

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 4th April 2011 at 7.30 p.m. in The Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

Present: Councillors: E. Mitchell (Chairman), R. Coward, C. Hazzard, R. Hill, G. Jeans, B. Norris, Mrs. R. Porter, S. Squires, Mrs. L. Traves & Mrs. M. White

Also: P. C. Richard Salter & PCSO Jake Noble, Mr. L. Stanton.

Public Session

Mrs. Penny Deeker, speaking on behalf of The Friends of Mere School, said that they would like to organise a Halloween and Firework Party on Monday, 31st October and they would like to hold it at Duchy Manor Sports Grounds. The Firework display would be organised by Pains Fireworks who have their own public liability insurance and would be held in accordance with Mere School's NCPTA's Insurance Code of Practice for Bonfire and Firework Parties. They were hoping to attract between 600 – 1,000 people and would sell tickets in advance and hoping to raise enough money to purchase enough fireworks for a 15 – 20 minute display. Would like it to be a family event with fancy dress, pumpkin carving and perhaps stalls from local businesses and organisations. An initial inspection has been carried out and the tickets would clearly state that there would be no parking on site so that those attending will either park in the public car parks or walk and the gates would be marshalled. The organisation will write to residents living in the vicinity to warn them of the fireworks. Mrs. Deeker hoped that the Parish Council would consider this request favourably.

Mrs. Adrienne Howell wanted to commend the Long Hill HLS Application and suggested that, despite opposition, the Parish Council should 'stick to its guns'. Mrs. Howell said that it used to be possible to have a 360 degree right along the ridge of Long Hill but this was no longer possible and it was now like walking through a dark tunnel with no air or sunlight. Mrs. Howell said that she was also aware that the Parish Council would be taking on the car parks and wondered whether the old band hut would be included in the lease as the Mere & District Linkscheme would like to use the building for storage purposes. Cllr. Jeans said that he was going to bring this matter up in his councillor's report but explained that this was a separate matter and came under the heading of 'Transfer of Assets'. The Parish Council had previously registered an interest in the old band hut and the old bowling green as asset transfers and Cllr. Jeans had contacted some officers and would pursue this matter further.

Mr. Coward thanked Mrs. Howell for supporting the Parish Council over the Long Hill issue.

Apologies for absence received from Parish Councillors D. Sealy, R. Hughes and R. Sims

510. To receive Declarations of Interest – Cllr. Jeans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 516c)

511. Minutes – Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 7th March 2011 be approved as a correct record of proceedings. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 7.3.11.

512. 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)

Application Number: S/2011/330

Location: Rose Cottage Water Street Mere Warminster.

Proposal: Erect two storey rear extension with single storey lean-to

Cllr. Norris proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hill and carried with a unanimous vote.

Application Number: S/2011/352

Location: Walnut Tree Inn Shaftesbury Road Mere Warminster.

Proposal: Change of use from accommodation to Bed and Breakfast letting rooms at first floor level

Cllr. Squires proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a unanimous vote.

513. Matters Arising

a) Neighbourhood Policing Report – P. C. Richard Salter said that all recently reported crimes were now listed in the Neighbourhood Policing Bulletin and he was happy to ask the Councillors if they had any questions. Cllr. Mrs. White asked about the withdrawal of the Neighbourhood Police telephone number and P. C. Salter confirmed that the mobile phone that he and Jake used to share had been withdrawn and they now have individual unique numbers which they are not meant to release to the public. However, PC Salter was happy for councillors to know his number but stressed that it was not to be used in emergencies as it would only be answered when he was on duty. He stressed 0845 408 7000 was the proper number to report non-emergency crimes, provide information or contact someone and that 999 should be used for all emergencies. P. C. Salter reported that Warminster and Westbury Police Stations were amalgamating but stressed that the Mere policing team was a stand-alone Neighbourhood Policing Team and there were no plans to close the police office at the fire station. PCSO Jake Noble handed out some leaflets on garden and shed alarms.

b) Report from Community Safety Representative - None

c) Report from Transport Representative - None

d) Wiltshire Councillor's Report – Cllr. Jeans reported that he had received a donation of £100 towards the purchase of a new flag and that he hoped that the flag pole could be painted before the Royal Wedding. He also reported on the proposed changes to the planning system which, he said, would place an assumption that prospective purchasers of commercial premises would succeed in receiving change of use. It was agreed that the Parish Council should write a letter to our MP about this issue, stressing our concern for potential conflicts with the Parish Council's policy for resisting change of use applications (from commercial to residential). Cllr. Jeans reported that, from today, Wiltshire Council will be charging £30 for providing advice on planning applications although he was hopeful that Parish Councillors and Wiltshire Councillors would still be able to speak to planning officers for advice without being charged. Wiltshire Council had allocated £3.7 million for highway repairs.

e) Castle Hill & Long Hill Management Plans – report on small informal meeting held with parishioners on 29.3.11 – The Chairman invited Mr. Andrew Holder, David Stokes, Roger Gridley, John Graham & Frank Connelly into the office for an informal discussion meeting which took place on Tuesday, 29th March. The Chairman, Cllr. Rodney Coward, Jaki Farrell & the Clerk were also present. The meeting was fairly positive but it would seem that a number of residents who have moved into Mere in the last two or three years, feel aggrieved that they have not been made aware of the Parish Council's management plans for Long Hill. Those present were given further information about the Parish Council's application for Higher Level Stewardship scheme and Cllr. Coward had agreed to take them up to Long Hill on this Thursday evening, when Alison Pike from Canopy Land Use and Rob Large from Wiltshire Wildlife would also be present. The Clerk read out an email from Mr. Connelly, thanking the Parish Council for arranging the meeting which, he said, was very positive but he asked the council to consider the following question: 'For the plan to change, how many people would need to share an opinion?' Cllr. Coward said that this was a very interesting question and that, in fact, it would need 8 Parish Councillors, being a majority, to decide to change the plan. Cllr. Mrs. Porter said that, as a resident of Long Hill, she did not believe that there was a majority view against the plan amongst residents of the area. The Chairman stressed that the proposals for Long Hill had been made after years of work and liaison with various professional organisations and it was a long term plan that should not just be chopped and changed around.

f) Lease for car parks & public toilets – The Clerk confirmed that there was nothing new to report.

