

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 7th October 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in The Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

Present: Councillors B. Norris (Vice-Chairman), M. Cassidy, R. Coward, C. Hazzard, R. Hill, D. Hope, R. Hughes, Mrs. J. Hurd, G. Jeans, J. Jordan, Ann-Marie Long, E. Mitchell & R. Sims
Also: PC Richard Salter & PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky, Mr. Shaw

Cllr. Brett Norris in The Chair

Cllr. Norris explained that the Chairman could not attend the meeting tonight as she had suffered a tragic family loss but he wanted to extend the Parish Council's thoughts and prayers to her and her family at this sad time.

Presentation from Ann-Marie Dean from Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Ann-Marie Dean explained that the Wiltshire Good Neighbours service is a service is provided by Community First in conjunction with Wiltshire Age UK and Wiltshire Council and she is one of the local area co-ordinators. There are 16 co-ordinators in Wiltshire that cover the rural areas and their purpose is to help older and vulnerable people living in rural areas who cannot access services. They may be contacted by someone who has a problem with transport for example, but will often find, after having talked to their client, that they have deeper issues and problems. The Wiltshire Good Neighbours service works in partnership with a lot of support services and can pass on information, put people in touch with services, help them to fill out forms, make phone calls for them, help them to feel secure in their own homes and reduce dependency on institutional care. In this area, their youngest client is 7 and the oldest is aged 102. Ann-Marie Dean explained that she lived in East Knoyle and so she had some local knowledge and was aware of some of the problems faced by people living in this area. For instance, last winter she had 20 clients in Mere who were isolated during the severe weather and she kept in touch with them to make sure they were keeping warm and had access to services. This year, they are promoting a 'Ready for Winter' campaign and Ann-Marie asked the Parish Council if they would think about co-ordinating a team of emergency 4-wheel vehicle drivers that could help out in severe weather conditions. She organises community teas and works with Lynette Elliott on the community lunches. Cllr. Rodney Coward mentioned the two charities in Mere & Zeals that may be able to help.

Public Session

Mr. Shaw said that he was concerned about the road junctions at Water Street and at the top of Hazzards Hill where vehicles were often parked on the pavement. He also noticed that vehicles regularly park on the pavement outside the Post Office.

Mr. Clive Hazzard said that he hoped everyone enjoyed the carnival and reported that, in spite of the very small committee, the carnival had been well attended and had raised £1000 in the street collection. The Committee needs to hold fund raising events throughout the year because it now costs about £6,000 just to put the carnival on. Mr. Hazzard said that the committee gets a tremendous amount of support from PC Richard Salter, PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky and their team and asked if the Parish Council could write to the Chief Constable to thank them for this help. Members agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent.

Mr. Sims read out an extract from *The Guardian* (5th July 2013) written by snootygirl in an article entitled "Readers' travel tips: top 10 motorway stop-off's and journey breaks":

Heading west? Slip off the A303 at Mere in Wiltshire, straight into this delightfully compact and peaceful town. The car parks are free and one has public toilets. The town's Castle Hill is the perfect climb for travellers with energy to burn off: at the top is a picnic spot with far-reaching views, and there is a small children's play area at its foot. Within a few steps, you can grab picnic provisions at the Co-op, tea and

cakes at Angel Corner tea rooms, or something more substantial from a selection of traditional pubs. For those with more time to spend, the gardens at Stourhead are less than three miles away.

Mr. Hope said that he had been approached by farm tenants of Duchy land near the Walnut Road development, regarding the problems he is suffering with dog owners walking their dogs across the land and not keeping to the footpaths and also the problem of dog faeces.

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. Mrs. Traves (Chairman) and Cllr. P. Coward

53. 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.

Cllr. Mark Cassidy applied, in writing, for a dispensation to participate in any discussion and to participate in any vote on Minute No. 55b) for the reason that the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area. The Parish Council granted dispensation to Cllr. Mark Cassidy to participate in discussion and vote on 'highway issues and highway proposals relating to the proposals for Woodlands Road/Shafesbury Road in connection with the Brush Factory development' for a period of one year from 7th October 2013, on the grounds that the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the parish of Mere.

