

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 14th January 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), P. Coward, R. Coward, C. Hazzard, R. Hill, D. Hope, R. Hughes, Mrs. Jane Hurd, G. Jeans, Ann-Marie Long, B. Norris, D. Sealy & R. Sims.

Also Mrs. S. Catley, Mr. D. Stone, Mr. R. Stone, Mr. L. Stanton & Mr. R. Heming

Public Session

Mr. Clive Hazzard spoke in the public session in objection to planning application S/2013/16. He said that he owned property to the south known as Nursery Cottage and objected to the proposed two-storey extension and alterations to 8 Nursery Gardens because this would adversely affect the appearance of the development and have an adverse impact upon the amenities of those living in Nursery Cottage as the proposed extension would reduce sunlight and daylight to an unacceptable degree to the cottage and garden.

The Clerk informed members that David Coulter of Urgent Developments had provided the trough and water connection to the allotments at Southbrook at no charge to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council should write and thank Mr. Coulter for his help and generosity in this matter.

The Clerk informed members that Penny Deeker had written, on behalf of the Fireworks Festival Committee, thanking the Parish Council for the use of the facilities and for its support. There were 150 volunteers involved in the Fireworks Festival this year which raised over £4000 which will be used to develop the school's eco wildlife garden and outdoor learning space. The Committee has decided that the festival will now run on a bi annual basis, provided it remains a popular event, in order to give sponsors and all those involved a bit of a break in between years.

The Chairman will convene the Parish Council meeting after the public session (please note that members of the public are no longer permitted to speak unless invited to do so by the Chairman).

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. E. Mitchell and P. C. Richard Salter

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

Cllr. Hazzard declared a pecuniary interest in planning application S/2013/16 and a personal interest in planning application S/2013/36/TPO and Minute No. 188 b)

Cllr. George Jeans declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 191 a) and a personal interest in Minute No. 188 b) and 192 c)

Cllr. R. Coward declared a personal interest in planning application S/2012/1719 and Minute No. 188 b)

Cllr. P. Coward declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 189 b) and a personal interest in Minute No. 188 b)

186. Minutes – Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 3rd December 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record of proceedings. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hurd and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 3.12.12. Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the Minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting held on Wednesday, 5th December 2012 be approved as a correct record of proceedings. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 5.12.12.

187. Matters Arising

a) Update on skate park project – the Clerk introduced Mr. Roland Heming who had put himself forward as a volunteer to help with the skate park project. Mr. Heming, a resident of Mere, was an active skate park user and had been to numerous skate parks and thus had the experience and knowledge to help guide and advise the council. Mr. Heming said that, after having contacted various skate park providers and met two on site, the most interesting, challenging and aesthetically pleasing design has been put forward by Maverick Industries. They are a skater run business from Poole specialising in design & installation of spray in-situ concrete skate parks. They have completed many skate parks across the country and have come up with a concept design that fits in with the area and is a free flowing design that would provide a diverse skate park for the use of skates, BMX bikes and skateboarders. They also provide the services of a designated project manager and experienced skater throughout the project and would be happy to attend public consultation meetings, if required. Mr. Heming said that, in his experience, these concrete design skate parks were more durable and long-lasting than the prefabricated designs and would require less ongoing maintenance. Members were shown pictures of the design concept and the Clerk explained that this particular project would cost in the region of £70,000 - £75,000. A second company, Bendcrete, had provided a design that was very linear and at a cost of around £50,000, did not seem to be value for money when compared to the Maverick design. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had at least £27,461 in Policy R2 Funds that could be used for this project and there was £18,389 earmarked from the South West Wiltshire Area Board Grant Scheme (these funds were earmarked in March 2012 subject to additional quotes and a business plan). The Clerk suggested that the next steps forward should be to ask for clarification on the security of the Area Board funds, to seek extra funding sources and to seek a consultation event, probably with the youth club and other youth organisations within the town/area. Members expressed their relief and delight that Mr. Heming had come on board to help the parish council with this project as he had so much experience and enthusiasm and said that they were extremely happy to support this scheme, as proposed. Mr. Heming said that he was keen to help with the provision of this skate park as he felt it was a much needed and wanted facility and he also hoped that, once installed, he would be able to help organise skating events & coaching sessions. Members unanimously agreed to proceed as suggested.