514. Highways, Rivers, Traffic & Transport

a) Proposed changes to bus services – The Clerk informed members that Wiltshire Council was proposing a package of bus service reductions in order to save £600,000 which will be implemented on 6 June. Wiltshire Council was asking Parish & Town Councils to let them know if these service reductions caused significant concerns. The Clerk

informed members that the main bus service affected locally was the Mere-Maiden Bradley-Frome service where Wiltshire Council was proposing to withdraw the 1530 journey from Frome to Maiden Bradley, Kilmington and Mere on Saturdays because it had very low usage (almost nil) and there was a later bus from Frome at 16.30. Other bus services in and around Salisbury would be reduced but usually only where usage was deemed as very low. Members felt that these reductions were justifiable and did not raise any significant concerns.

b) Job list for Parish Steward – It was agreed to ask the Parish Steward to attend to the mud and muck in Angel Lane.

515. Allotments

a) Update on allotment rent audit – The Clerk reported that the allotment rentals received on the Ladyday rental audit and up to 31st March (these were allotment rents in advance for 2011/12) had totalled £1135.10 with £170.60 still outstanding from 9 allotment holders. The Clerk confirmed that the rental income for 2010/11 had covered allotment expenses for 2010/11 and confirmed that the water bills received for Wellhead had, so far, been very close to the figures originally estimated.

b) Request for permission to erect shed on allotment at Southbrook
Request for permission to erect polytunnel on allotment at Southbrook

On proposal made by Cllr. Squires, seconded by Cllr. Hill, it was unanimously agreed to grant permission to erect these structures.

516. Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Formal terms of reference for Parish Council's relationship with Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity and, in particular, financial procedures – The Clerk read out draft terms of reference which were unanimously adopted by the Parish Council. (Copy attached).

b) Policy for dealing with letters (relating to Parish Council matters) sent to Councillors at their home address – Item deferred for further discussion.

c) Xmas lighting proposals for 2011 onwards – Cllr. Jeans declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the room whilst this matter was discussed. The Clerk said that, since the lighting of the tree in the centre of Mere had proved to be fairly successful, there had been a suggestion to change the Xmas lighting display on the clock tower, especially since the cold weather last year had caused such a detrimental effect on the lighting bulbs. The suggestion was to have small white lights going up the four corners of the clock tower and around the base of the tower and small coloured bulbs on the four lime trees at each corner of the clock tower. The Clerk said that she was hopeful that the Parish Council would be able to apply for a grant for the purchase of the lighting strings and the Chairman felt that this scheme would save the Parish Council time and money in the long term. The Clerk also pointed out that Jeans Electricals had offered to provide a refund for the purchase of replacement bulbs (purchased last year and not yet used) if the Parish Council agreed to pursue this scheme. Cllr. Hazzard felt that this was a wonderful idea and proposed that the Parish Council should proceed with the purchase of strings of smaller bulbs for the clock tower and lime trees, as suggested. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Squires and carried with a unanimous vote of those present.

d) Review of Financial Risk Assessment - deferred

e) Payments – Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the following payments be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote.

Grove Building	Hire of meeting hall	F.O.C.
Wiltshire Council	Non-Domestic Rates for Cemetery	372.38
Wiltshire Council	Non-Domestic Rates for Duchy Manor grounds + premises	1472.20
Wessex Water	Water services for cemetery	82.54
Wiltshire Council	Lease of land at Duchy Manor	200.00
Mere School	Changing rooms + office Electricity 7.12.10 – 4.3.11	316.15
Mere School	Changing rooms	124.24

	Gas 7.12.10 – 4.3.11	
Mere School	AYP + Bowling Green Water 7.12.10 – 4.3.11	16.41
Mere School	Swimming Pool Water 7.12.10 – 4.3.11	45.94
Mere School	Changing Rooms Water 7.12.10 – 4.3.11	33.05
Fencewize	Fencing around swimming pool (labour)	1458.00
A. McCann	Repair stone wall at Jubilee Gardens	68.50
Southern Electric	Supply to Clock Tower	17.35
Cash	Groundsman's mobile phone top-up fee	20.00
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil	208.00
Imprest a/c – cheques 2708 - 2712	Wages, PAYE, petty cash & pension	5325.73

f) Draft lease for Mere Swimming Pool and Mere Bowls Club – The Clerk informed members that the draft leases had been received from the solicitor and asked the Council how they wanted to proceed with consulting with the sports groups. Cllr. Hazzard suggested that this should be carried out prior to the Sports Development meeting.

517. General Items

a) Request for permission to hold a Halloween and Firework Party at Duchy Manor on Monday, 31st October organised by Friends of Mere School – Cllr. Hazzard felt that this was a wonderful idea and proposed that the Parish Council should support the Halloween & Firework Party and offer free use of the Andy Young Pavilion. Proposal carried with a majority vote and 1 abstention (Cllr. Squires).

518. Clerks Report – none

Future Agenda Items – new paths for new cemetery

519. Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity

Trustees approved the following payment:

BWBSL (Wessex Water)	Water supply to Recreation Ground	£8.75
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