

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 11th June 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in The Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

Present: Councillors Mrs. M. White (Chairman), Mrs. L. Traves (Vice-Chairman), R. Coward, C. Hazzard, R. Hill, D. Hope, Mrs. J. Hurd, G. Jeans, E. Mitchell, B. Norris, D. Sealy & R. Sims.
Also Mr. D. Stone, Bob Parsons, Kevin Wagland, Frank Legge, Mrs. Bixby, Bill Deeker, David Clarke & L. Stanton.

Meeting convened at 7.32p.m. with **Public Session**

Bob Parsons, Chairman of Mere Swimming Pool said that he had come along to the meeting to inform the Parish Council of the situation with the swimming pool and unfortunately it was not going to be possible to open the pool this season because the pool needed an extensive amount of repair work which would cost somewhere in the region of £9,000 + VAT. Mr. Parsons said that this repair work had come to light just as the Swimming Pool committee were about to sign a tenancy lease with the Parish Council but their solicitor had advised them not to sign the tenancy lease in view of these circumstances. The Parish Council thanked Mr. Parsons for updating the Parish Council and it was agreed that this matter would be raised on the next agenda. Mr. Parsons was asked to provide the Clerk with any information on what repair works are required, quotations and ideas about how they would like to take this forward.

Mr. David Clarke said that he had come along to express his concerns regarding the dangers of the mini-roundabout on the junction of Shaftesbury Road and Walnut Road.

Mr. Frank Legge wanted to speak about the planning application for a 3-bedroom house at Millbrook. He expressed his concern over the issue of construction traffic and the fact that the vehicular access to this site was now proposed off the small lane leading from The Lynch and over a small bridge.

Mrs. Bixby who lives at Ansty also wanted to speak about the proposed 3-bedroom house adjacent to Millbrook, Edgebridge and said that the developers were now proposing a 3-bedroom house with 4 parking spaces. She said that the proposed house would overlook hers and she was concerned that the new proposed vehicular access would conflict with her only access.

Mr. Kevin Wagland, representing Mere Town Football Club said that he had come to talk about and answer any questions that the Parish Council may have with regards to the football clubs proposals for advertising banners around the barriers of the new football pitch. He said that this would be an extremely important revenue stream for the football club and may also help to stop the amount of dog mess and cyclists riding around the football pitch.

Mrs. Lesley Traves said that the road leading down to Old Hollow was extremely overgrown.

Mr. R. Sims informed the Parish Council about the Wiltshire Day Rover bus tickets which give unlimited travel by bus for a whole day in Wiltshire and in surrounding areas. Tickets costing £7.50 for an adult, £5 for a child/OAP or £15 for a family.

The Clerk informed members that the Annual 43rd (Wessex) Division Memorial Service & Parade would take place on Sunday, 8th July stepping off from Salisbury Street Car Park at 2.30 p.m. and will pass the War Memorial where the salute will be taken and where invited guests will be asked to assemble at about 2.20 p.m. The parade will then proceed to the lower area of Castle Hill for a Drumhead Service.

The Clerk informed members that the Parish Council's Groundsman, Mr. Suter, was recuperating following his recent operation.

Dr. King has asked to come and talk to the parish council about future plans for Mere Surgery and informed members that, essentially, the surgery was too small and needed about 50% more floor space. Dr. King said that there was a strain on staff and the surgery would like to be able to offer more services locally but the lack of floor space was precluding any future plans to take the surgery forward and attract services for their patients. Dr. King realised that any chances of expansion or extension into the car park would mean the loss of car parking spaces which could be an issue and he pointed out that the surgery would be open minded to any suggestions for expansion or relocation although he stressed that they did not want to lose any services or become increasingly isolated. Extending above the existing surgery was suggested but Dr. King said that this had been considered and was still a possibility but was not ideal as it presented limited space and accessibility problems. The rooms on the right if the entrance door were once owned by the old health authority and had now become obsolete. The surgery was hoping to take on the lease for these rooms but wanted to provide the same services that were provided by the health authority so it would not necessarily solve our problem. Dr. King said that the surgery wanted to make sure that any plans for expansion met with the support of the community and they would ideally like to double the size of the surgery but any increase in space would be an advantage.

