

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 8th April 2013 at 7.30 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, Jane Hurd, G. Jeans, Ann-Marie Long, E. Mitchell, B. Norris & D. Sealy.
Also: Mr. Alan Mead, L. Stanton,

Public Session

Mr. Alan Mead said that the Footpath Group would like to ask whether they can carry out light vegetation clearance on all the footpaths without having to seek approval from the Parish Council each time. He explained that the footpath group were finding it quite restrictive to have to plan which footpaths they were going to work on and then seek permission from the Parish Council beforehand. The Council agreed that this was a good idea and asked Mr. Mead to liaise with the Parish Clerk to seek clarification on both parties understanding of 'light vegetation clearance' before proceeding.

Mr. Hope said that the surface of Shaftesbury Road up to the county boundary seemed to be in a poor state. Cllr. Jeans said he would add this to his long and extensive list of roads requiring attention.

Mrs. Hurd mentioned the potholes outside the Indigo Blue and outside F. J. Chalkes and Cllr. Jeans explained that this matter was the subject of a legal issue between Wiltshire Council and the contractors and that Wiltshire Council was trying to make the contractors pay compensation for sub-standard work.

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. R. Sims and PC Richard Salter

210. To receive Declarations of Interest and to consider requests for dispensation.

Cllr. Jeans declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 216 a) - recipient

210. Minutes – Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 4th March 2013 be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hurd and carried with a majority vote of those present on 4.3.13.

211. Matters Arising

a) Community Transfer of assets (Band Hut & Croquet Club) – Interest for community use of band hut – the Clerk was aware of three groups that had now expressed an interest in the use of the building. It was agreed that representatives of the Parish Council should hold a meeting with representatives from these groups to gather information on their proposals etc. The meeting to take place after the elections.

b) Recruitment for Groundsman's Assistant – the Clerk informed members that interviews had taken place and a new groundsman's assistant had been appointed – Mr. Tim Cussen. Mr. Cussen had started work today (8th April) and the Clerk hoped that either she or the groundsman would have an opportunity to introduce him to councillors over the next few months. Councillors said that they were very impressed with the candidates that had been sent by Octopus Personnel and that they had been impressed with the service provided by them which had made the recruitment process much easier and less work for the Clerk and Chairman.

c) Matters Arising from River's meeting 6.2.13 – The Clerk had raised this matter as the report on the meeting held in February had stated that it would be useful if the Parish Council agreed on a management plan for the river and she wondered how the rivers group saw the Parish Council's involvement in this. Cllr. Norris said that the riparian owners would develop the management plan and present it to the Parish Council for approval in due course.

d) Response from Wiltshire Council to letter regarding Mere Surgery Expansion Proposals – the Clerk informed members that Mr. Mark Smith, Director of Neighbourhood Services for Wiltshire Council had

written a later on 1st March stating: 'In the event that the doctor's surgery agree terms with Wiltshire Council for the lease or purchase of the land, the parish council would be asked if they would be prepared to surrender that part of the car park from its lease. I note from your letter that, if required, the parish council would be prepared, in principle, to surrender land from the Lease to be granted to the parish council of the Salisbury Street Car Park to facilitate the expansion of Mere Surgery.'

e) Dog Fouling – request for strong action against repeat offenders – Councillors made various suggestions for stronger action e.g. making prosecutions, offering rewards for photographic evidence that would lead to a prosecution. However, it was agreed that this matter would be raised on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Clerk was asked to seek clarification on the Parish Council's legal position with regard to offering rewards and/or making prosecutions. It was also agreed to seek clarification on whether or not Wiltshire Council still has a dog warden.

212. Reports

a) Neighbourhood Policing Report & report on Neighbourhood Task Group Meeting held 5.3.13 – the Clerk confirmed that she had attended this meeting and that the Neighbourhood Police had agreed to include parking obstructions in Mere Town Centre and Dog Fouling as their priorities for April – June.

b) Wiltshire Councillor's Report to include report of South West Wiltshire Area Board Meeting – 13.3.13
Cllr. Jeans reported that he had been unable to attend the Area Board meeting due to illness but he was pleased to report that the Parish Council had received approval for funding for the signposts and also that it had been agreed to carry forward the funding for the skate park for Mere.

