

# Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in The Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

**Present:** Councillors Mrs. L. Traves (Chairman), B. Norris (Vice-Chairman), M. Cassidy, P. Coward, R. Coward, C. Hazzard, D. Hope, R. Hughes, Mrs. J. Hurd (from 8.00 p.m.), G. Jeans, Ann-Marie Long, E. Mitchell, R. Sims

Also: Mr. Stone, Mr. T. Snook. Mr. G. Avory & Mr. L. Stanton

## Public Session

Mr. T. Snook said that the group of Railway Modellers held their first exhibition on 15<sup>th</sup> June and this proved to be very successful, drawing a lot of people into the town. One third of the people attending were youth of the area who voted with their feet. The Mere & District Railway Modellers will offer managerial and educational training – as explained in the information submitted to the Parish Clerk. They hope to hold two exhibitions per year over the next five years and reiterate that the Old Band Hut is ideal, in its present layout, for their purposes. The Railway Modellers would be prepared to share facilities of the smaller rooms with the Mere & District Linkscheme.

Mr. David Hope explained that, earlier today, members of the Mere & District Project Sunrise held an exploratory meeting with the General Manager of the National Trust. The aim of this meeting was to work in co-operation with the National Trust to try and boost tourism in the Mere area and to explore opportunities and promotional schemes/ideas that would be beneficial to that aim.

**Apologies for absence** received from Cllrs. R. Hill, J. Jordan and for the late arrival of Cllr. Mrs. Hurd. PC Richard Salter & PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky also sent their apologies.

## 32. To receive declarations of interest from members and to consider requests for new DPI

**dispensations.** (*Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Mere Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.*)

Minute No. 39 a) – Cllr. Jeans declared a pecuniary interest

Minute No. 39a) – Cllr. Hazzard declared a pecuniary interest

**33. Minutes** – Cllr. R. Sims proposed that the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013 be approved as a correct record of proceedings. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a majority vote of those present on 3.6.13.

## 34. Matters Arising

**a) Community Transfer of Assets (Band Hut) – Minute No. 24 b) - to discuss issues relating to structural repair work and issues relating to potential letting terms** – The Chairman confirmed that a site meeting was held last Wednesday in order to familiarise members with the condition and layout of the band hut and she thanked those members that attended. The Chairman also reminded members of the inspection that was carried out on the building last November and the recommendation that it would be necessary to remove the floor in order to ascertain the extent of the dry and wet rot in the building. The Chairman said that she had now arranged for a builder to visit the site, lift the floor and make an assessment on the dry and wet rot. The builder would not charge the Parish Council for this work.

Cllr. R. Coward asked the Model Railway Group if they had assessed the floor. Mr. Snook replied that they had ascertained that it would cost in the region of £4000 and that they would have adequate funds to do this work.

Cllr. R. Coward proposed that, if the lease comes through before August and we have the results of the survey, then the Parish Council should call an extra meeting and invite the potential user groups along. This proposal was carried.

**\*b) Replacing yellow lines – Minute 28 b)** – with reference to the discussion held last month, Cllr. Hazzard said that he had asked for this to be raised on the agenda because he was not in favour of repainting the yellow lines around town. He said that he was keen to support the businesses in the town and that he felt the removal of the parking restrictions would be beneficial to the businesses as people could park and pop into the shops. Cllr. Norris disagreed with this view and said that the double-yellow lines were needed in order to stop dangerous parking around junctions and that, without them, the street parking would become chaotic and would make it difficult for delivery vehicles and emergency vehicles to gain access. There was a show of hands as to whether this matter should be debated by the Parish Council at the next meeting and it was agreed that 'Extra Parking in The Square' should be raised on the September agenda.

**c) Staff Issues – Minute 30 d)** - The Clerk confirmed that the Staffing Panel & Appeals Committee (Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllr. Jeans) had agreed to appoint Mr. Ryan Morse on a self-employed contract basis to help out during the summer months whilst our groundsman is off sick.

### 35. Reports

**a) Neighbourhood Policing Report** – Cllr. Sims reported that he volunteers in the police office on a Tuesday morning and this session is now becoming busier. PCSO Peter Tcherniawsky is making himself well known within the community.