Cllr. R. Coward declared a personal interest in planning application 13/04047/FUL

Cllr. R. Hill declared a personal interest in planning application 13/03679/TCA

Cllr. Jeans declared a personal interest in Minute No. 60a)

54. Minutes – Cllr. Mrs. Hurd proposed that the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 2nd September 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 2.9.13.

55. Matters Arising

a) Extra Parking in The Square – Minute 44 c) - report from Working Party – Cllr. Norris presented members with a report on the findings of a working party, set up to assess if the double-yellow lines should be repainted in their original positions or modified in any way to provide for extra parking. "The working party reached a consensus to recommend that the double-yellow lines should be repainted in their original positions along Castle Street, Boar Street and Barnes Place. The double-yellow lines in The Square should be repainted in their original positions but with one modification: that the double-yellow line that runs alongside Waltons Antiques to the Chemist shop should be shortened by 15 metres to allow for an extra three cars to park. Additionally, to consult with the management of the Co-Op with a view to removing the loading bay outside the Co-Op and to remove the 'No Vehicle' sign to the south of the clock tower island which is constantly being ignored. Also to propose significant modifications to the parking restrictions in Salisbury Street to provide a continuous double-yellow line on the south side (Lecture Hall) starting 15m from the zebra crossing zig zag lines to the junction with the Salisbury Street Car Park with a 15m break, 12m from the start of the yellow lines – this will allow only six cars to park in this area in two blocks of three. A continuous double-yellow line may have to be provided on the north side of Salisbury Street (Chalkes) from the zebra crossing to the eastern entrance to Chalke's car park in order to stop cars parking on this side of the road. Members unanimously agreed with the findings of the working party, as outlined in this report and asked for one additional issue to be included – that the maximum parking duration of 30 minutes in and around The Square is extended to apply between 9 a.m. & 6 p.m. and that this should be more rigorously enforced to free up more parking spaces for shoppers and to prevent long-term day time parking.

b) Woodlands Road/Shafesbury Road & Brush Factory Development – Minute 44 d) - Is it the Parish Council's preferred opinion that the entrance/exit road for the proposed Brush Factory redevelopment should be located opposite the junction of Walnut Road where a newly positioned roundabout should

be provided? – Cllr. Jeans said that he had asked for this question to be considered because he had received comments from people informing him that they did not want to see houses built right up to the road and it was his opinion that if the entrance/exit for the proposed redevelopment were relocated with a newly positioned roundabout he felt that this would push the houses back and a bigger roundabout, where vehicles would be forced to slow down, would also make the junction safer. Cllr. Cassidy, who had been granted dispensation to participate on this issue, said that since the day the existing roundabout was built there has been the potential for an accident but there has only been one minor incident. Cllr. Cassidy said that making a bigger roundabout will not necessarily make the junction safer because there would then be traffic coming in from four directions and it would cause disruption for existing businesses in the locality. Cllr. Cassidy also said that the creation of a bigger roundabout with an entrance/exit road opposite would not necessarily result in houses being pushed back away from the road and he felt that one minor accident in 8 years was not reason enough to justify the expense and disruption this would cause. Cllr. Mrs. Hurd felt that a bigger roundabout would mean that traffic would have no option but to slow down and Cllr. Hope said that a larger roundabout would necessitate re-aligning Woodlands Road. Cllr. Hughes pointed out that it was virtually impossible to actually drive a vehicle around the existing mini-roundabout and Cllr. Jordan felt that a T-junction would have been a better option. Cllr. R. Coward said that it seems that we all agree that the existing roundabout is not doing its job properly. Cllr. Jeans said that he would withdraw his question to the Council and would suggest that he should perhaps try and persuade Wiltshire Council to use some of the S.106 contribution from this proposed developed towards some kind of scheme to improve the junctions in this vicinity. It was therefore agreed to raise the matter at the next meeting under the following agenda heading: Proposals relating to Walnut Road/Shafesbury Road junction.