213. 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)

Parish or Ward: MERE

Application Number: S/2013/416

Location: Charles Farris Ltd., Quarryfields Industrial Estate, Mere

Proposal: Erection of wax cooling tower

The Chairman pointed out that the cooling tower will extend above the existing building by about 12 feet. Cllr. R. Coward proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hughes and carried with a majority vote of approval. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans refrained from discussion or voting.

Parish or Ward: MERE

Application Number: S/2013/392

Location: Mere Fire Station, White Road, Mere.

Proposal: Extension to provide office accommodation

Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sealy and carried with a majority vote. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans refrained from discussion or voting.

Parish or Ward: MERE

Application Number: S/2013/336

Location: Site at rear off Wyoming Woodlands Road Mere Warminster.

Proposal: Erection of detached dwelling

Cllr. Hope said that the site is currently disused and that he had spoken to the owner of Oakhaven (neighbour) who had concerns over the scale of the proposed dwelling. Cllr. Hope felt that it would be difficult to object to the principal of building a house in this location but that maybe the scale, height and mass would be issues of concern. The Chairman said that she felt that proposed dwelling was over large. Cllr. Mrs. Traves said that she understood that a planning application was rejected in the 1970s and

pointed out that this site was outside the housing policy boundary and within the sewage works periphery. She said that backland filling in this location will open the gates for further development in the area. Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. E. Mitchell and carried with a vote of 5 for, 3 against and 3 abstentions. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans refrained from discussion or voting.

b) Redevelopment of Hill Brush site at Woodlands Road – pre-application comments and suggestions, with particular reference to vehicular access and highways issues – The Chairman said that this issue had been raised due to particular concerns raised by Cllr. Jeans at the last meeting. Cllr. Jeans said that with 138 proposed dwellings, there could be as many as 200 extra cars using the roads in this vicinity and he felt very strongly that the existing roundabout at the junction of Walnut Road/Shafesbury Road was an accident waiting to happen and that this opportunity should be taken to have the roundabout made bigger and moved across the carriageway. Cllr. Jeans felt that a request should be submitted to C. G. Fry & Son at this stage, prior to their planning submission. Cllr. R. Coward said that there were probably 100 cars driving up to the brush factory to work every day and that the extra traffic generated by the new proposed development may not be as much as perceived. Cllr. Jeans was also concerned about on street parking and whether or not it would be necessary to impose conditions so that occupiers of the proposed houses were required to park on their own properties. He pointed out that the preliminary plans that had been shown at the consultation events showed only one entrance into the estate from Woodlands Road but he wondered whether a second entrance from Shafesbury Road would be of benefit. Cllr. Hope felt that a second access road into the estate would be beneficial so that traffic did not all have to take one route and said that extra traffic would have consequences on Pettridge Lane. Cllr. Norris said that the density was proposed in order to make moving the factory a viable proposition but agreed that it was important to get the road layout right. There was a discussion on where a second access road should be positioned but the Clerk pointed out that the Parish Council was not qualified to designate a location for an access road and that it was for the Highways Authority to discuss specifics of this nature.