Cllr. R. Coward said that he was glad to hear that the surgery wanted to expand and asked if the Old First School site had been considered or explored. Dr. King said that it had been considered some years ago and he was aware that Dr. Price had approached the owners at some point but did not receive a positive response. The Chairman thanked Dr. King for coming along to the meeting and explaining the situation. She said that the matter would be raised on the next agenda so that the Parish Council can have a good discussion about it and we shall keep the surgery updated of any ideas and suggestions. She asked if there were any deadlines for consideration and Dr. King explained that the Primary Care Trust would cease to exist in April 2013 and would freeze any funding at the end of the year so it was important to have some proposals out before the end of the summer.

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs. P. Coward & R. Hughes and also from PC Richard Salter and PCSO Jacob Noble.

130. To receive Declarations of Interest

Cllr. E. Mitchell declared a personal interest in planning application S/2012/777 (the applicant being a neighbour of his)

Cllr. D. Hope declared a personal interest in Minute No. 135 a)

Cllr. C Hazzard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 136 a)

Cllr. R. Coward declared a personal interest in Minute No. 136 a)

Cllr. G. Jeans declared a personal interest in Minute No. 136a)

131. Minutes – Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the Parish Council should approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 14th May 2012 as a correct record of proceedings. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Sims and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 14.5.12.

132. Reports

a) Neighbourhood Policing Report – Cllr. R. Sims reported that he is now the new official civilian contact at the Mere Police Station. Cllr. Mrs. Hurd pointed out that there had been a spate of milk thefts and there had been blame directed at the dairy for either being inefficient or mixing up their round deliveries. However, it was not the dairy and someone was actually stealing milk from peoples' doorsteps.

b) Wiltshire Councillor's Report – Cllr. Jeans said that both he and the Clerk were receiving numerous emails about the Standards Framework and Code of Conduct. Cllr. Jeans also said that he had been to a meeting in Chippenham today where it had been decided to downgrade the employment allocation site at Mere.

133. Matters Arising

a) Mere Town Football Club – Plans for sponsorship/advertising boards around respect barrier – Cllr. Mitchell proposed that the football club should be permitted to have advertising boards around the barriers of the new football pitch on condition that the boards were no higher than the barrier and were not solidly placed right round the pitch. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Jane Hurd and carried with a majority vote (1 abstention). Cllr. R. Coward said that he had walked around the new football pitch today and informed members that the pitch had been ploughed. Cllr. Coward was extremely concerned at the state of the ploughing and the levels and lines of the pitch. It was agreed that a site meeting should be arranged between the football club and parish council members to discuss these concerns.

b) Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – The Chairman said that the Parish Council had received a large number of comments praising and commending the Jubilee Celebrations. Mr. Bill Deeker, who was present at the meeting, was thanked for the wonderful firework display, Cllrs. P. Coward and R. Coward were thanked for arranging the beacon and Cllr. Jeans and Cllr. Hazzard were thanked for erecting all the bunting and flags. Cllr. Norris was thanked for helping with the leaflet drop. The Chairman said that she would be attending the Area Board meeting and would pass on the Parish Council's thanks for the grant which enabled these marvellous celebrations. Cllr. Jeans said that he received a lot of help with the bunting and flags from a young lad called Daniel Cook and asked if the Parish Council could thank him also.

134. Planning

a) *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/2012/709
Location: Barton Barton Lane Mere Warminster.
Proposal: Erection of 2 storey extension and creation of new vehicular access

Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hazzard and carried with a vote of 7 for and 4 abstentions. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans refrained from voting.

Application Number: S/2012/777/FULL
Location: Plot adjacent to Mill Brook, Edgebridge, Mere Warminster.
Proposal: Demolition of existing building, erect three bedroom dwelling with internal garage and alter access.

Cllr. Hill felt that the site was a dreadful eyesore at the present time but the proposed building was too imposing and not aesthetically pleasing. He said that something should be built there but on a smaller scale. Cllr. Norris proposed that the parish council should object to the application for the following reasons:

The proposed building is too imposing, not aesthetically pleasing and not in keeping with surrounding properties. Members also feel that it will be overdevelopment of the site, leaving the site with very little amenity space. The Parish Council also had a high level of concern about vehicular access for the site in that it is proposed to create a vehicular access to the site from the little no-through lane leading off The Lynch. This lane is used for parking by residents living in The Lynch, many of whom have no off street parking and it also leads to three very well used footpaths which are used by parents and children when walking to school in order to avoid the busier road over Edgebridge which has no pavement. The Parish Council can foresee that this new vehicular access may cause conflicts of use and be hazardous to pedestrians. The lane also consists of a bridge which may well carry a weight restriction. If the Planning Authority is inclined to approve this planning application then the Parish Council would certainly recommend that there should be restrictions and limitations on construction traffic and all goods should be off loaded on site.

Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hope and carried with a vote of 8 for and 3 abstentions. (Cllr. Mitchell, having declared a personal interest, refrained from discussion or voting). In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans refrained from voting.

b) Inspectors decision to dismiss appeal: Site at Garage to rear of Vogue Cottage, Salisbury Street, Mere – members noted this information.

135. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths, Traffic & Transport

a) South West Wiltshire Area Board Community Area Transport Group's suggestions to alleviate concerns regarding Walnut Road/Shafesbury Road Roundabout – the Clerk informed members that at the Community Area Transport Group meeting of 22nd May, the problem of the Walnut Road/Shafesbury Road roundabout had been discussed and it had been minuted that Tom Gardner (Wiltshire Council's Senior Engineer) had viewed the site and reported that there is poor visibility as you exit the roundabout from the side road. Clearing vegetation would improve this. Give way signs are also situated quite a long way back. The preferred option would be to bring lines forward. Tom Gardner estimated that it would cost approximately £800 to make changes. The group agreed in principle to allocate £800 for the junction and it was agreed to request a £200 contribution from Mere Parish Council. Cllr. Jeans urged the Parish Council to make this contribution as he was aware that there were repeated accidents happening at this junction. Cllr. Mitchell proposed that the Parish Council should contribute £200, proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a vote of 7 for and 1 against (Cllr. R. Hill). As Cllr. Hope had declared a personal interest in this item, he abstained from discussion or voting.

b) Highway & footpath issues for parish steward + street lighting faults – the Clerk was asked to submit the following list:

- Pothole in footpath Pettridge Lane at bottom of Michaelmas House Drive.
- Potholes and uneven road surface at Limpers Hill
- Hedge cutting along The Lynch – all properties deny they have any responsibility to cut hedge.

136. Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Payments – Cllr. Mrs Traves proposed that the following payments be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hurd and carried with a majority in favour. (Cllr. R. Coward & Cllr. Jeans, having declared a personal interest, refrained from voting or discussion & Cllr. Hazzard, having declared a personal & prejudicial interest, left the room whilst this matter was discussed).

Richard Hughes	Supply and plant jubilee orchard of 12 fruit trees at Kingsmere	£327.50
Paul Millard Plant Hire	Install water pipe at Long Hill	2334.00 Already paid
Tincknell Fuels Ltd	Fuel & Oil	193.72 Already paid
Dustbusters	Spring Clean of Andy Young Pavilion	240.00 Already paid
Mrs. Mary White	Chairman's Expenses 2011/12	278.00
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil	218.01
Mere & District Linkscheme	S. 137 Donation	350.00
Mere Matters	S.137 Donation	600.00
Mere Brownies	S.137 Donation	75.00
Mere Leisure Credits	S.137 Donation	450.00
Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground	Donation	10,200.00
Imprest Account – cheques 2787 - 2793	Salary, PAYE, Pension & Petty Cash	4472.43
North Street Nurseries	Summer planting	968.40
Scats Countrystores	Grounds expenses	27.40

Paul Millard Plant Hire	Drainage & footpath works in new cemetery	9956.40
Pains Fireworks	Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – Firework Display	1920.00
Cash	Stationery & telephone top-up	119.76
Plantworld	New tub	53.99
Cash	Keycutting & safety boots	56.50

b) Insurance renewal – the Clerk informed members that the Parish Council’s insurance had been renewed with Aon.

c) To approve Budget/Expenditure Report for financial year ending 31.3.12 (report attached) – Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the report be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hill and carried with a unanimous vote of approval.

