

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 12th March 2012 at 7.00 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, D. Hope, R. Hughes, Mrs. J. Hurd, G. Jeans, E. Mitchell, B. Norris & D. Sealy.
PCSO Jacob Noble

Also Clare Shaddock, Spence Gunn, Mrs. A. Howell, Peter Button, Jane Batten, Ian Sheppard and Louis Stanton

Meeting convened at 7.01 p.m. with Confidential Business in order to discuss issues relating to staff and employment.

7.30 p.m. onwards:-

Public Session

Mrs. A. Howell said that Wessex Water's proposals were a positive response that, she was sure, would be welcomed by the residents of Mere who would help with this initiative. Mrs. Howell also spoke about her application to reduce the height of the beech tree at Lawrences, Old Hollow and said that this tree was growing on high ground and had grown out of all proportion.

Mr. Button spoke in response to the Chairman's Report in Mere Matters regarding the planting of trees in Kingsmere. Mr. Button said that, whilst he applauded this initiative, he would rather the Parish Council replace the yew trees in the cemetery that were sponsored but died due to lack of maintenance. Cllr. Hughes replied that the yew trees in the cemetery had died because they became waterlogged and the Clerk confirmed that when the drainage work (which was scheduled for this spring) had been completed, then the yew trees would be replaced.

Mr. Spence Gunn from Water Street spoke about the traffic in Water Street and said that a very large articulated lorry recently had to turn round at the junction with The Lynch because he thought that he could get through and that it was not uncommon for HGVs to come along Water Street. It was agreed that the Parish Council would ask Wiltshire Council to assess the signage for unsuitability for large vehicles and to see if better or clearer signage could be applied.

Cllr. Mrs. Lesley Traves in The Chair

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs. P. Coward, R. Hill & R. Sims and also from PC Richard Salter

94. To receive Declarations of Interest

G. Jeans – Finance

Cllr. Clive Hazzard declared a personal interest in planning application number: S/2012/203/FULL & planning application number S/2012/308/ADV & planning application number: S/2012/247

Cllr. Mitchell declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application number: 2/2012/0144/PLNG

C. Hazzard – Planning Application school & Bramley House

Finance – Mere School

Jane Hurd – Church Path

95. Minutes – Cllr. R. Coward proposed that the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 6th February 2012 be approved as a correct record of proceedings. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs White and

carried with a majority vote of those present on 6.2.12. Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the Minutes of the Risk Management meeting held on Tuesday, 14th February be approved as a correct record of proceedings. Proposal seconded by Cllr. jeans and carried with a majority vote of those present on 14.2.12

***96. Proposals for Mere Water – Wessex Water & Environment Agency** – Fiona Bowles will be attending the Parish Council meeting to discuss these proposals. The Chairman confirmed that the proposals (as given in the Clerks Report) had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The Chairman welcomed and introduced Fiona Bowles and Luke de Vial from Wessex Water and said that, since they had last met with the Parish Council, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency had been discussing the water issues in Mere and would like to propose a trial in Mere where we can reduce abstraction and encourage people to use less water and actively involve local people in monitoring & measuring what benefits can be achieved through water efficiency. Fiona Bowles wanted the Parish Council's views on how best to set up this liaison group and said that although they wanted to reduce the water to local usage, they did want to involve other parishes in the project – such as Gillingham, Kington Magna. It was hoped that the project would start as soon as possible and last until the autumn rains happen. Some kind of improved flow gauging equipment would need to be provided. Fiona Bowles said that, from their abstraction license 4.5 million litres is pumped to Whitesheet and 3.5 million litres is used locally and the plan would be to try and reduce export by around 50% but they would like local people to become involved, perhaps a small steering group of volunteers to help with the monitoring, promote metering etc. Cllr. Jeans said that he wanted to see abstraction reduced but he did not want to see the flooding problems recurring in Mere again. Mr. Ian Shepherd thanked the Wessex Water representatives for coming along to the meeting and he said he was sure that the people of Mere would be happy to take part in the trial and that it would get plenty of support. The Chairman closed by thanking Fiona Bowles and Luke de Vial for coming along and said that she was sure that we would be able to form some kind of volunteer steering group. Fiona Bowles said that she would compile a list of other people/contacts who might like to become involved or who would have an interest in the project e.g. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and would also make contact with the surrounding parishes to see if similar schemes could be set up.