Matters Arising from Sports Development Meeting held on 2nd October 2013

c) Proposals from Mere Town Football Club for gates (emergency vehicular access) from Duchy Manor into Recreation Ground (either side of Burton Path) - deferred

d) Dog Fouling in the Recreation Ground - deferred

56. Reports

a) Neighbourhood Policing Report – PC Richard Salter thanked Cllr. Hazzard for his kind words relating to the carnival and said that the event was extremely successful except for one problem which occurred after the carnival had finished. PC Richard Salter said that approximately every 3 months some councillors and other representatives from organisations will be invited to a Neighbourhood Task Group meeting to identify policing priorities in the area. The ones that we currently have are due to expire soon so he was asking members to think about any priorities they might like to submit for the group to consider. Dog Fouling has been a priority for some time and PC Salter had asked Wiltshire Council to send out their dog warden. The Police still had powers to issue some parking tickets but they were very limited and this responsibility had now been passed to Wiltshire Council to enforce. PC Salter reported that on Saturday just gone (5th October) there had been a cardiac arrest in Mere and the police had been asked to clear the football pitch for the air ambulance to land. Mere Town Reserve Football Team were playing Portland Reserve Football Team at the time and there was a reluctance to clear the football pitch for the air ambulance. PC Salter said he had lodged a complaint with the Football Association but as it is public land owned by the Parish Council, he thought that members ought to be aware of the situation. PC Salter also said that there was a small dispute relating to responsibilities over the river along Water Street and he asked if the Parish Council had any information on this. PC Salter was passed on information from the Environment Agency on riparian ownership responsibilities and advised to visit the Clerk for further information. It was further agreed that the Parish Council should arrange a meeting with the football club to investigate the air ambulance issue further.

b) Wiltshire Councillor's Report – Cllr. Jeans reminded members that the next South West Wiltshire Area Board meeting is to be held in Mere at the Social Club on Wednesday, 16th October at 7.00 p.m. and he said it would be helpful if those interested would come along to support the local area. Cllr. Jeans explained that he had attended a meeting at High Post, Salisbury regarding severe weather. There were presentations from the Environment Agency on Flooding and from Wiltshire Council on snow and ice clearance.

57. Planning

a) Applications: (All applications can be viewed on Wiltshire Council's website <http://planning.wiltshire.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/ApplicationSearch.aspx> – and type in the relevant application number)

Application Ref: 13/01437/FUL
Application for: Full Planning
Proposal: Erect Agricultural Workers Dwelling
Location: Chetcombe Farm, Mere, Wiltshire. BA12 6AU

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application on proposal made by Cllr. Hazzard, seconded by Cllr. Ann-Marie Long and carried with a vote of 12 for and 2 abstentions. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

Application Ref: 13/02691/FUL
Application for: Full Planning
Proposal: Convert outbuilding to 3 bed detached dwelling and erect front porch
Location: Old Forge, North Street, Mere, Wiltshire BA12 6HH

RESOLVED to recommend refusal of the above application for the following reasons: that the conversion of the outbuilding to form a third dwelling on this restricted site would constitute over-development, lacking in amenity and contributing to the problem of on-street parking and movement along North Street which is already severely congested. Proposal made by Cllr. Hope and seconded by Cllr. Hazzard and carried with a vote of 10 for and 3 abstentions. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

Application Ref: 13/03679/TCA
Application for: Trees Conservation Area
Proposal: T1 Beech, fell and remove.
Location: 1 The Grange, Water Street, Mere, Wiltshire BA12 6DZ

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application on proposal made by Cllr. Hughes, seconded by Ann-Marie Long and carried with a vote of 11 for and 2 abstentions. Cllr. Hill & Cllr. Jeans, having declared a personal interest in this item, refrained from discussion or voting.