Following this discussion, Cllr. Jeans proposed that the Parish Council should make one fundamental request to C. G. Fry & Son: To change the existing roundabout by the Woodlands Road entrance into a much bigger island roundabout and widen the road in this location so that the roundabout is situated in the middle of the road. Also, if possible, to have a second entrance into the proposed new development, somewhere off the Shafesbury Road (the location to be agreed following consultation with the Highway Authority). Proposal seconded by Cllr. Norris and carried with a vote of 9 for, 1 abstention and 1 against.

c) Water Harvesting for New Developments – Cllr. B. Norris - deferred

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

a) Mere Swimming Pool – standing down of Chairman with following implications – the Clerk pointed out that Mr. Parsons had written a letter stating that he was no longer able to commit to the running and organisation of Mere Swimming Pool. Members acknowledged the amount of work that Mr. Parsons had carried out to keep the swimming pool open during recent years and recognised the amount of responsibility and commitment that this entailed. It was agreed that the swimming pool should be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting and at the forthcoming Sports Development Meeting to see if there was any interest in taking on such a project or any other suggestions from the public.

b) Public Access Defibrillator for Duchy Manor Sports Grounds – Cllr. Hazzard confirmed that when he had attended the last School Governors meeting he had been asked about defibrillators, the costs and the possibility of positioning one near the school. It had been suggested that if funding could be achieved to purchase a defibrillator for the site, then it might be located near or on the dentist building and that they might be receptive to help with funding. The Parish Council offered its full support for such a venture and agreed to find out what the dentist has in the way of a defibrillator or plans for such and whether they would be willing to erect a Community Access Defibrillator on their building.

c) Results of allotment rent audit – the Clerk confirmed that £1270.92 had been collected at the recent allotment rent audit. There were some allotment holders that had not yet paid but the Clerk was confident that they would either pay or surrender their allotments in due course. The Parish Council's

waiting list for allotments was not too long (only five or six) but some wanted specific sites. The Parish Council had approximately 4 vacant allotments over the 3 allotment sites.

d) Permission to erect shed (to replace existing lean-to) on allotment at Wellhead – the Parish Council granted permission to Mr. Nigel Smith to replace an existing lean-to with a new shed (6' X 4' wooden with felt roof) on allotment 13B at Wellhead.

e) Mere Bowls Club Open Day and Fete – The Clerk pointed out that the Bowls Club had asked for permission to hold a Fete on Saturday, 4th May from 10.30 a.m. until 15.00, the profits from the Fete would be for the benefit of Mere Bowls Club. They would be offering members of the public a chance to try bowls under the tutelage of qualified bowls instructors who are covered by EBCS Insurance. They would like to sell tea, coffee, soft drinks and light refreshments from the pavilion and have 5 to 6 stalls on the grass by the car park. The bowls club will have event insurance in place for the event either via their own insurers or via a specialist firm. Members were happy to grant permission for this event to take place on the Duchy Grounds.

215. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths, Traffic & Transport

a) Highway & footpath issues for parish steward + street lighting faults – the following issues were identified:

- Dirty road signs along Manor Road (near Jack Paul Close junction)
- Uneven road surface (hump) in Limpers Hill, just past Linden Lea.
- Street Light in Mill Lane outside Old Bakery (opposite Forgurles) is out.
- Street light outside The Grange in Water Street is out.
- Dirty road signs along Shaftesbury Road

b) Dedicated car parking for Mere Surgery – Cllr. C. Hazzard asked if it would be possible to allocate some disabled parking bays and some bays marked up for the doctors surgery patients now that the Parish Council was responsible for the Salisbury Street Car Park. He said that this was a very important issue for a lot of people in Mere and that the Parish Council now had an opportunity to re-mark or re-designate some of the parking places. The Chairman felt that, even if the Parish Council agreed to this proposal, it would be unwise to go to the expense of re-marking or designating any parking spaces until the expansion plans for Mere Surgery were known. It was agreed, however, that when the Parish Council is presented with plans for the surgery expansion then the Parish Council should consider the parking layout as a whole in conjunction with these plans.

c) Consultation on Application for Temporary Road Closure along Salisbury Street – Castle Street for 2 periods of 20 minutes on 14th July 2013 (Application submitted by the Devon & Dorset Regimental Association) – Cllr. Jeans proposed that the Parish Council should support the application. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote of approval.

216. Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Payments – the following payments were approved on proposal made by Cllr. Mrs. Traves, seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a majority vote. Cllr. Jeans, having declared a pecuniary interest, left the room whilst this matter was discussed.

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| Cash | Reimbursement – travel to Clerks training – Devizes – 58 miles @ 0.45p | 26.10 |
| Shaftesbury Garden Machinery | Repairs to Husqvarna ride-on mower | 78.74 |
| BWBSL (Wessex Water) | Supply to Jack Paul Close allotments – 11.9.12 – 6.3.13 | 9.21 |
| BWBSL (Wessex Water) | Supply to Wellhead allotments – 11.9.12 – 7.3.13 | 11.31 |
| BWBSL (Wessex Water) | Supply to New Cemetery 20.9.12 – 6.3.13 | 8.49 |
| Imprest account – cheques 1902 - 1910 | Wages/PAYE/Pension/Petty Cash | 8062.30 |
| Rochfords Garden Machinery | Strimmer Line Cutter Cord Two Stroke 5ltr | 107.40 |
| The Consortium | Jumbo toilet rolls + dispenser | 83.96 |

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| | + Refill bottle kit (Public Toilets) | |
| Scats Countrystores | Sprayer & Pruning Saw | 22.38 |
| Wiltshire Council | Lease of land and changing rooms at Duchy Manor – rental period 14.3.13 – 13.3.14 | 200.00 |
| Rochford Garden Machinery | New hand mower (Alko) | 289.00 |
| United Mechanical | Service boilers in changing rooms and AYP | 234.00 |
| Southern Electric | Clock Tower supply | 17.35 |
| Jeans | Reimbursement for HD Black bin bags (Viking) | 41.18 |
| Wiltshire Council | Non-Domestic Rates for Andy Young Pavilion | 1717.51 |
| Wiltshire Council | Non-Domestic rates for Castle Street Car Park | 1363.91 |
| Wiltshire Council | Non-Domestic rates for Salisbury Street Car Park | 4293.78 |
| Wiltshire Council | National Non-Domestic Rates for Cemetery (1.4.13 – 31.3.14) | 397.32 |
| MrFlag.com | Union flag for Castle Hill | 123.60 |
| Octopus Personnel | Recruitment fee | 1419.00 |
| Forge Garages | Fuel & Oil | 222.02 |
| South West Councils | Annual Associate Subscription 1.4.13 – 31.3.14 | 358.80 |
| Mrs. M. White | Chairman's expenses | 290.00 |
| Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity | Donation | 250.00 |
| Cash | Reimbursement for ink toner cartridge | 88.52 |

217. General Items

a) Agenda for Annual Parish Meeting – it was agreed that On Street Parking, Dog Fouling and the Swimming Pool would be added as specific discussion topics.

b) Invitation to CPRE South Wiltshire Group Presentation & AGM – 19.4.13 at Laverstock – information noted

c) Forthcoming meetings/events

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| Parish Council's Insurance & Risk Assessment meeting | 10.4.13 |
| Annual Parish Meeting | 17.4.13 |
| Sports Development Meeting | 24.4.13 |
| Parish Council & Unitary Council Elections | 2.5.13 |

Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity

a) Graffiti art project on kicking wall – permission for project and request for help with funding – the Clerk read out a letter from Jaki Farrell asking for the parish council's support and permission to run an organised graffiti project on the kicking wall in the recreation ground where the youth would work with graffiti artists to redecorate the wall with their own work. The idea being is that one side of the wall would contain a large mural and the other side would be space for individual pieces of work. Cllr. Jeans proposed that the youth Development Centre be given permission to carry out this project, at their own risk and that the Parish Council give the money to buy the base paint to cover the wall. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote.

b) Payments – Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the following payments be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote:

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| Wessex Water | Supply to Recreation Ground | 9.21 |
| J. L. Paul | Repairs to Children's swings in Recreation Ground | 230.00 |
| Wessex Water | Supply to Recreation Ground (old Rutter Pavilion) | 31.51 |