Other questions asked:

Cllr. R. Coward asked how far we exported Mere water and Mr. De Vial explained that approximately half of the water taken from Mere is used in Mere, Gillingham and surrounding villages but water taken from Whitesheet Hill could, theoretically, go as far as Yeovil. It does not, however go to Shaftesbury or Tisbury. Mr. De Vial explained that Wessex Water does have some choices in exporting water as to where it is taken from.

Cllr. R. Coward asked how long it took for rain water to get from the ground to the springs and the answer was anything from 2 weeks to 40 years. Mr. De Vial explained that normal rain falling on chalk goes down about 1m per year. However, intense rainfall goes through cracks in the rock and can get down in as little as 2 weeks. Cllr. Jeans confirmed that Mr. Willie Stanton had told him, many years ago, that it took about 40 years for it to reach the springs.

97. Matters Arising

a) Neighbourhood Policing Report + Report on Neighbourhood Task Group meeting – PCSO Jake Noble said that there had been a Neighbourhood Task Group meeting held recently with representatives from Mere and the surrounding villages and it had been agreed to keep the three key priorities:

- Speeding in Castle Street
- Inconsiderate parking across the whole of Mere, especially the zig-zag lines by the zebra crossings in Salisbury Street and White Road
- Car break-ins at local beauty spots

The Neighbourhood Watch newsletter for March would be published soon which lists the local crimes but there has recently been some work units broken into at Semley Industrial Estate. Shed alarms were available from the police.

b) Wiltshire Councillors Report – Cllr. Jeans reminded members that there was funding available for small highway and transport issues from the Community Area Transport Group (CATG). He confirmed that Pettridge Lane was scheduled for resurfacing works from the Post Office to the 30mph limit sign and that a loose manhole cover along the Shaftesbury Road had been causing significant highway problems. Cllr. Jeans also said that both himself and the Clerk had been spending a great deal of time on issues that were being passed down the line or were not being dealt with properly by Wiltshire Council.

c) Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – The Chairman confirmed that Cllr. Jeans had convened a meeting last week and Cllr. Mrs. Hurd summarised the meeting by giving details of the following proposed diary of events:

- Sunday morning – 11 a.m. Civic Service in St. Michaels Church
- Monday afternoon – children’s fun and games in the Vicarage Field.
- Monday 6.00 p.m. Bring your own picnic to the churchyard where there will be music and fireworks + Beacon on top of church tower and beacon on top of Castle Hill.

Cllr. Mrs. Hurd said that she would organise some publicity posters and publicity information for Mere Matters. Cllr. Jeans said that Mr. Bill Deeker had been exceptionally helpful in agreeing to help with the fireworks and that he and the Clerk had now submitted an application for £2000 funding from the Area Board to help with costs. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Jeans for arranging the meeting.

d) Issues relating to building works adjacent to allotment sites at Southbrook and Wellhead – The Clerk said that with regard to the Southbrook issue, she was not aware of any further communication other than the fact that a planning application had now been received asking for new vehicular access from the road. As far as the Wellhead development was concerned, the Clerk confirm that she had advised the owner of Faith Cottage to service a notice to the Duchy of Cornwall under the Party Wall etc. Act 1996

98. 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)

In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. George Jeans refrained from voting or discussion on all planning applications.

Application Number: S/2012/351 – Full Planning
Location: Butt Of Sherry Castle Street Mere Warminster.
Proposal: Extend the existing kitchen extraction duct over roof (approx 1715mm)

Application Number: S/2012/352 – Listed Building Consent
Location: Butt Of Sherry Castle Street Mere Warminster.
Proposal: Extend the existing kitchen extraction duct over roof (approx 1715mm)

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

Application Number: S/2012/203/FULL
Location: Mere School, Springfield Road, Mere..
Proposal: School entrance improvements to provide enlarged canopy, new school sign and additional landscaping.

