

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 2nd April 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in The Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

Present: Councillors: Mrs. Mary White (Chairman), Mrs. Lesley Traves (Vice-Chairman), P. Coward, R. Coward, C. Hazzard, D. Hope, Jane Hurd, E. Mitchell, B. Norris, R. Sims

Public Session

Roy Sims asked if there had been any further developments on the emergency volunteer scheme as he was aware that a section of Wiltshire Council was still holding the funding that was allocated to Col. Botsford's project and that this money could still be claimed. The Chairman explained that she and the Clerk had met with some interested parties but it had proved difficult to find a volunteer that wanted to co-ordinate things on a wider scale and the issue of insurance seemed to be prohibitive factor also. Mr. Sims also asked about the idea of a Street Fair or Festival for Mere but members felt that it may prove difficult to find organisers for such an event given the fact that Mere already has a Carnival and Literary Festival and the May Fair now seems to have dwindled.

The Clerk wanted to publicly thank Mr. Eric Mitchell for stepping in and carrying out the grass cutting in the Recreation Ground and Duchy Grounds whilst the groundsman was sick. The Clerk said that Mr. Mitchell had volunteered his time to do this work and she felt that his efforts should be widely acknowledged. Members heartily thanked Mr. Mitchell and asked for his hard work and good will to be acknowledged in Mere Matters.

Apologies for absence received from Councillors G. Jeans and D. Sealy and also from PC Richard Salter & PCSO Jacob Noble.

103. Declarations of Interest – none received

104. Minutes – Cllr. Norris proposed that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 12th March 2012 be approved as a correct record of proceedings. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Jane Hurd and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 12.3.12.

105. Reports

a) Neighbourhood Policing Report – Cllr. Roy Sims announced that he was now an official volunteer for the police.

b) Wiltshire Councillor's Report - None

106. Matters Arising

a) Proposals for Mere Water – the Clerk asked for some direction on involvement in Wessex Water's proposals as referred to during last month's meeting. The Parish Council felt that Mr. Ian Sheppard's kind offer to help with the trial should be taken up and Cllr. Brett Norris also volunteered to represent the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to pass this information on to Wessex Water accordingly.

b) Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had been awarded £2000 by way of a grant from Wiltshire Councils Jubilee/Olympic Community Events budget. Cllr. Jane Hurd reported that, following the meeting called by Cllr. Jeans in which it had been hoped to hold a community picnic in the churchyard and fireworks from the church tower etc, there had been a further meeting with Church Wardens who had decided that these proposals would not meet their insurance or health & safety requirements. Cllr. Jane Hurd said that she was sorry to report this and thanked the Parish Council for the efforts made. She confirmed that the Church would still be holding a Civic Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, 3rd June at 11 a.m. The Clerk reported that the Church was not the only

organisation facing officialdom issues as she had been asked by English Heritage whether or not the Parish Council was planning a beacon and had been informed of the requirements (The brazier to be mounted onto a large ash tray in order to catch all the ash deposits which will then be taken off site after the event. The ash tray to be mounted on a layer of wet sand bags and the wet sand bags to be mounted on a sheet of 100 gsm heavy duty geotextile membrane. The gap between the bottom of the brazier and ground level will be no less than 1m.) and told that the Parish Council needed to submit an application for Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent. It was agreed that the Parish Council should apply for consent. Cllr. R. Coward confirmed that a Jubilee Orchard of 10 fruit trees had been planted at Kingsmere.

c) Skate Park project – the Chairman reported that Cllr. George Jeans had been successful in gaining approval for an Area Board Grant for the sum of £18,500 on condition that the Parish Council produced a Business Plan, including three quotations, for the project within the next three months. The Clerk confirmed that with Policy R2 funds that had been allocated, this brought the project funding to a total of £43,500. It had been estimated that the total project cost might be in the region of £79,000 and therefore this would leave a shortfall of £35,500.

d) Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme for Castle Hill & Long Hill – the Clerk confirmed that she had met with a representative from English Heritage regarding the applications for Ancient Monument Consent and it had now been confirmed that the Parish Council does not need to apply for consent for Long Hill but does need to submit an application form for the fencing which will be erected between Long Hill & Castle Hill and, even though we intend to use the old post holes, the inspector will be insisting that we have an archaeological watching brief whilst the strainer posts are installed. The English Heritage Field Officer had, however, offered to carry out the archaeological watching brief. The Clerk and Cllr. R. Coward had also met with the Arboricultural Officer from Wiltshire Council who has no concerns about the proposals but wants us to define either the trees that we are going to keep or the trees that will be felled in order for the application consultation to be clearer. The Felling Licence application with the Forestry Commission is progressing and the officer involved is in discussions with Canopy Land Use. Specifications for fencing tenders have been submitted and requested to be returned by Friday, 13th April. However, the fencing cannot start on the eastern side until the Ancient Monument Consent is approved and this could take up to 8 weeks.