b) Report on extraordinary South West Wiltshire Area Board Meeting on housing issues - held on Wednesday, 12th December – the Chairman reported that she and other councillors had attended this meeting where there had been a presentation on Wiltshire Council's current housing policy and its targets for affordable housing. Wiltshire Council was also providing a Business Plan and Asset Management Strategy of its Council Housing stock with a new IT system to enable officers to update tenant information and new repairs and maintenance contracts with a staff restructure. Those present were given a breakdown of the current Housing Register for South West Wiltshire and a report on Social Housing Lettings policies. There then followed a discussion on the Welfare Reform and the 'Underoccupation policy' otherwise known as the 'bedroom tax'. The Chairman said that this was an interesting meeting but it was clear that the audience, and indeed many of the Wiltshire Council officers, felt that the 'Underoccupation Policy' had not been properly thought through as it was clearly not possible to move occupiers around from house to house as there was no availability of housing stock. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should write to Wiltshire Cllr. John Thomson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing.

c) Update on car park & public toilet leases – the Clerk informed members that the Parish Council was close to agreeing terms of the above leases although there were one or two small issues which she hoped might be resolved beforehand.

d) Skip permits – With reference to Minute No. 173 c), the Clerk read out a response received from Mr. David Button, Wiltshire Council's Area Highway Engineer, in which he confirmed that the skip had been licensed by Wiltshire Council to be placed at the address in question on and off since later spring/early summer of 2012. Mr. Button explained that there is no maximum legal duration to a succession of highway licenses unless they become aware that no works are actually taking place at the property. Mr. Button confirmed that he had appraised the site and was unable to agree that the location of the skip presented a visibility or health & safety hazard. Mr. Button said that the road width was adequate, there was a footway and the skip was within a 30mph speed limit and therefore was acceptable for the license to

be granted. Mr. Button closed by saying that he was satisfied that the Highway Authority had granted the licence(s) correctly in this instance. Cllr. Hazzard said that he did not think this was good enough and that the skip was an eyesore. Cllr. Norris said that the lights on the skip were not working at the present time. It was agreed that the skip seemed to be full for a lot of the time and that once it was full, it should be removed. Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the Parish Council should write again, this time to Wiltshire Cllr. Dick Tonge, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, to say that the Parish Council is not happy with David Button's response. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Norris and carried with a majority vote in favour. Cllr. R. Hughes and Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

188. Reports

a) Neighbourhood Policing Report – The Clerk confirmed that PC Richard Salter had been unable to attend the meeting but had sent a list of crimes for December which had been distributed to members. The list was not exhaustive but highlighted the main crimes that were dealt with – in total there were 39 incidents. PC Salter had also sent an email confirming that PCSO Jake Noble had now left to take up his new position with the Army and that, until further notice, PC Richard Salter would be assisted, part-time, by PCSO Gary Chambers. Cllr. Roy Sims said that there was some interesting information in the Mere Neighbours Newsletter about the way in which incidents of fraud are now investigated, managed and conducted. Fraud is now dealt with by Action Fraud which launched in the South West on 3rd December. Action Fraud can be contacted by calling 0300 123 2040 or by visiting the website www.actionfraud.police.uk

b) Wiltshire Councillor's Report to include discussion on South West Wiltshire Area Board – Councillor's Initiative – providing funds to Chamber of Trade – Cllr. Jeans reported that the Cllr. Richard Beattie was presenting an application for funding for £42,000 to go towards the Wilton Chamber, Tisbury Traders Association and Mere Chamber of Commerce to develop proposals to expand business and employment in the area. The Area Board had talked about the funding being passed to the respective parish & town councils to be passed on to the Chambers of Commerce in tranches but there were ongoing investigations into the legality of this suggestion. Questions were asked about what the money would be spent on in Mere and Cllr. Jeans said that it would be used to fund a new website, signage, directory etc. The Clerk expressed concern about duplication of services and said that, although the Parish Council's website needed updating, she was sure that one all-encompassing website with links to individual businesses would be better than several different website. The Parish Council agreed to support this proposal as long as it was legal and did not affect the Parish Council financially. Cllrs. G. Jeans, C. Hazzard, P. Coward & R. Coward declared a personal interest in this matter and abstained from voting.

