

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

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

Present: Councillors: Mrs. Mary White (Chairman), Mrs. Lesley Traves (Vice-Chairman), R. Coward, C. Hazzard, R. Hughes, G. Jeans, B. Norris, Mrs. R. Porter, D. Sealy, R. Sims & S. Squires.
Members of the public present: Mrs. Fiona Jukes, Kit Stallard, Lt. Col. Botsford, L. Stanton, Simon & Meg from Youth Development Centre, M. Whatley.

Meeting convened at 7.31 p.m. with **Public Session**

Simon & Meg from the Youth Development Centre explained that they had come to talk about the proposals for a skate park. They explained that a skate park had been earmarked as high priority by the youth members and the youth members had produced some proposals with diagrams and had found some websites that would help with funding for extra ramps + design + development. The young people would also be willing to help with fundraising. The area identified was approximately 50' X 60'. Simon also wanted to thank the Parish Council for its support with the Leisure Credit Scheme. Cllr. R. Coward explained that he and Cllr. Hazzard had attended a Youth meeting last month where it was agreed that a skate park would be ideally situated in the area of the Recreation Ground currently occupied by the kicking wall and the youth had agreed that the kicking wall was an eyesore and was not really used as a kicking wall and should therefore be demolished. Cllr. Jeans noted that the kicking wall had been used as a graffiti wall and wondered whether it was providing an alternative use. It was agreed that the matter would be raised as a future agenda item in 3 or 4 months time.

Col. Matthew Botsford explained that he had recently moved to Mere and it had struck him, on Remembrance Sunday, that Mere has a number of serving military residents. He also attended the Annual Parish Meeting where the Parish Council had discussed problems with snow and ice clearance during the winter. Col. Botsford wondered whether the Parish Council felt that there may be any benefit in him trying to organise the serving military to help with emergency or urgent support such as ice clearance, snow clearance, gritting, electricity failure, flooding etc. Col. Botsford asked the Parish Council whether they felt it would be a good idea for him to scope this project during the summer. There was general agreement from members and it was agreed to raise this as an agenda item for September.

Rachel Porter said that she had been asked to say a huge thank you on behalf of Mere Fireworks Festival Committee who now had enough money, through grants and sponsorships, for the event to go ahead as hoped.

Clive Hazzard reminded those present that the Carnival Race night would be held at the Walnut Tree Public House on Friday night and stressed the importance of supporting these events to raise funds for the carnival.

Roy Sims pointed out that that the wall at the bottom of Bramley Hill on Castle Street (at the bus stop) was falling away and looked extremely dangerous. Cllr. Jeans said that he would make enquiries about this. Sam Squires made a complaint about the Connect 2 bus driver and Cllr. Sims said that he would make enquiries about this issue. Sam Squires also said that the Countryfile programme aired last night explained the purpose and reasoning behind the Parish Council's proposals for Castle Hill & Long Hill.

The Parish Council agreed to send a letter to The George to congratulate them on the wonderful floral display again this year. The Parish Council also agreed that contractors should be brought in to give the pavilion a deep clean.

Apologies for absence received from Councillors: P. Coward, R. Hill & E. Mitchell

26. To receive Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Jeans declared a prejudicial interest in Minute No. 32 a)

27. Minutes – Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 6th June 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 6.6.11.

28. Matters Arising

***a) Co-option of councillor to fill casual vacancy** – Members considered the personal statements for the following candidates – Mr. Ted Henson, Mr. David Hope and Mr. Kit Stallard – which had been distributed by the Parish Clerk along with the agenda papers. However, the Clerk informed members that Jane Hurd had today asked for her name to be put forward as a candidate. She sent her apologies for being unable to attend the meeting and for being unable to present a personal statement verbally but felt that much of her background and experience would be familiar to many councillors as she was well known within the community. The Chairman called for nominations and, since one of the nominees was present, members agreed that it would be fairer to carry out the voting by secret ballot rather than a show of hands. A clear majority vote for Mrs. Jane Hurd was received after two rounds of voting. (Full voting results are available from The Clerk).

