

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 3rd November 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in The Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

Present: Cllr. Mrs. L. Traves (Chairman), B. Norris (Vice-Chairman), N. Beale, M. Cassidy, C. Hazzard, R. Hill, R. Hughes, G. Jeans, J. Jordan, E. Mitchell, R. Sims & Mrs. K. Symonds.

Also: Mr. & Mrs. Layard, Mr. Robert Kimber, Mrs. Dimmock and a number of residents from Downside Close, Mr. D. Stone, Mr. R. Stone, Mr. L. Stanton & PCSO Gary Chambers

Public Session started at 7.31 p.m.

The Chairman will re-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. K. Layard of 27 Downside Close spoke in relation to alleged breaches in planning conditions and lack of planning enforcement for the Downside Close (Oval Homes) Development, issues with responsibilities over the retaining wall and issues relating to the liquidation of the developers and issues relating to the management company put in place by the developers. She said that residents would really appreciate the Parish Council's support and that this is quite urgent as a number of residents are trying to sell their properties but cannot do so until all these issues are resolved.

Mr. Robert Kimber of 29 Downside Close said that he was made aware that there was a Section 38 Bond in place for the development and that the bond can be called upon if the developer goes into liquidation or otherwise defaults on his responsibilities. Mr. Kimber said that the residents had been successful in blocking ownership of land from the liquidated company to the management company and that it is unfair for home owners to be responsible for land they cannot use.

Mrs. Dimmock of 43 Downside Close said that the roads in Downside Close were dangerous and that there are no street lights for an hour each evening.

19.41 meeting convened

Apologies for absence received from Councillors: P. Coward, R. Coward & Jane Hurd. Also from PC Richard Salter & PCSO Peter Tcherniawsky

207. 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. B. Norris declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 214 a)
- Cllr. G. Jeans declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 214 a)
- Cllr. C. Hazzard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 214 a)
- Cllr. R. Hill declared a personal interest in Minute No. 211c)
- The Clerk, Lindsey Wood, declared a personal interest in Minute No. 211c)

208. Minutes – RESOLVED to approve Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 6th October 2014 as a correct record of proceedings on proposal made by Cllr. Beale, seconded by Cllr. Hazzard and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 6.10.14.

209. Matters Arising

a) Clock Tower repairs (Minute 199b) – Cllr Norris said that there was nothing further to report on the structural repairs. With regard to the clock itself, the Clerk reported that Steve from the Cumbria Clock Company came out on 8th October and set the clock right and advised the Council's grounds staff on changing the time etc. By 25th October the clock was already slow. Grounds staff changed the time on 27th October but it has since lost time £1.5 hours). The Cumbria Clock Company did say that it could be the bearings have worn out in the automatic winding mechanism and that this would need repairing.

***b) The future of Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Service – Public Consultation expires 20th October 2014 (Minute 199c)** – members noted the Parish Council’s response – as detailed in the Clerks Report.

c) Rivers – action by riparian owners (Minute 199d) – the Clerk said that she was not aware of any outstanding issues although there were currently discussions taking place with the Rivers Group in an effort to try and resolve the ongoing problems relating to clearing the river at Waterside.

d) Reconfiguration scheme for car parking spaces in Salisbury Street Car Park (Minute 199e) – SEE MINUTE No. 212a)

e) Traffic Management in The Lynch (Minute No. 202b) – SEE MINUTE No. 212a)

e) HLS Scheme & Fencing of Castle Hill for grazing of goats (Minute 199f) – The Clerk confirmed that invitations for quotations had been sent out to archaeologists and two quotations had been received. Owing to the timescales involved, the Clerk had made a decision and appointed the less expensive; Mr. Peter Cox of A C Archaeology Ltd who had quoted £50 + VAT to provide a Written Scheme of Investigation for English Heritage approval + £20 per hour to provide an archaeologist on site to monitor the site works and £100 + VAT to prepare a short report. Mr. Cox was currently preparing the Written Scheme of Investigation and once that had been approved by English Heritage it was hoped that the fencing works could proceed.