Application Number: S/2012/308/ADV
Location: Mere School, Springfield Road, Mere..
Proposal: Advert Consent – 1 X Fascia Sign

Cllr. Hughes proposed that the above two applications be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hurd and carried with a vote of 5 for and 3 abstentions. Cllr. Hazzard, having declared a personal interest, refrained from voting or discussion.

Application Number: S/2012/268
Location: Downsview Southbrook Mere Warminster.
Proposal: Remove wall. Form new vehicle and pedestrian access including turning area

Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hope and carried with a vote of 7 for and 3 abstentions.

Application Number: S/2012/273
Location: Lawrences Old Hollow Mere Warminster.
Proposal: Beech: crown reduce to height of approx 30 ft

Cllr. Hughes proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote of approval.

Application Number: S/2012/244
Location: Barton Barton Lane Mere Warminster.
Proposal: Erection of 2 storey extension and creation of new vehicular access

Cllr. Hope proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Norris and carried with a vote of 7 for and 2 abstentions.

Application Number: S/2012/240
Location: Burton Farm Burton Mere Warminster.
Proposal: Conversion of a 3 bay car port to garden room with linking lobby

The Clerk read out an email from the developer which explained that he had an interested purchaser who wanted more internal residential accommodation. Cllr. Hughes proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hazzard and carried with a vote of 6 for, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

Application Number: S/2012/247
Location: Bramley House Castle Street Mere Warminster.
Proposal: Vary condition 1 of approved application S/2009/0550 (extension of Bramley House residential care home to provide 10 bedrooms with ensuite facilities at first floor with ancillary accommodation at ground floor. Erection of 2 no semi detached houses in the grounds with garage and associated parking area and new access to Bramley Hill) to extend the period of time for implementing the permission

Cllr. Jeans pointed out that the ownership boundary lines do not necessarily tie in with the Land Registry title plans and this could make the planning application invalid. Cllr. Hope said that the conservation officer has cautioned that several development schemes are running concurrently for this site. Cllr. Hope proposed that the application be approved subject to the following concerns:

1. The Parish Council is concerned that there may not be adequate on-site parking provision. The residential care home currently has 31 residents with registration for 37. The extension will allow the residential home to increase the number of residents to its maximum registration capacity of 37. This will create more visitors. There are occasions when visitors park along the road at Bramley Hill and into the entrance road for Kingsmere (behind Bramley House) and this causes a public nuisance issue.
2. It has been brought to our attention that the ownership boundaries of this site, as shown at the Land Registry, do not coincide with the ownership boundary as shown in planning application S/2009/0550 – this information is now therefore relevant to this application (I am sending copies of the plans for comparison in the post).

Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mitchell and carried with a vote of 7 for and 4 abstentions. Cllr. Hazzard, having declared a personal interest, refrained from discussion or voting.

Application Number: S/2012/171
Location: Lloyds Tsb Bank Plc The Square Mere Warminster.
Proposal: Replacement ATM surround. Internal light strips to front elevation ground floor windows

Cllr. Norris proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hurd and carried with a vote of 9 for and 1 abstention.

Application Number: S/2012/209
Location: Broadwater Farm, Swainsford, Mere..
Proposal: Change of use of land and building to mixed agricultural and equestrian use and construction of ménage.

Cllr. R. Coward proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sealy and carried with a majority vote and 1 abstention.

Application Number: S/2012/190/TCA
Location: Castle Hill, Mere.
Proposal: Tree No. 6757 – Beech – 20% reduction due to infection from Ustulina Deusta.

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

The following planning application has been sent to us by North Dorset District Council:

Application Number: 2/2012/0144/PLNG
Location: Two Counties Farm, Shaftesbury Road, Gillingham, Dorset
Proposal: Change of use of land to station 2 No. static caravans for holiday use, camping area for touring caravans and tents. Erect toilet block.

Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Jeans and carried with a unanimous vote of those present. (Cllr. Mitchell, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, left the room whilst this matter was discussed).

b) Report on Community Planning Event held at Dinton Village Hall on Monday, 5th March – Cllr. Hope reported that the meeting, organised by Wiltshire Council, and extremely well attended, was aimed at identifying priorities for the community areas. The Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) for the Mere Community Area 2011 sets out the strategic issues for the community area for the next three years, based on data and information from various sources and has 9 main headings:

- Background
- Health & Wellbeing
- Economy
- Children and young people
- Community Safety
- Housing
- Transport
- Environment
- Resilient Communities
- Wiltshire Core Strategy

Cllr. Hope said that the JSA draws interesting conclusions and comparisons. Attendees were asked to sit around 9 tables covering the 9 topics and asked to discuss issues and concerns relating to these subjects. Results will be used to identify priorities.

c) Wiltshire & Swindon Submission Draft Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document – designation of Household Recycling Centre, Materials Recovery Facility/Waste Transfer Station and Local Recycling on undeveloped employment land allocation adjacent to Norwood House – The Clerk pointed out that she had been alerted to this new allocation by Cllr. Jeans as part of the Submission Draft Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document. Cllr. Jeans confirmed that he had alerted the owner of Norwood House. However, Cllr. Jeans had been assured that this would be covered facility and he felt that the site could create jobs and be a convenient facility for the area. Members noted the allocation and agreed to keep a watchful eye on forthcoming planning applications.

99. Open Spaces, Recreation Grounds, Play Areas & Sports Grounds

a) Policy R2 and skate park project – the Clerk confirmed that she, Cllr. Jeans and Cllr. Hazzard had held a meeting and an Area Board Grant application had hastily been put together in order for the Area Board to consider at its meeting on 22nd March. Cllr. Hazzard said that this project was already taking a lot of the Clerks time and that there would be a lot more work to do. He asked the Council whether they would be prepared to pay for extra time in order for the Clerk to spend on this project. Members agreed that this should be permitted, and that the number of hours should be left at the Chairman's discretion. Cllr. Jeans said that the application would be considered at a meeting to be held on 22nd March at Nadder Hall, Tisbury and said that it would be important to have as much support as possible at the meeting.

b) Request from Mere Bowls Club for trophy cabinet to be installed in pavilion – the Clerk said that she had received an email from the bowls club asking if the Parish Council would give permission for a trophy cabinet to be installed in the Andy Young Pavilion. There were concerns from members that there were no details as to the size and preferred location for a trophy cabinet and whether or not it may present a security risk if it had valuable contents. However, members were mindful that it was a sports pavilion and they wanted to promote sports. It was therefore agreed to gain more information from the bowls club before making a decision.

c) New paths in Churchyard and implications/suggestions for maintenance – the Chairman said that she had been to visit the new paths in the churchyard and agreed that they looked really good. However, the new kerbing stones which are not flush to either the path or the grass behind them, would cause a significant increase in the maintenance for the groundsman as he will be unable to get the mower over the stones. There are also areas of grass that have been cut off by these paths and where gaps are no longer wide enough to get through with the ride-on mower. It is estimated that it will take an extra 1.5 hours each week on strimming and hand mowing. Members were aware of the need to keep the churchyard looking nice and recognised that it was a very popular tourist attraction but were saddened that there had been no consultation with the Parish Council in the planning stages of this project. It was agreed, however, that the Parish Council would set up a meeting with the PCC to see if there could be any ‘fine tuning’ to help ease the extra time and costs involved in the maintenance.

100. Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Payments – Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the following payments be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a majority vote. (Cllr. Jeans, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, left the room whilst this matter was discussed). Cllr. Hazzard having declared a personal interest, refrained from voting or discussion. Cllr. Mitchell queried the cost of the changing room expenses and it was agreed that these concerns would be mentioned at the next sports development meeting.

