

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 2nd June 2014 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, R. Coward, C. Hazzard, R. Hill, D. Hope, R. Hughes, Mrs. J. Hurd, G. Jeans, J. Jordan, E. Mitchell & R. Sims.

Also: Mr. D. Stone, Mr. R. Stone, Mrs. R. Hyde, Mr. Bill Deeker & L. Stanton

Public Session

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).

Mrs. Rachel Hyde said that she had counted 9 bags of rubbish abandoned between Lloyds Bank and Duchy Manor on her way here this evening and that Wiltshire Council was now not collecting black rubbish bags (it was collection morning this morning). Mrs. Hyde said that it was very bad for tourism and visitors who come to Mere and find the centre of the town littered with black bags full of rubbish. Mr. Hope said that Wiltshire Council was not collecting side waste any more and would only collect waste in wheelie bins. Cllr. Jeans explained that Wiltshire Council would be starting prosecutions for people who dump black rubbish bags – they will go through the waste to find evidence of the perpetrator. Cllr. Jeans explained that side waste for recycling was acceptable but side waste (waste that is not in a wheelie bin) on a household waste collection week would not be accepted unless it was in a black rubbish bag with a blue sticker. If people do not have the facilities to store a wheelie bin or cannot cope with a wheelie bin for any reason, they should ring Wiltshire Council and they will be given some of these blue stickers to put on a black bin liner. Cllr. Jeans said that he has tried objecting but cannot get any support as Wiltshire Council want to cut down on waste. It was agreed that the Chairman should include this matter in her parish magazine report.

Mr. C. Hazzard said that when he had been in The Square he had been accosted by people who were complaining about the lack of grass cutting in the cemetery and churchyard. He said that there was a church fete in a couple of weeks and the grass cutting in the churchyard needed to be brought up to an acceptable standard before then. Mr. Rodney Coward wondered whether it was worth hiring a contractor for a couple of days in order to help the grounds staff catch up with the grass cutting.

Mr. Roy Sims said that he would like to thank everyone who turned up for Mere May Fayre which raised £4,500 for Cancer Research.

Mr. John Jordan reported that the Footpath Group had obtained services of the probation service to clear full length of Burton Path and this should be taking place in about 3 – 4 weeks time.

Mr. Hazzard asked if the Football Club could be requested to move their floodlights from the centre of the Duchy Grounds.

Apologies for absence received from Cllr. P. Coward, PC Richard Salter & PCSO Peter Tcherniawsky

153. 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.

None

154. Minutes – RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 12th May 2014, on proposal made by Cllr. R. Sims, seconded by Cllr. R. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 12.5.14.

155. Matters Arising

a) Casual Vacancy – (Minute No. 150c) – The Clerk informed members that a Notice of Casual Vacancy had been posted on the noticeboards and that parishioners had until 13th June to request an election. If no election was requested then the Parish Council could co-opt. In order to allow time to publicise the co-option, it was likely that this would take place in September.

b) Groundsman's vehicle – (Minute No. 149a) – Cllr. Norris reported that most of the problems with the Diahatsu had now been resolved although the steering problems were being investigated tomorrow. Cllr. Norris felt that,

although the vehicle was 18 years old, it still had some life left in it and may be worth repairing as long as the repairs did not cost too much money. Cllr. Norris had identified a possible new vehicle if it transpired that the Diahatsu needed replacing and it was agreed that Cllr. Norris should liaise with Cllr. Mitchell and Cllr. R. Coward and that they should be delegated the decisions on the vehicle.

b) Clock Tower Repairs –(Minute 143b) – Cllr. Hill thanked George & Michael Jeans for the use of the cherry picker which allowed him to make some investigations and some temporary repairs to try and stop the water coming in around the clock. Cllr. Hill reported that structurally the clock tower is not going to fall down but there is some woodwork maintenance that needs doing. He said that it would be difficult to get a price because it would be difficult to know what was involved until you start pulling it apart. He felt that the way forward would be to get a day rate and the price of scaffolding. RESOLVED that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman & Cllr. Hill take this forward, find some prices and get the work done as soon as possible.

c) The Vicarage Field, Angel Lane – (Minute 148c) – Cllr. Jeans said that he had suggested that this should be deferred for a month in case anyone had any ideas on animals grazing the field. Cllr. R. Coward said that if the church were to get it fenced securely and water could be made available then you may get someone to graze it but it wasn't big enough for a commercial venture.