b) Neighbourhood Policing Report - None

c) Wiltshire Councillors Report + report on Area Board meeting – Cllr. Jeans reported that the Area Board had awarded money to the Mere Fireworks Festival and he was very pleased to see so many Mere people present at the meeting in support of this application. Cllr. Jeans reported that he was dealing with issues relating to the flats at Southbrook and also issues regarding planning and ownership boundaries at Bramley House.

d) Lease for car parks & public toilets – the Clerk confirmed that there had been no further news on the car park lease situation. Cllr. Jeans confirmed that he had been pushing to get the Salisbury Street car park surface repaired to a satisfactory condition.

e) Street Trading Scheme – Draft Final Consultation – The Clerk raised concern that she had not yet been notified of the revised consultation for the Street Trading Scheme. Cllr. Jeans confirmed that the Revised Draft Scheme would be discussed by the full committee in September. It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with Cllr. Jeans in order to obtain a copy of the new revised scheme.

f) New paths for new cemetery – the Clerk informed members that she had found the original specification for drainage and paths. It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with Cllr. Hughes with a view to updating and amending the specification in order to invite tenders.

g) Community orchard for Kingsmere – grant funding - deferred

29. 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/2011/838/FULL & S/2011/839/LISTED CONSENT

Location: 2 The Grange Water Street Mere Warminster.

Proposal: Replacing and resiting of boiler including the fitting of a new flue

Cllr. Sealy proposed that the above applications be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Squires and carried with a unanimous vote.

Parish or Ward: MERE
Application Number: S/2011/840
Location: Lyme House 5 Lovage Way Mere Warminster.
Proposal: New entrance gates (retrospective)

The Chairman confirmed that she had visited the site and noticed that the gates were rather large and opened outwards across the pavement and into the road. Cllr. Jeans informed members that the roads on this estate had not yet been adopted due to problems associated with the surface treatment of driveways and he felt that these gates may cause another problem for the highway adopted. Cllr. R. Coward proposed that the application should be recommended for refusal as the gates open out across the footpath and into the highway which would create a pedestrian and vehicular safety hazard. Also, we understand that there are issues relating to the adoption of the highway and pavements on this estate and the installation of these gates would further hamper the adoption process. 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.

Parish or Ward: MERE
Application Number: S/2011/929
Location: Faith Cottage North Road Mere Warminster.
Proposal: Demolish lean-to and erect two storey extension with new boundary wall

The Clerk pointed out that this extension and boundary wall would form the boundary with the allotments and was concerned that the Parish Council should be aware of potential boundary disputes and ensure that rights of way should not be obstructed and any windows may need to become sash windows etc. Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the Parish Council should object to this application as the extension would be overly dominant and not subservient to the existing dwelling. Also, if permission were to be granted, there should be a condition placed that the windows on the north east elevation must be sash windows and not open outwards so as to block any right of way along the allotments. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a vote of 5 for and 5 abstentions. Cllr. Jeans, in his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, refrained from voting or discussion.

Parish or Ward: MERE
Application Number: S/2011/0578
Location: St. Matthews Farm, Forest Deer, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5QJ
Proposal: Erect 1 No. barn for livestock, 1 No. building for use as isolation loose boxes and form vehicular and pedestrian access (close existing access).