Jeans	Gas for AYP – purchased in October 2011	55.65
Rochford Garden Machinery	Strimmer accessories	27.15
Sydenhams	Shuttering & screws (signs for Castle Hill & Long Hill)	22.23 (already paid)
J H Rose & Sons	Type 1 stone for AYP Car Park	65.44
Scats Countrystores	Grounds sundries, posts and rails, wire, roundup and visor	119.98
N. Maitland	Scrub clearance work on Long Hill	3450.00 (already paid)
Southern Electric	Christmas lighting supply charges	45.41
The Community Heartbeat Trust	Community Public Access Defibrillator equipment	1775.00
Duchy of Cornwall	Half yearly allotment rental – 29.9.11 – 24.3.11	322.06
BT	Telephone service for February	63.87 (Paid by DD)
Mere School	Electricity from 5.12.11 – 27.2.12 – Changing Rooms & Office	421.27

Mere School	Gas from 5.12.11 – 27.2.12 – Changing Rooms	292.36
Mere School	Water from 5.12.11 – 27.2.12 – Changing Rooms	38.03
J. L. Paul	Repairs to play equipment at Castle Hill Play Area	80.00
Forge Garage	Fuel & Oil	190.50
Imprest Account – cheque Nos. 2766 - 2770	Wages, PAYE, pension & petty cash	?????
E. G. Coles	Service to Kubota tractor	£473.27

b) To approve recommendations as set out in Minutes of Risk Management meeting including:

- Review and assessment of effectiveness of internal controls
- Review and assessment of Risk Management Strategy
- Annual Insurance Review

Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the recommendations contained within the minutes should be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Norris and carried with a unanimous vote of approval.

***c) Request for financial assistance towards costs involved in resurfacing of main driveway to parish church** – with reference to the information in the Clerks Report, Cllr. Mrs. White confirmed that Rev. Barnes had spoken to her last autumn about funding and that she had suggested that he should write to the Parish Council and also that there were various grants that he could apply for. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the meeting to be arranged with the PCC [see Minute No. 99c) above]

***d) Interim internal audit report** – members noted the report by Mr. John Wilson and expressed their appreciation to both him and the Clerk for carrying out this task.

101. General Items

a) The Cabin, White Road, Mere – the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had started legal proceedings for the freehold transfer of the old horticultural shed in White Road some years ago, in September 2007 in fact. However, progress had been extremely slow and the Clerk had come up against a problem in that the Parish Council may need to apply for planning permission in order to use the building for storing grounds equipment. Anyhow, the Parish Council's solicitor was now running out of patience and needed to know whether or not this project was going to proceed or whether she should just submit her invoice. The Clerk informed members that she did not see how she would be able to pick up this project again in the immediate future. Members agreed that the Parish Council should ask the solicitor to send the invoice and that the issue should be resumed as and when time permits.

b) Sunshine Project for the Elderly – the Clerk informed members about this project and said that she had asked the organiser to pass on details to various organisations and residential homes within the parish.

102. Clerks Report

a) Cllr. Mrs. White proposed that the Clerks Report be confirmed and adopted. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hurd and carried with a unanimous vote. No future agenda items requested.

Trustees to consider clauses within the Charity Commission's Scheme for the Recreation Ground and the implications/effects this would have on the Football Club's proposals for a football pitch with barriers & hardstanding.

The Clerk confirmed that she had written to the Football Club, following the meeting in January, regarding their proposals for the football pitch within the Recreation Ground. The Clerk had informed the Football Club that, having checked the Charity Commission's governing scheme for the Recreation Ground, it was her interpretation that, if the football pitch would no longer be available for use by the general public, then the Trustees of the Charity would need to lease the football pitch to the Football Club and that any decision to lease the land would need to be confirmed by a resolution passed at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk had now heard back from the Football Club who confirmed that it will still be possible for the general public to have access to and use the football pitch once the barriers and hardstanding have been installed and that there had never been any intention for exclusive use of the football pitch.