**b) Wiltshire Councillor's Report** - Cllr. Jeans reported that he sits on Wiltshire Council's Broadband Committee and is trying to find out what is going to happen in the South West Wiltshire area. He said that the Community Area Transport Group is the only avenue locally for highway infrastructure improvements and they only have limited funds (the South West Wiltshire CATG has £17,000 awarded over the three community areas – Mere, Tisbury & Wilton). It is suitable for small scale schemes that improve safety, increase accessibility and sustainability by promoting walking, cycling and public transport and improve traffic management. It cannot be used to fund revenue functions such as maintenance schemes or the provision of passenger transport services. However, he pointed out that there was a Substantive Scheme Fund which is centrally held by Wiltshire Council and Area Boards are eligible to bid for substantive scheme funding when a priority scheme exceeds their available discretionary CATG budget and could not be implemented in phases spread over two or three financial years. Bids from the respective Area Boards are made annually around May and a decision made in July. Each bid is subject to a full assessment appraisal and scored against set criteria before funding is allocated. Last year a portion of the substantive scheme funding was awarded to Teffont. Cllr. Jeans stressed the importance of the Parish Council producing a Traffic & Transport Plan in order to indicate the Parish Council's Highway & Traffic priorities. Cllr. Hope said he had read that the Chancellor has recently announced an increase in funding for the repair of roads and Cllr. Jeans confirmed that funding had been increased and that Balfour Beatty had been tasked with carrying out some repairs but he did not think it would cover any extensive road resurfacing, just the repair of potholes. Cllr. Jeans reported that the replacement of the flag on Castle Hill is being addressed

### 36. 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 Ref: 13/00666/FUL

Application for: FULL PLANNING

Proposal: Extensions to and conversion of outbuilding to create annex

Location: Cobblers Cottage, Hillside, Castle Street, Mere, Wiltshire. BA12 6JF

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should recommend this application for refusal as it would be detrimental to the lane and character of the conservation area and the proposed annexe is not subservient to the main

dwelling. Proposal carried with a vote of 8 for and 1 against and 1 abstention. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. George Jeans abstained from voting.

Application Ref: 13/00596/FUL  
Application for: FULL PLANNING  
Proposal: Single storey rear and front extensions and loft conversion  
Location: Lunefield, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire. BA12 6DG

Cllr. Norris proposed that the Parish Council should recommend approval of the above application. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hope and carried with a vote of 9 for, 1 against and 2 abstentions. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. George Jeans abstained from voting.

Application Ref: 13/00782/ADV  
Application for: ADVERTISEMENT CONSENT  
Proposal: Various Signage  
Location: Lloyds TSB, The Square, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DP

Cllr. Hope reminded members that the Parish Council had previously objected to an application for an internally illuminated hanging sign. This new application is for a hanging sign that will only be externally illuminated and the ATM surround will not be illuminated at all. Cllr. Mrs. Hurd proposed that the application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Ann-Marie Long and carried with a majority vote in favour and 1 abstention. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. George Jeans abstained from voting.

Application Ref: 13/01149/FUL  
Application for: FULL PLANNING  
Proposal: Single storey extension to west elevation  
At: Burton Grange Barn, Burton, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6BR

Cllr. R. Coward proposed that the above application be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Ann-Marie Long and carried with a majority vote in favour. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. George Jeans abstained from voting.

### **37. Open Spaces, Play Areas, Sports Grounds, Allotments & Cemeteries**

**\*a) Request for small firework display for Mere School at Duchy Manor Sports Grounds on 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – with reference to the information in the Clerks Report it was RESOLVED to raise no objection to the suggestion of a small firework display and bonfire (mounted on corrugated iron raised off the ground on blocks with a sand bed underneath to protect the ground from the heat) on condition that the positioning of the bonfire is agreed beforehand and it was agreed that the Clerk should request a copy of Mr. Deeker's Risk Assessment to keep on file. Proposal seconded by Cllr. P. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote of approval.

**b) Update on Skate Park project** – The Clerk confirmed that a user group meeting had been convened in the Youth Club on 13<sup>th</sup> June which was well attended with a wide variety of users and age groups. Some of the users were providing the Clerk with some feedback. The Clerk had also attended a school assembly where children from Mere School were asked to come back with feedback on the design scheme. In the name of the Recreation Ground Charity, the Clerk had completed an expression of interest in a grant application for the Community Landfill Fund to seek remaining funds necessary to provide the skate park. The Clerk also confirmed that she had written to the Parish Council's new insurance company asking for their advice on the proposed skate park and that their response was as follows:

*If the skate park is installed and you want your public liability insurance policy extended to cover the skate park then your insurers will charge an additional annual premium of £200.00 plus 6% IPT, the premium is adjusted to a pro rata basis depending on when you want the cover to start from. They will also add the following endorsement wording to the policy:*

*Skateboard/BMX Parks*

*If in relation to any claim you have failed to fulfill any of the following conditions, You will lose Your right to indemnity payment for that claim.*

*You must ensure that in connection with skateboard / BMX parks*

*1) all structures including the skating surfaces*

*(a) are manufactured and installed to the appropriate standard and maintained in good condition*

*(b) are inspected by a competent person at least weekly and*

*(l) all defects or risks to health or safety immediately rectified*

*or*

*(ii) the structure taken out of use*

*2) You will erect where necessary suitable signs detailing any information that is necessary for the safe use of the facility and clearly stating any restrictions on its use*

*3) You will determine where supervision is necessary and ensure that it is provided whenever the facilities are in use.*

*We will not provide indemnity in respect of Bodily Injury to persons taking part in activities in the Skateboard/BMX Parks unless by defects in the structure.*

*I recommend you obtain a post installation inspection and also seek advice from the company who install the park in respect of what signage to display. I also recommend you double check they have the relevant insurance in place (public and liability and professional indemnity).*

The Clerk was asked to seek clarification on point 3 of this response.