Application Ref: 13/04047/FUL
Application for: Full Planning
Proposal: New façade, two storey and single storey extensions
Location: Dairy House, Manor Road, Mere, Wiltshire. BA12 6HR

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application on proposal made by Cllr. Hazzard, seconded by Cllr. Hope and carried with a vote of 10 for and 3 abstentions. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

Application Ref: 13/04178/FUL
Application for: Full Planning
Proposal: Internal alterations and new single storey extension to rear.
Location: 2 Ivy Mead, Mere, Wiltshire. BA12 6EN

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application on proposal made by Cllr. Norris, seconded by Cllr. Hill and carried with a vote of 11 for and 2 abstentions. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

Application Ref: 13/04241/REM
Application for: Reserved Matters
Proposal: Erection of detached dwelling.

Location: Site to the rear of Wyoming, Woodlands Road, Mere, Wiltshire. BA12 6BY
RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application on proposal made by Cllr. Hazzard, seconded by Cllr. Mitchell and carried with a vote of 11 for and 2 abstentions. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

Application Ref: 13/04485/FUL
Application for: Full Planning
Proposal: Ground floor extensions and re-structuring of roof to provide additional accommodation

Location: Downs View Farm, Limpers Hill, Mere, Wiltshire BA12 6BD

Application Ref: 13/04488/VAR
Application for: Variation of Condition
Proposal: Remove Condition 4 of S/2010/0620 (erection of agricultural livestock building, stationing mobile home and construction of farm track, together with containment of complex with post and rail fence and appropriate landscaping) to allow the mobile home to remain on the land.

Location: Downs View Farm, Limpers Hill, Mere, Wiltshire. BA12 6BD

With reference to the above TWO applications, Cllr. Mitchell explained that this farmer was granted permission for a temporary, mobile home on the site for a period of 3 years which is about to expire. This is a local farmer, he farms 200 acres in the local area and is a young man with a young family who wants to continue farming and building his farm business. RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application on proposal made by Cllr. Mitchell, seconded by Cllr. Hughes and carried with a vote of 11 for and 2 abstentions. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

The Clerk informed members that she had received enquiries regarding the recently demolished bungalow in Pettridge Lane which was the subject of a recent planning application for a single storey front and rear extension and loft conversion. The Clerk had made enquiries with the planning department and confirmed that the enforcement officer had visited the site and informed the applicant that a new application for a replacement dwelling needs to be submitted within 6 weeks.

58. Open Spaces, Play Areas, Sports Grounds, Allotments & Cemeteries

a) Annual RoSPA Inspection of play areas – the Clerk informed members that the reports on the Annual RoSPA Play Area Inspections had been received and that there were no areas of High Risk that had been identified and nothing raised within the report that would give cause for alarm. There were a number of medium and low risk issues that the Clerk would be going through with the groundsman in the near future to see if work could be done to reduce the risks.

59. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths, Traffic & Transport

a) Highway, Traffic & Transport Priorities – Draft Plan (deferred from last meeting) – members were requested to prioritise the issues listed within the draft plan and to identify any further issues that might have been missed/forgotten. It was agreed to defer this until the next meeting but to itemise it at the beginning of the agenda.

b) Report on CATG meeting held on 10th September and request for Parish Council to keep a record of all accidents within the parish – it was reported that there were no new schemes raised for Mere. The Community Area Transport Group had, however, requested that Parish Councils record any accidents they are aware of within their village and report back to the CATG as the Group is only usually provided with statistics for injury related accidents (non-injury related accidents are not necessarily reported to the police and are therefore not included in official statistics).

c) Sign de-cluttering and minor signing requests – request for Parish Council to review highway signage within the parish – it was agreed that Cllrs. Cassidy and Jeans should find out what the Chamber of Trade is doing about this and to report back to the next meeting.

60. Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Payments – RESOLVED to approve the following payments, as proposed by Cllr. R. Coward, seconded by Cllr. R. Hill and carried with a unanimous vote. Cllr. Jeans declared a personal interest in this item (payment to Wilts Electrical Wholesalers).