d) Internal Audit report – the Clerk read out the Internal Auditor’s report ‘I have carried out a final internal audit of the Mere Parish Council Financial Statements for the year ending 31st March 2012. In my opinion the Council has maintained proper accounting records and the financial statements have been properly prepared. I would like to acknowledge the assistance I have received from the Clerk, Lindsey Wood. She certainly made this task easier by having, as always, everything ready to hand and in such good order. John Wilson, Internal Auditor.’ Members were pleased that Mr. Wilson was satisfied that the Parish Council’s control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the council.

e) To approve accounts & supporting statements and to verify bank reconciliation for the year ending 31.3.12 (attached) – Cllr. Mrs. Traves verified the bank reconciliation against the bank statements. Members approved the accounts and supporting statements and thanked the Clerk for preparing the documents.

f) To complete and sign Annual Return for the year ending 31.3.12 for submission to external auditors – From the information provided in Minute 136 d) & 136 e) above, the Accounting Statements 1 – 11 were completed and approved by the Parish Council. Points 1 – 9 of the Annual Governance Statement were read out to members. Members answered yes to each of the statements. Sections 1 & 2 of the Audit Commission’s Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2012 were signed by the Clerk and by the Chairman in the presence of the Parish Council.

g) To note public rights to inspect the accounts - the Clerk informed members that a notice had been placed on the noticeboard today, informing the public of their rights to inspect and make copies of the accounts and that all documents would be available, on reasonable notice, from 25th June until 20th July 2012. Local Government Electors and their representatives also had rights to question the external auditor about the accounts.

h) Repairs to Husqvarna ride-on mower – the Clerk informed members that the ride-on mower now needed a new pump in order to stop the hydraulic oil leak as reported at the Annual Budget Meeting. The estimated cost of repair would be in the region of £500. Due to the time of year and need to continue grass cutting, it was agreed to proceed with the repairs.

137. General Items

a) Forthcoming Meetings

- South West Wiltshire Area Board Meeting – Wednesday, 13th June at 7.00 p.m. at Bishopstone – the Chairman agreed to attend this meeting.
- Neighbourhood Task Group Meeting – Thursday, 14th June at the Grove Building – Cllr Roy Sims indicated that he would be attending this meeting.
- Skate Park public meeting – Thursday, 14th June at Mere Youth Club – Cllrs. R. Coward, C. Hazzard & G. Jeans agreed to attend this meeting.
- New Standards Framework Proposals – Briefing Sessions – Thursday, 14th June 2012 at 6.00 p.m. at Salisbury City Hall – the Clerk agreed to attend this meeting.

- Mere's Rivers meeting – 27th June – Cllr. Brett Norris agreed to attend this meeting which was to be held at Gillingham Town Hall.
- Public Exhibition on Water Supply Grid – Cllr. Brett Norris said that he would try and attend this meeting.

b) Localism Act 2011 – New Standards Framework Proposals – Consultation – it was agreed that, as the Clerk would be attending the Briefing Session at Salisbury on Thursday, 14th June, that she should then be in a better position to provide information for members to base a decision.

c) Casual Vacancy – the Clerk read out a letter of resignation from Cllr. Mrs. Rachel Porter who says that, having recently returned to full time employment and with family and school governor commitments, she is no longer able to give the time needed to be an effective councillor. The Clerk informed members that she would advise Wiltshire Council of the vacancy and a notice of vacancy would be posted in due course.

MERE PEACE MEMORIAL SPORTS AND RECREATION GROUND

Registered Charity No. 1093497

Minutes of a Meeting of the Trustees of Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity – held immediately after the Parish Council meeting on Monday, 11th June 2012 June 2011 in the Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

Minutes

a) To consider invoice from Mere Parish Council for Maintenance charges of the Recreation Ground for 2011/12 and approve payment (£10286.30) – members agreed the maintenance charges and approved the payment as detailed.

b) Traffic calming for Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground – the Clerk informed Trustees that this item had been raised on the agenda following a request from a parishioner owing to concerns for young children walking to and from the recreation ground and the hazards faced by speeding drivers. It was suggested that perhaps a speed hump may be provided at the entrance gates to the recreation ground. Members asked the Clerk to mention this to the police to seek their views.

c) Security of storage shed – the Clerk informed members that the storage shed had been broken into and vandalised and fortunately, nothing had been stolen. However, the repairs to secure the building would cost the Charity approximately £300 and Mr. Jeff Paul had been asked to carry out the work a.s.a.p.