PLEASE NOTE: THIS APPLICATION HAS BEEN FORWARDED FROM BY NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL
Cllr. Hazzard felt that the concentration of building on such a small piece of land would involve the movement of a lot of animals which would involve a lot of traffic and he felt that it would be a major farming enterprise for such a dangerous access. Cllr. Hazzard made the following proposal: That the Parish Council should pass on the following observations: the proposed development will significantly increase the concentration of agricultural animal movements which will be made via a proposed new access which is just north of a sharp and dangerous 'S' bend in the highway which has seen a number of accidents (unreported and reported) in recent year and which is not clearly visible from looking at the plans. The Parish Council feel that such an increase in agricultural vehicular movements is inappropriate and would be hazardous in this particular location since these vehicles will be slower to move in and out of the access and are likely to leave mud on the road etc. In summary, the Parish Council feels that this site is unsuitable for the proposed intensity of agricultural business and ensuing animal movements and is an inappropriate location to sustain and maintain such a business. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Sims and carried with a unanimous vote.

***b) Request to support proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act requiring applicants of major developments to**

- * attend a meeting of the local Town or Parish Council, or of a duly called Town Meeting, to answer questions on the application for development; and
- * fund the council or duly called town meeting to commission an independent report on the application and critique of any reports that the applicant has submitted in support of the application for development

With reference to the information in the Clerks Report, Cllr. Norris said that he would be against this because it would add excessive red tape and cost to new developments. However, members felt that this particular proposal was being put forward to prevent exceptionally large developments being bulldozed forward by exceptionally large companies i.e. Tesco. Cllr. R. Coward proposed that the Parish Council should support the proposal on condition that the framework for use is robust and not open to misuse. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sims and carried with a majority vote in favour, 1 against. & 1 abstention.

30. Highways, Rivers, Transport

a) Consultation on proposes Traffic Regulation order for 12m length of double-yellow lines in Salisbury Street (outside Lecture Hall)

– The Clerk informed members that the Traffic Regulation Order had been received for double yellow lines in Salisbury Street from a point 4 metres west of the eastern boundary wall of Mere Lecture Hall to a point 8 metres east of the eastern boundary wall of Mere Lecture Hall (total length 12m). The Clerk informed members that the proposal was advertised in the Western Gazette on 16th June and the consultation period ends on 11th July. Members were reminded that, following public consultation for the Mere Parish Plan, this proposal had been requested by the Parish Council. Cllr. Norris proposed that the Traffic Regulation Order should be supported. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Squires and carried with a unanimous vote.

b) Irresponsible parking in Mere – Cllr. R. Hill - deferred

***c) Priority gritting routes – email from Wiltshire Council** – members noted the information in the Clerks Report.

31. Sport, Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces

a) Request for Military Style Fitness Classes (outdoor) to be held in Recreation and/or sports grounds –

The Clerk confirmed that Mrs. Karen Harkin had written a letter asking for permission to use a small area of the Recreation Ground and Duchy grounds on a Thursday evening between 8 – 8.45 p.m. to run a Military Style Fitness Class. Members were very supportive of this venture but pointed out that it was a commercial venture rather than a community organisation. It was therefore agreed to grant permission to use the grounds for this purpose free of charge for a 3-month trial period and to review the situation after the 3-month trial period with a view to imposing some kind of mutually acceptable charges in order to be fair and equitable to all users. Members felt that it would be preferable and advisable to offer toilet facilities for participants.

b) Tree assessments – The Clerk informed members that she had asked Mr. David Harness, Tree Surgeon to look at the beech trees behind the tennis courts, nearest to the houses on Chetcombe Road because residents had raised concerns as to their safety – Mr. Harness had agreed to provide the Parish Council with a written assessment and quote to cut dead wood out of last 3 beech trees. The Clerk pointed out that she understood these trees to be subject to a Tree Preservation Order and was intending to speak to the Wiltshire Council's tree officer once the assessment had been received.

32. Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Payments – The following payments were approved. Cllr. Jeans, having declared a prejudicial interest, left the room whilst this matter was discussed:

D & H Pengelly	Farm Environment Plan & HLS Application Advice	325.76
Sydenhams	Materials for bench repair	3.06
Cash	Mobile phone top-up fee	20.00
Cash	Travelling expenses to meeting in Salisbury (Clerk)	21.57
Mere School	Electricity to 11.6.11 (Swimming Pool)	116.35
Mere School	Water to 11.6.11 (Swimming Pool)	314.67
Mere School	Gas to 11.6.11 (changing rooms)	103.01
Mere School	Electricity to 11.6.11 (Changing rooms & office)	131.26
Mere School	Water to 11.6.11 (Changing Rooms)	29.10
Mere School	Water to 11.6.11 (Cricket Club)	80.42
Mere School	Water to 11.6.11 (AYP & Bowling green)	356.62
Fencewize	Repairs to MUGA	1512.00
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil	233.50
Imprest Account (cheque Nos. 2723 - 2729)	Wages & Salaries, PAYE, Petty Cash, Pension	6185.29
RBL Poppy Appeal	2 wreaths for Wessex Memorial (<i>Already paid</i>)	33.00
Shaftesbury Garden Machinery	Repairs to Husqvarna ride-on mower	31.20
Southern Electric	Supply to clock tower	17.23

b) Assessment of risks facing the council and management of those risks including review of effectiveness of internal controls and external insurance cover - deferred

c) Replacement fascias for Mere School and adjoining buildings? – the Clerk informed members that Mere School was in the process of inviting tenders for replacing the fascias on the school building and wondered whether there were any other parts of the building, under third party control, that may require replacement fascias. The Clerk said that, as far as she was aware, the only part of the building that may fall under the Parish Council's responsibility was the changing rooms which had no requirement for replacement fascias.

33. General Items

a) Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB - Invitation to attend evening discussion on Monday, 11th July 2011 – 'What are the Key Priorities for the Visitor Economy of the AONB?' – Cllr. Sims expressed an interest in attending and said that he would liaise with the Clerk in the next day or two.

b) Report on Wiltshire Council's 'Meet & Greet' meeting in Salisbury – the Clerk informed members that she had attended this meeting in Salisbury which was hosted by Jane Scott, the leader of Wiltshire Council & Mr. Andrew Kerr, the Chief Executive of Wiltshire Council and was full of very discontented and disgruntled people, mostly from the Salisbury area complaining about the new car parking charges and the effect that this had on the economy and trade in Salisbury. However, the Clerk confirmed that Jane Scott

had admitted that Wiltshire Council may have 'got it wrong' in Salisbury and would look at the car parking charging policy again.

c) Management Fees & compliance issues – Downside Close – The Clerk & Cllr. Jeans explained that they were both receiving copies of correspondence from residents of the new development adjacent to Downside Close in relation to their complaints regarding the fact that the houses had not been completed to a satisfactory condition and many of the planning conditions had not been met. Cllr. Jeans confirmed that Wiltshire Council's Compliance Officer had been made redundant and the Enforcement Officer could only enforce legal issues and a lot of the issues raised were not legal ones. It was agreed that the Parish Council should offer support to the residents and that the Clerk should liaise with Cllr. Jeans with regard to the legal issues.

d) Safety issues regarding wall outside old gas works Mill Lane – the Clerk explained that following concerns expressed at the recent neighbourhood policing meeting, she had contacted the owners of the old gas works in Mill Lane and met them, on site, with builders to discuss securing the premises and repairing the wall. The Clerk confirmed that the builders would be carrying out the work this week.

e) Updating Honours Board – the Parish Council agreed that the Honours Board should be updated.

f) Annual 43rd (Wessex) Division Memorial Service and parade – Sunday, 11th July – The Chairman confirmed that she would be attending and urged other councillors to attend.

***g) Diamond Jubilee celebrations** – It was agreed that this matter should be raised on each agenda

34. Clerks Report – the Clerks report was confirmed and adopted to accompany the minutes.

Jobs for parish steward

- Pot holes – White Road
- Dark Lane – overgrown
- Edgebridge to Lordsmead - overgrown

The fire alarm in the Andy Young Pavilion was tested.