G. Gatehouse	Plumbing work to public toilets (May & June)	25.00
Cash Reimbursement	PureSafety (A5 No Dogs signs)	64.20
Duchy of Cornwall	Half yearly rent – allotment land	322.06
Duchy of Cornwall	Yearly rent, in arrears – Castle Hill	15.00
Wilts Electrical Wholesalers	2 X Replacement bulbs for MUGA	299.95 – Already paid
Mere Fabricating & Welding Services	Ground machinery – work on Trimac roller mower	93.60
The Broker Network (Came & Co)	Motor insurance (Diahatsu & Tractor)	578.32 – Already paid
Ryan Morse	Ground work (19.8.13 – 12.9.13)	420.00 – Already paid
Fencewize	Supply of 6 No. 2.5m X 1.8m wire panels for MUGA	488.16
Lenka Stokes	Reimbursement from Footpath Group's grant for tools purchased	156.57
BWBSL	Wessex Water – water usage at Manor Road Allotments 7.3.13 – 6.9.13	149.71
BWBSL	Wessex Water – water usage at Wellhead Allotments 8.3.13 – 19.9.13	103.17
BWBSL	Wessex Water – water usage at new cemetery – 7.3.13 – 6.9.13	26.83
J. L. Paul	To extend trailer ramp to accommodate new tractor/mower	200.00
Playsafety Limited	Annual RoSPA Inspection of 3 play areas	270.00
Southern Electric	Supply to Clock Tower	16.97
Sydenhams	Grounds equipment/sundries	16.94
Grant Thornton UK LLP	External Audit fee for 2013 Annual Return	480.00
United Mechanical Ltd	Changing Rooms – Boiler breakdown	52.80
Alvian Ltd	Repairs to play area at Walnut Road	510.00
Cash Reimbursement (InknToner UK)	Toner Cartridges	82.73
Newlands Training	Pesticide courses NPTC PA1 & PA6aw for Tim Cussen on 7 th , 8 th & 11 th October	450.00
Scats	Grounds sundries	188.93
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil for September Supply & fit new trailer tyre & valve	162.76 70.20 – Total £232.96
T. Thornley	Website – Domain renewal	20.39
Imprest Account – Cheque Nos. 2905 – 2911)	Wages, Petty Cash Reimbursements, PAYE & Pension (October)	5349.64

Ryan Morse	Ground work (16.9.13 – 3.10.13)	590.00
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***b) To approve Budget/Expenditure report at 30.6.13 (deferred from last meeting)** – it was agreed to defer this item but to bring it to the front of the agenda next month.

c) External Audit of Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2013 – The Clerk informed the Council that the external auditors had returned the Annual Return stating that ‘on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.’

d) Approval for the purchase of tools & equipment for workshop/grounds staff – RESOLVED to approve the expenditure of £392.57 on a generator, pressure washer, bench grinder and compressor on proposal made by Cllr. Norris and seconded by Cllr. Hughes. It was pointed out that the grounds staff must ensure that they have adequate eye protection when using the bench grinder.

e) Approval for expenditure to repair smashed floodlight on Castle Hill and/or make insurance claim – Cllr. Jeans declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the room whilst it was being discussed. The Chairman pointed out that the floodlight had been vandalised/smashed and asked the Parish Council if they wanted to spend money on repairing it. RESOLVED to repair the floodlight on proposal made by Cllr. Hazzard, seconded by Cllr. Hill and carried with a unanimous vote of those present in the room.

61. General Items

Invitation to WALC Annual General Meeting 17th October, Wessex Room, Corn Exchange, Devizes from 6.30 p.m. – members noted the invitation

62. Clerks Report – None

Meeting closed at 21.46 p.m.

Mere Peace Memorial Sports & 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, 7th October 2013 in the Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

- Proposals from Mere Town Football Club for gates (emergency vehicular access) from Duchy Manor into Recreation Ground (either side of Burton Path) - deferred
- Dog Fouling in the Recreation Ground - deferred

Payments - The following payments were approved:

Wessex Water (supply to old Cricket Pavilion)	11.89
Wessex Water (supply to old Rutter Pavilion)	38.43