210. Reports & Consultations

a) Neighbourhood Policing Report – PCSO Gary Chambers reported on some local incidents that had occurred over the last month::

18.10.14 – Red Ferrari which was previously seen speeding around Mere subsequently crashed

27.10.14 – report of alcohol and cigarettes being used at Norwood

28.10.14 – report of anti-social behaviour in and around Mere

1.11.14 – report of illegal poaching.

b) Wiltshire Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Jeans reported that the highway resurfacing works along Limpers Hill were a big improvement. The South West Wiltshire Area Board Health Fair was very successful - 110 people attended. It is expected that proposed A303 improvements will be the subject of discussion again shortly and it is anticipated that the Chancellor will give further details of this in his Autumn Statement at the beginning of December. Mere Chamber of Trade has agreed to contribute £400-500 to Visit Wiltshire (the official Tourism Information site) so that Mere receives more publicity. Cllr. Hazzard asked if Cllr. Jeans had any update on Wiltshire Council’s review of funding for discretionary education transport – Cllr. Jeans said he was not aware of the outcome.

c) Wiltshire Council’s Consultation on Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – see

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/consultations.htm>

Cllr. Norris said that he had been looking at this and felt that all the aims were commendable and praiseworthy but wondered whether they were indeed practical and achievable. It was agreed that it should be left for individual councillors to respond to the consultation. The closing date for comments is 31.12.14

d) Wiltshire Council’s Car Parking Review – see <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/consultations.htm> + invitation to attend Car Parking Review Workshop – the Clerk confirmed that Wiltshire Council was reviewing its car parking policy and had launched a consultation which could see a move away from the current charging for parking based on four bands, to options based on individual car parks or town assessments. Since the Parish Council now leased the car parks in Mere, the consultation would not affect the town directly. However, car parking charges within Salisbury and other areas in Wiltshire would be of interest to those that work or shop elsewhere within Wiltshire. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council and Chamber of Trade had been invited to attend a workshop meeting in City Hall in Salisbury on 18th November at 7.00 p.m. It was agreed that councillors would contact the Clerk if they were interested in attending the workshop meeting.

211. 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: 14/09484/TCA

Location: Vine Cottage, Castle Street, Mere. BA12 6JH

Proposal: Three Silver Birth trees – reduce height to clear power lines

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application on proposal made by Cllr. Mitchell, seconded by Cllr. Sims and carried with a unanimous vote.

Application Ref: 14/10233/TCA
Location: The Cottage, Old Hollow, Mere. BA12 6EG
Proposal: Pollard one willow tree

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application on proposal made by Cllr. R. Hughes, seconded by Cllr. Jordan and carried with a unanimous vote.

b) Housing Settlement Boundaries - deferred

c) Downside Close - What steps, if any, should the Parish Council take to try and resolve issues raised by residents of Downside Close (Oval Homes Development)?

The Clerk reported that she had a personal interest in this matter as her son owns and lives in a house on the Oval Homes Development at Downside Close and has done so since June 2013. However, this matter has been raised on the agenda at the request of Cllr. George Jeans following discussion with the Clerk.

The Clerk read out the following report to members: The Parish Council is aware that there have been a number of alleged planning issues. The Parish Council may not be aware that residents of Downside Close are required to pay a Management Company for maintenance and provision of certain facilities on the development. The Parish Council itself has been aware of correspondence between certain residents of Downside Close and the developers, Wiltshire Council, MP, Highways Agency, Local Government Ombudsman and other organisations since 2012. The situation has changed, she understood, more recently since the developers had gone into liquidation.