156. Reports & Consultations

a) Neighbourhood Policing Report – Cllr. Sims reported that forged £50 notes had been used around Mere recently.

b) Wiltshire Councillor's Report – Cllr. Jeans said that he had nothing specific to report other than the fact that he had seen it, in writing, that the road from Limpers Hill to the Shaftesbury Road was due to be resurfaced.

157. 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: 14/04495/VAR

Application for: Variation of Condition

Proposal: Application for the variation of removal of conditions 1 and 2 of S/2010/0615 (Change of use of outbuilding to residential annexe ancillary to Burton farmhouse)

At: Burton Farmhouse, Burton, Mere, BA12 6BR

Application Ref: 14/04698/106

Application for: Modification of 106

Proposal: Application to vary S.106 agreement dated 24 November 2006 relating to application S/2006/2006 to enable the annexe to be used as habitable accommodation whilst remaining ancillary to Burton Farmhouse

At: Burton Farmhouse, Burton, Mere, BA12 6BR

Application Ref: 14/04695/106

Application for: Modification of 106

Proposal: Application to remove/cancel S.106 agreement dated 25 October 2010 relating to application S/2010/0615

At: Burton Farmhouse, Burton, Mere, BA12 6BR

With reference to the above three planning applications, the Clerk read out an email from Mr. & Mrs. Deeker which explained why they wanted to change the planning conditions so that the barn can become an annexe building that can only be used/occupied by persons with a familial relationship to those living within the main house (Burton Farmhouse) whilst keeping the annexe ancillary/incidental to the main farmhouse so that it cannot be used or sold as a separate entity.

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above applications on proposal made by Cllr. Hazzard, seconded by Cllr. Jordan and carried with a majority vote in favour. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans refrained from discussion or voting.

b) Neighbourhood Planning – It was agreed that there hadn't been much interest from the community expressed at the Annual Parish Meeting or elsewhere and that the topic should be left in abeyance for the time being.

158. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths, Traffic & Transport

a) Highway & footpath issues for Parish Steward & street lighting faults

- Fire hydrant sign still down at Bramley Hill.
- Zebra Crossing is almost not visible now.
- Street Light out at The Grange.

b) Wiltshire Council's Review of Local Transport Plan Car Parking Strategy – the Clerk informed members that Wiltshire Council would be reviewing its Local Transport Plan Car Parking Strategy. The review will focus on car parking charges and management, including the potential use of new technologies and the future role of local communities. The review will also consider other aspects such as parking standards, residents' parking zones and coach parking. A public consultation is planned to be undertaken in September to November 2014. In order to inform the review, Wiltshire Council was keen to learn of early views of partners and key stakeholders on the factors that will help them shape the review. Therefore, they had produced a pre-consultation scoping document which can be accessed via their consultation portal. Members felt that this would not have a significant impact on Mere since the Parish Council had control of the two car parks for the next 5 years.

159. Buildings, Open Spaces, Play Areas, Sports Grounds, Allotments & Cemeteries

160. Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Payments – RESOLVED to approve payments set out in payment schedule attached on proposal made by Cllr. Sims, seconded by Cllr. Hill and carried with a unanimous vote. The Clerk informed members that the outside light for the bowls side of the Andy Young Pavilion was not working and that Jeans Electricals had looked at the issue and determined that it had probably not been wired in. The Clerk was authorised to get the outside light repaired at a maximum cost of £300.

