1021/CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT

Location: Talbot Garage Salisbury Street Mere Warminster.

Proposal: Demolition of existing valet building. erection of new workshop extension including extension for MOT facility

Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the above applications should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sims and carried with a vote of 8 for. Cllr. Jeans, having declared a personal interest, refrained from voting or discussion.

Parish or Ward: MERE

Application Number: S/2011/1033

Location: Homestead Farm Shaftesbury Road Mere Warminster.

Proposal: Remove section of hedgerow as shown on plan and replant a new section of hedge to complete new boundary

Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the above application should be recommended for refusal for the following reasons: "Unfortunately, the Parish Council found the plans inadequate and members felt that they needed further clarification as to why it was necessary to remove the whole hedge rather than just removing the yew from the existing hedge in order to graze cattle." Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hurd and carried with a vote of 6 in favour, and 2 abstentions. Cllr. Mitchell, having declared a personal interest, refrained from voting or discussion.

Parish or Ward: MERE

Application Number: S/2011/1052

Location: Oakhaven Woodlands Road Mere Warminster.

Proposal: Extensions to north and south elevations and raise roof to form first floor accommodation

Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. She said that the overall footprint would change very little. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Norris and carried with a vote of 8 for. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

Cllr. Mrs. Traves in The Chair

Parish or Ward: MERE
Application Number: S/2011/1070/FULL
Location: Willow Cottage, Mill Lane, Mere, Warminster.
Proposal: Single storey extension

Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sims and carried with a vote of 8 for. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting. Cllr. Mrs White, having declared a personal interest, refrained from voting or discussion.

Cllr. Mrs. White in The Chair

37. Policy & Resources

a) Finance: The following payments were unanimously approved on proposal made by Cllr. Hazzard and seconded by Cllr. R. Coward.

Mere Plumbing & Heating	Supply & fit new water meter in swimming pool hut	102.87
I. V. & S. M. Thomas	Hedge cutting (Oct. 2010 – March 2011)	324.00
D & H Pengelly	Farm Environment Plan & HLS Application Advice	323.05
David Harness	Tree work in Recreation Ground	148.80
Rochford Garden Machinery	Strimmer sundries	80.80
T. Thornley	New printer for office	191.41 Already paid
Cash	Reimbursement for printer cartridge	57.68
Imprest Account Cheque Nos. 2730 - 2734	Wages, PAYE, Petty Cash reimbursement & Pension	3674.02
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil	248.00
Shaftesbury Garden Machinery	Repairs to Husqvarna ride-on	147.61

b) Quotations & tenders – to consider quotations received to replace the post and 3-rail fencing surrounding the children’s play area in Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground. The Clerk summarised the quotations received as follows:

	L-J W Fencing	Fencewize	Bourton Fencing	N. Maitland
Erect new fencing	£2451.53 + VAT	£2513.35 + VAT ****	£1992 + VAT	£2846
Taking down & removing fence	£272 + VAT		£300 + VAT	£350
Public Liability	Yes - £2.5 m		No	Yes - £5m

Insurance Certificate included				
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**** Fencewise did not include a separate price for taking down and removing existing fence but their quote includes taking down (also they quoted for a 12' 5-bar gate instead of the 10' one that we specified). Cllr. R. Coward proposed that Bourton Fencing should be offered the work to erect the new fencing and take down and remove the old fencing on condition that they submit a copy of their public liability insurance certificate and that this meets the necessary criteria. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sims and carried with a unanimous vote.

38. General Items

a) Interest in training course 'Social Media for Destinations'? – Cllr. R. Sims said that he would be interested in attending.

b) Invitation to attend Community First AGM – Wednesday, 14th September 2011 – Cllr. Mrs. White said that she would attend.

c) Local concerns over work being carried out at Bramley House and possible boundary issues – members were made aware that both the Clerk & Wiltshire Councillor Jeans had been in receipt of correspondence from residents of Kingsmere relating to the alteration of boundaries around Bramley House. The Clerk was authorised to request a copy of the Register & Title from the Land Registry to see if this may help to resolve issues.

39. Emergency Item – Higher Level Stewardship Agreement

Cllr. R. Coward said that he had recently met with Canopy Land Use to look at the draft agreement for Long Hill and the Higher Level Stewardship Agreement. Cllr. Coward was confident that the Parish Council would be receiving the agreement for signature within the next couple of weeks and urged the council to read this carefully as it was a 10 year agreement and the implications needed to be fully understood before it was signed.

Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity

a) To consider quotations received to replace the post and 3-rail fencing surrounding the children's play area.

With reference to the Parish Council Minute No. 37b), the Trustees confirmed that this was their recommendation also.

b) To consider tree assessments and decide on action to take - the Clerk informed members that Mr. David Harness had found fungal brackets on two of the beech trees behind the tennis courts and in view of their close proximity to the adjoining houses in Chetcombe Road and the tennis courts, he had recommended that a more detailed inspection should be carried out by an arboriculturalist and had recommended Astill Treecare from Wincanton. Mr. Astill from Astill Treecare had indicated that a detailed inspection would cost somewhere in the region of £250-£350. It was agreed that this detailed inspection should be carried out.

c) To approve payment of the following:

David Harness	Tree assessment	£148.80
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(To be paid from MPC account)