189. 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: VARIOUS

Application Number: S/2012/1704/FULL

Location: Land between Corfe Mullen WTW Dorset BH21 3RG and Camp Hill Reservoir Wiltshire SP3 4UF including land in Wiltshire, North Dorset and East Dorset.

Proposal: FULL PLANNING – Corfe Mullen to Salisbury Transfer Scheme: Installation of 64 km of underground water supply main, associated surface pumping stations (Corfe Mullen, Sturminster Marshall, Pimperne, Monkton Deverill, Codford and Wylve) and storage tanks (Sturminster Marshall, Snowsdown, Littledown, Summerslade Down, Codford and Camp Hill) and Operational Plant and equipment, including communications apparatus

Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the Parish Council should submit a 'No objection' response to the above application. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Norris and carried with a majority vote of those present. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

Parish or Ward: MERE

Application Number: S/2012/1719

Location: Wood Farm Manor Road Mere Warminster.

Proposal: Erection of two storey extension to main farmhouse with new patio doors and windows to provide additional living space

Cllr. Hope proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a vote of 11 for, 0 against and 1 abstention. Cllr. R. Coward, having declared a personal interest, left the room whilst this matter was considered. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

Parish or Ward: MERE

Application Number: S/2012/1832

Location: Wheelright Cottage Burton Mere Warminster.

Proposal: Remove existing sheds and outbuildings and construct extension to provide additional living accommodation

Cllr. Hughes proposed that the above application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hazzard. Cllr. Hope proposed an amendment:- that the application should be recommended for approval on condition that wooden windows are retained/installed. There was no seconder for this proposal and the original proposal was put forward as a substantive motion and carried with a vote of 10 for, 0 against and 3 abstentions. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting.

Parish: MERE

Application Number: S/2013/16

Location: 8 Nursery Gardens Mere Warminster.

Proposal: Erection of a two storey flat roof extension and revised roof over porch to create a lean to roof.

Cllr. Mrs. Traves proposed that the Parish Council should object to the above application for the following reasons:

1. Loss of amenity – the proposed extension would cause an unacceptable loss of light to adjoining properties.
2. Overdevelopment – Nursery Gardens was designed and built as a high quality development and the open spaces between the buildings are important both from a design point of view but also to protect the character of the development in this conservation area. The proposed extension would not be in keeping with the character of the development and would upset the balance of the property and adjoining properties.

Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hope and carried with a vote of 7 for and 4 abstentions. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from voting. Cllr. Hazzard, having declared a pecuniary interest in this application, left the room whilst the item was considered.

Parish: MERE

Application Number: S/2013/36/TPO

Location: Greenacres, Castle Street, Mere.

Proposal: TPO Trees – T1 Corsican Pine – Crown lift shortening approx. seven lower lateral branches, reduce by approx 2m. T2 Beech – Crown lift shortening 2 lower lateral branches, shorten secondary and tertiary branches by approx 2m.

The Clerk explained that this planning application had arrived this morning and therefore notice had not been given on the agenda. In view of the nature of the application, members agreed that it should be considered at tonight's meeting. Cllr. Hughes proposed that the application should be recommended for approval. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Norris and carried with a vote of 11 for and 3 abstentions. Cllr. Hazzard, having declared a personal interest, abstained from discussion or voting on this application.

b) Public Consultation Event on proposed schemes for a new factory for Hill Brush and the redevelopment of the existing site on Woodlands Road for housing – the Chairman confirmed that she and the Vice-Chairman and the Clerk and Wiltshire Cllr. Jeans would be meeting, informally, with representatives of C. G. Fry & Son on 12th February but that a Public Consultation event had also been arranged to take place on Tuesday, 19^h February 2013 between 2.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m. in The Grove Building, Church Street, Mere.

190. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths, Traffic & Transport

a) Repainting of double-yellow lines in Mere – The Clerk reported that she had not yet received a response on whether or not the double-yellow lines would be repainted. Cllr. Jeans said that he would be attending a Transport Group meeting and will try and get a response before the next meeting. The Chairman said that she was aware that Balfour Beatty had been awarded a five-year highway maintenance contract worth £150m by Wiltshire Council and that this will cover highway maintenance, grass cutting, grounds maintenance, litter collection and street lighting as well as dealing with winter weather, drainage and bridges.

b) Highway & footpath issues for parish steward + street lighting faults –

Cllr. Sims said that the manhole cover in Bramley Hill was still dangerous and the wall issue had still not yet been resolved.

The Chairman said that the 3rd street light along Mill Lane was not working.

191. Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Payments – The Clerk pointed out that in respect of the invoice from Jeans for Xmas lighting, both Cllr. George Jeans and his son, Michael Jeans, had donated their time free of charge. The Council requested that their appreciation be recorded in the Minutes. Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the following payments be approved. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hill and carried with a unanimous vote of approval. Cllr. Jeans, having declared a pecuniary interest in this matter, left the room whilst the matter was discussed.

Cash	Petty Cash reimbursement	45.30
Cash	Reimbursement for internet security subscription renewal	39.99
Sydenhams	Guttering repairs to AYP and other sundries	55.56
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil for December	134.01
Shaftesbury Garden Machinery	Service to brushcutters (X2) and blower	181.44
Jeans	Clock Tower (replace bulbs & fittings)	72.56
Southern Electric	Clock Tower supply (unmetered)	16.97
Scats	Sundries	3.98
Cash	Reimbursement for groundsmans mobile phone top-up	1 X 20.00 1 X 10.00
Jeans	Xmas Lights	352.54
Imprest Account – cheque Nos. 1879 - 1886	Petty Cash, Wages, Pension & PAYE	7712.88

b) To approve recommendations made by Annual Budget Meeting as set out in Minutes and including:

- scrub clearance on Long Hill

The Clerk pointed out that at the Budget Meeting members had actually approved a 2.9% increase but the Clerk had informed members that this may need to be adjusted in view of the announcement that Central Government would be amending the way in which they fund Local Precepting Authorities. Shortly after the Budget Meeting the Clerk had found out that Wiltshire Council had agreed to provide a top up grant of

£10,920.17 to make up any shortfall in funding as a result of the reduction in Tax Base based upon our 2012/13 Band D. Charge. This resulted in a final precept of £81,928.26 but because of the discrepancy between the 2012/13 Tax Base and the 2013.14 Tax Base this resulted in an overall increase of 3.9%. The Parish Council agreed that this was unacceptable and that an increase of 2.9%, as approved by the Budget Committee would be preferable. The Clerk suggested that funds could be deducted from the reserves allocated for Footpath improvements in order to bring increase back down to 2.9%. Proposal seconded by Cllr. R. Hill and carried with a unanimous vote of approval. It was agreed that the scrub clearance on Long Hill should be carried out forthwith, in accordance with the Minutes of the Budget Meeting.

c) To approve Precept upon Wiltshire Council for 2013/14 - Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the Parish Council should approve the Precept of £81,369.83 + top up grant of £10,920.17 upon Wiltshire Council for 2013/14. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a unanimous vote of approval. The Chairman signed the Precept Form accordingly.