### **38. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths, Traffic & Transport**

**\*a) Requested cycleway between Mere & Zeals** – with reference to the information in the Clerks Report, it was agreed that this issue was a good idea in principle and should be added to the Parish Council's traffic and transport list in order to prioritise before presenting to the Community Area Transport Group (CATG).

**\*b) Consultation – Proposed changes to the Connect2 Wiltshire Taxibuzz services in the Mere area** – Cllr. Sims said that he had spoken to the Connect2 operators who had explained that they needed to re-tender for the contract which was currently costing £66,600 a year to carry about 25 people per day. Under the new proposals you will not be able to book the Taxibuzz between 9.00 & 10.30 a.m. or after 3.00 p.m. Many people did not realise that there was a free telephone service available in the Co-Op to book the taxibuzz. Members had considered the consultation, as outlined in the Clerks Report, and Cllr. P. Coward said that it seemed obvious that they needed to make some savings and Cllr. Norris said that he could not see anything within the proposals that the Parish Council could object to. It was therefore RESOLVED to send the following response: The Parish Council understands that financial savings need to be made but trusts that Wiltshire Council will keep these to the minimum necessary in order to alleviate significant hardship in meeting local access needs.

c) Jobs for Parish Steward & Clerks concerns that Parish Steward is no longer able to cut back overgrown footpaths – the Clerk reported that she had some concerns that certain tasks previously carried out by the Parish Steward such as cutting back overgrown footpaths in the town centre, had been excluded from the new contract with Balfour Beatty but said that she was currently investigating this issue and would report back to the council if problems were continuing. Other jobs identified were:

- Hedges around roundabout along Shaftesbury Road need cutting back to improve visibility
- Overgrown footpath adjacent to Badgers Bend (Mill Lane)
- Write to Wiltshire Council and ask them not to allow skips along the Carnival route on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

### **39. Finance, Policy & Resources**

**a) Payments** – RESOLVED to agree the following payments. Having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the following items, Cllr. Jeans and Cllr. Hazzard left the room whilst this item was discussed.

A. McCann	Repairs to loose slabs around bowling green (carried out 26.7.12)	101.00
The Consortium	Toilet rolls & dispenser	81.55 + 20.39
North Street Nurseries	Plant tubs and planters for summer display	1076.40
Mere Plumbing & Heating	Repairs to disabled toilet in changing rooms	40.00
Shaftesbury Garden Machinery	Repairs to Husqvarna ride-on	95.54 + 89.77
Jeans	Repairs to light on Castle Hill	61.18
Sydenhams	Paint for kicking (grafitti) wall	103.60
Jeans	Gas, bin bags and tools/keys for toilets	163.93
Rochfords Garden Machinery Ltd	New ride-on mower (Husqvarna 422TS AWD)	7450.00
Cash	Reimbursement for stationer, toner cartridge + toilet cleaning products	143.12 (already paid)
J. L. Paul	To supply and install storage area shed at Duchy Manor Grounds	2800.00
Ryan Morse	Grounds work	390.00
Imprest Account – cheque Nos. 2884 - 2891	Petty Cash reimbursement, Wages, PAYE & Pension	7458.68
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil	295.21
Southern Electric	Clock Tower supply	17.23
A. Wood	Tree work in cemetery	60.00
Rochford Garden Machinery	Strimmer consumables	119.26

#### 40. General Items

**a) Annual 43<sup>rd</sup> (Wessex) Division Memorial Service and Parade – Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2013** – The Chairman reminded everyone of the details of the parade.

**b) Woodland Trust – free trees** - The Clerk informed members of a scheme being run by the Woodland Trust where they were offering free trees to community groups. It was agreed that the Parish Council should apply.

#### 41. Clerks Report – RESOLVED to confirm and adopt Clerks Report

Future agenda items:

Bulbs – floodlights – it was agreed that one new bulb (already purchased) should be placed in the floodlights and that Cllr. Jeans should come back to the next meeting with alternative LED ideas.

\*Further information on these items in Clerks Report