Cash	Reimbursement for Staples (stationery order)	71.00 (Already paid)
Dustbusters	Cleaning of AYP	154.00
Sydenhams	Sundries for toilets	50.55
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil & repairs to Diahatsu	377.96
Imprest Account – cheque Nos. 2959 - 2966	Petty Cash reimbursement, wages, pension & PAYE	4654.68
Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity	Donation	£10,300
Mainstream Digital	Telephone call charges 1.4.14 – 30.4.14	7.42 paid by DD on 16.5.14
Eon	Electricity charges for Public Toilets	0.33
Rochfords Garden Machinery	Strimmer line	29.99
Scats	Tying wire for cemetery	7.80

b) To approve Budget/Expenditure Report for financial year ending 31.3.14 (report attached) – Cllr. J. Jordan said that he was impressed with the report and although he has been in to see the Clerk to get things explained, he finds it difficult to understand the different figures in different places. It was agreed that the Clerk would endeavour to improve the layout and to get headings across the top of each page. RESOLVED to approve the Budget/Expenditure report and summaries for the financial year ending 31.3.14 on proposal made by Cllr. R. Coward, seconded by Cllr. Sims and carried with a unanimous vote.

c) Internal Audit Report – the Clerk read out the Internal Auditor's report as written by Mr. John Wilson: "I have carried out a final internal audit of the Mere Parish Council Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2014. In my opinion the Council has maintained proper accounting records and the financial statements have been

properly prepared. The only point I would make is that your insurance brokers should be asked to provide a detailed schedule of the insurance values of your assets so that these values can be checked against the values in the Asset Register and against the forthcoming valuations which you have commissioned. At present the information provided by the brokers is just a total sum – a change from the procedure followed by the previous brokers. I would like to acknowledge the assistance I have received from the Clerk, Lindsey Wood. As always, she makes this task easier by having everything ready to hand and in such good order.’ Members expressed their gratitude to Mr. Wilson for carrying out the internal audit and agreed with his observations on the insurance schedule and asked the Clerk to action.

d) To approve accounts & supporting statements and to verify bank reconciliation for the year ending 31.3.14 (attached) – The Chairman verified the bank reconciliation against the bank statements. It was RESOLVED to approve the accounts and supporting statements on proposal made by Cllr. Norris, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hurd and carried with a unanimous vote.

e) To complete and sign Annual Return for the year ending 31.3.14 – From the information provided in Minute 160 d) & 160 d) above, the Accounting Statements 1-11 were completed and approved by the Parish Council. Points 1 – 9 of the Annual Governance Statement were read out to members. Members answered yes to each of the statements. Sections 1 & 2 of the Audit Commission’s Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2014 were signed by the Clerk and by the Chairman in the presence of the Parish Council.

f) To note public rights to inspect accounts – the Clerk informed members that a notice had been placed on the noticeboard on 9th May, informing the public of their rights to inspect and make copies of the accounts and that all documents would be available, on reasonable notice, from 23rd May to 20th June. Local Government Electors and their representatives also had rights to question the external auditor about the accounts.

g) Parish Council Strategy to identify items intended to fund through CIL receipts - deferred

h) Repeal of s.150 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 – Implementation (England) - deferred

161. General Items

162. Forthcoming meetings

- South West Wiltshire Area Board Meeting – 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 4th June at Broad Chalke Village Hall
- NHS in Wiltshire – More Care in the Community Meetings

As there were issues on the agenda relating to Mere, Cllr. Norris said that he would try and get to the Area Board meeting if he could finish work in time.

13. Clerks Report – None.

MERE PEACE MEMORIAL SPORTS AND RECREATION GROUND

Registered Charity No. 1093497

a) RESOLVED to approve invoice from Mere Parish Council for Maintenance charges of the Recreation Ground for 2013/14 and approve payment (£10,287.90) on proposal made by Mr. B. Norris, seconded by Mr. R. Sims and carried with a unanimous vote in favour.

Meeting closed at 8.27 p.m.