192. General Items

a) Access to further education and information about Wiltshire Colleges – Cllr. C. Hazzard said that he had been recently helping his son with choices for further education and found it very difficult to get access to information. He said that Mere was not mentioned on the Wiltshire College website at all and that very little information about Wiltshire is being sent to Gillingham School. There was also little information about transport and travel options to the colleges. It was agreed to write to Wiltshire College and to write to the Cross Border Committee to see if something could be done to address these problems.

b) New Standards Regime – the Clerk said that Wiltshire Council wanted to canvas views on the interests that councillors should be required to register. Beyond the statutory disclosable pecuniary interests that all members are now required to register, any additional interests are a local matter and Wiltshire Council is not seeking to impose any additional interests for registration. However, they have received a range of representations from town and parish councils and Wiltshire Council has now decided, as an interim position, pending consultation with parish, town and city councils, to adopt a limited number of additional interests for Wiltshire Councillors to register. These are set out below:

- any body of which the councillor is a member or in a position of general control or management and to which the councillor is appointed or nominated by the Council;
- any body exercising functions of a public nature of which the councillor is a member or in a position of general control or management;
- any body directed to charitable purposes of which the councillor is a member or in a position of general control or management;
- any body one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which the councillor is a member or in a position of general control or management;

Wiltshire Council resolved, as its interim position that where a Wiltshire Council member holds any of the additional interests listed above, they should declare the existence and nature of any such interest at any meeting of the Council where business relating to the interest is being conducted. However, having declared such an interest Councillors may then speak and vote on the matter. Cllr. Norris proposed that he felt it would be better to not include any other 'discretionary' interests in the register as members currently have a practice of declaring a personal interest prior to a discussion or debate at a meeting. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Hazzard and carried with a unanimous vote of approval.

c) Tree planting at Chalkes Garage – The Clerk said that she had received copies of emails and communications in which it had been suggested that the Parish Council should ask Mr. Chalke to plant trees in order to screen his new building. Members unanimously agreed that the Council was not in a position to dictate to a private owner what it could or could not plant on its own property. Cllr. Jeans, having declared a personal interest in this matter, left the room whilst the matter was discussed.

d) Refurbishment of display panels in Clock Tower – Cllr. Hazzard said that lots of groups want usage of the display panels in the Clock Tower and the background boards now need replacing. Mr. McCann had given an estimate of £150 and he proposed that the Parish Council should authorise this spending so that

community groups could use the display panels. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Norris. Cllr. Hazzard said that he would co-ordinate the project works.

e) Forthcoming meetings

- Invitation from Jane Scott, Leader of Wiltshire Council to a community evening event to share ideas and plans on what we can do in 2013 to create a lasting legacy and turn the success of last year into actions and activities in our communities this year. The evening events are currently scheduled to take place on:
 - Wednesday, 16th January, at The Corn Exchange, Devizes
 - Wednesday, 23rd January at The Guild Hall, Salisbury
 - Thursday, 31st January at County Hall, Trowbridge
 - Thursday, 7th February at The Town Hall, Chippenham
- Wiltshire Involvement Network invite you to public meeting on Health & Social Care in Wiltshire to be held on Saturday, 2nd February 2013 – 10.30 – 3.00 p.m. at Devizes Corn Exchange, Market Place, Devizes

Cllr. Jeans, Cllr. Roy Sims and the Chairman said they would try and attend the Wiltshire Council community evening event at Salisbury on Wednesday, 23rd January.

Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity

a) To approve accounts for the year ending 31.3.12 and submit Annual Return to Charity Commission –

The Clerk presented members with a copy of the accounts, as had been previously approved, showing income of £10,700 and expenditure of £10,844.43 for the year ending 31.3.12. Trustee, Mrs. Lesley Traves, proposed that the accounts be approved and submitted to the Charity Commission. Proposal seconded by Trustee Mrs. Jane Hurd and carried with a unanimous vote of approval.

b) Tree works in Recreation Ground – Trustees approved works, as quoted and agreed in the parish Council's Budget Meeting.

c) Repairs to Play Equipment in Recreation Ground – Trustees approved the works, as quoted and agreed in the Parish Council's Budget meeting.

d) Skate Park project – the Trustees agreed with the Parish Council's decision, as made earlier on in the evening and recorded as Parish Council Minute 187 a)

Meeting closed at 9.39 p.m.

The Fire Alarm in the Andy Young Pavilion was tested and found to be in working order.