107. 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/2012/395
Location:	Land adjoining Shreenwater Wellhead Mere Warminster.
Proposal:	Extant planning permission for S/2008/1211

Cllr. R. Coward proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hazzard and carried with a majority vote. Cllr. D. Hope abstained.

108. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths & Transport

a) Temporary Road Closures – the Clerk reported on notices received by Wiltshire Council on temporary road closures for Pettridge Lane/Edgebridge/Clements Lane/Shafesbury Road (Part) from its junction with Footpath 64 Dark Lane, Mere in a south easterly direction to its junction with Limpers Hill Road. Also C303 Southbrook, Mere from its junction with C59 Shafesbury Road in an easterly direction to its junction with UC 823101 Limper Hill. The purpose of these road closures was to enable Wiltshire Council to carry out carriageway patching and storm water drainage surveying. The order to come into force on Tuesday, 1st May 2012 but work to start on 8th May. It had also come to the Clerks attention that Dorset County Council were proposing to temporarily restrict the use of Bay Road, Gillingham which would be closed to motor vehicles between 9.30 and 16.00 Monday to Friday for eight weeks from 4.6.12 to 3.8.12. The Clerk had contacted Dorset County Council and had been assured that all diversion routes would be directed through Dorset and would be well signed.

b) Jobs for Parish Steward & faulty street lights –

- Pothole in pavement near entrance to Jubilee Gardens
- Overgrown verges creeping into road along narrow part of The Lynch
- Hedge at junction of The Lynch/Pettridge Lane needs cutting back.
- Street light on permanently in Angel Lane.

109. Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Payments – it was agreed that the following payments should be approved.

Hoare Banks Stonemasons	Refund for overpaid cemetery fees	£10.00
Wessex Water	Cemetery supply – 1.4.12 – 31.3.13	£90.14
Wiltshire Council	Lease of land and changing rooms (14.3.12 – 13.3.13)	200.00
Wiltshire Council	National Non-Domestic Rates for 2012-13 for Mere Cemetery	387.00
Wiltshire Council	National Non-Domestic Rates for Andy Young Pavilion & Duchy Grounds	0.00
Wessex Water	Supply to Jack Paul Close Allotments 27.9.11 – 8.3.12	15.66
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil	114.01
A. Wood	Tree felling – dead tree on Long Hill/Kingsmere	200.00
Imprest Account Cheque Nos. 2771 - 2779	Wages, PAYE, pension & petty cash	6735.84
Northcliffe Media	Situations Vacant advert	63.60

110. Forthcoming meetings

- Area Board Meeting 11.4.12
- Sports Development meeting 18.4.12
- Jack Paul Close residents meeting with Housing Association & Duchy of Cornwall 25.4.12
- Annual Parish Meeting 25.4.12
Agenda Items – Highway Issues and Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

111. Allotments

a) Request to erect netted tunnel on allotment at Southbrook – members were happy to grant approval for the erection of a 6m X 3.5m netted tunnel as per the drawing and site plan submitted by Mr. Rossi, on condition that it is used only for the production of fruit, vegetables and flowers for domestic consumption by himself and his family (as per the allotment tenancy agreement).

b) Report on allotment rent audit – the Clerk reported that 49 allotment holders came in last Wednesday to pay their allotment rent for the 2012/13 financial year. Total received was £1115.92. There were still 10 allotment holders that had not paid owing a total of £158.77. Direct allotment expenses for the year ending 31.3.12 had been £718.13 and so adding administrative and maintenance expenses, the Clerk anticipated that the Parish Council would break even. 4 allotment holders had surrendered their plots in the last week including two at Jack Paul Close which had a long waiting list. The Clerk now had one half-plot vacant at Wellhead and 3 whole plots vacant at Southbrook which could easily be divided up into 6 half plots.

112. General Items

a) Wiltshire Council's Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places – the Clerk said that Wiltshire Council was asking Parish & Town Councils to pass comment and/or suggested alternatives on any existing arrangements and to proposed changes to polling districts. The Clerk said that the proposed changes to polling districts were outside the South Wiltshire Area Board Area but that Wiltshire Council was also asking for any particular views on existing polling stations. Members were happy with existing arrangements and had no views to make.

b) Portas Pilot project – the Clerk had been given information on a Portas Pilot Project whereby Parish & Town Councils could submit a bid for funding (the project relating to the Mary Portas Review on the future of our High Streets). However, the Clerk and Chairman had read the criteria and felt that this project was more fitting for a large town with a large number of vacant shops.

113. Staff/employment

The Chairman and Clerk reported that an advert for a Groundsman's Assistant on a Fixed Term 6 month contract had been placed in the Blackmore Vale and that the Clerk had been inundated with responses. A large number of application forms had been returned and the Chairman, Groundsman and Clerk had chosen 6 applicants for interview. The interviews would be held tomorrow and it was hoped that a new groundsman's assistant would be able to start in the next week or so.

Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity

Trustees of the Charity proposed that the following payments should be approved:

Wiltshire Council	National Non-Domestic Rates for Tennis Club	0.00
Wessex Water	Recreation Ground (standing charge only)	8.06

Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.