There have been a number of issues raised in correspondence, many of which the Parish Council does not have the power or duty to help with, let alone the legal knowledge or time. There are, however, two issues that the Parish Council could write to other authorities regarding:

1. Adoption of the road – the highway, pavement and street lighting has not been adopted and is not in the sort of condition that Wiltshire Council, as Highway Authority, is likely to adopt. The road is uneven and unfinished with protruding drains and large areas of standing water when it rains. The pavements and kerbs are uneven and unfinished. Street lighting is in place but works intermittently and is not adopted. In his capacity as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans has done a lot of work behind the scenes to try and find out why this road has not been adopted and to try and get Wiltshire Council to adopt the road but there are other complications. We understand that the developers were required to provide a S38 Bond for the highways which can be called upon if the developer goes into liquidation or does not fulfil his responsibilities. We could write to Wiltshire Council as the Highway Authority asking them to call in the bond and proceed with works on the road in order to get it adopted.
2. Wooden embankment – there appears to be an issue over who is responsible for the maintenance of the large wooden lattice embankment on the northern side of the development adjacent to the A303. The Parish Council could write to both the Highways Agency (who are responsible for trunk roads) and the Highways Authority (Wiltshire Council) to ask them for clarification in plain English as to whether or not they have any interest in this structure.

Ownership and management company issues are not issues that the Parish Council could get involved in because we do not have the powers or duties.

Cllr. Hazzard said that he would like to offer the Parish Council's support but was not sure how we would get involved. Cllr. Jeans said that as far as Wiltshire Council was concerned, the only planning condition that remained outstanding is that in relation to the footpath which runs from the western edge of the development behind Old Hollow and out to the side of Shreenwater Cottages. With regard to the Section 38 Bond, Cllr. Jeans explained that we have been in situations where new developments have been built and the roads have taken up to 10 years before they are adopted – Long Hill & White Road are recent examples. However, the condition of the road on this development is particularly poor and the S.38 bond could be called in although Local Authorities do not like calling them in unnecessarily as it damages the reputation of developers. That said, Cllr. Jeans agreed that the Parish Council should write in and support residents with a letter to say that because they have a particularly poor surface

compared to any other development, then it should be addressed sooner rather than later. It was pointed out that property ownership and management company issues were civil legal matters and not matters in which the Parish Council should become involved in. Cllr. Norris proposed that the Parish Council should send letters to both the Highways Authority to try and get the roads completed and to the Highways Agency to ask if they have any liability for the embankment/wall. Cllr. Hazzard proposed an amendment and asked that the proposal should encompass the Parish Council's support in any way that we can. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Sims and carried with a unanimous vote in favour.

212. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths, Traffic & Transport

***a) Report on site meeting with Julie Wharton, Wiltshire Council's Senior Traffic Engineer on 21.10.14** – members noted the report, as given in the Clerks Report. The Clerk said that she had received an email from Julie Wharton stating that she intended to prioritise the amendments to the waiting restrictions as her first task. Members agreed to await further news from Julie Wharton.

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

- Overhanging branch in Pettridge Lane (near Right of Way sign)
- Shrubbery on left of Walnut Road/Shafesbury Road junction.
- Chapel end of Limpers Hill hedge needs cutting back on right hand side of junction.
- Look for obstructions & clean signs

c) Update from footpath group on footpath work – Cllr. Jordan reported that the improvement plan to create a 2 mile path is in delay. We have had promises from the Wiltshire Rights of Way people but have yet to see any surface treatment. The structure for the new wider bridge over White Bridge has been delivered and was supposed to have been installed in 2 weeks and that was 7 weeks ago. It is still not installed. However, the footpath group has been busy rescuing kissing gates and putting them in place of stiles near the centre of town. It was agreed that the Clerk would send the footpath warden an email to see if there are any kissing gates available and if so, Cllr. jeans offered to collect them and bring them back to Mere.

213. Buildings, Open Spaces, Play Areas, Sports Grounds, Allotments, Car Parks & Cemeteries

a) Suggestions for hedge cutting in New Cemetery – (hedge cutting by tractor along south boundary necessitates removing rails and hedging plant) – the grounds staff had made a suggestion to ease hedge cutting time in the new cemetery. It was agreed that Cllr. Hughes would inspect the site and come back to the Parish Council with suggestions if appropriate.

b) Report on Sports Development Meeting held on 22nd October – Cllr. Hazzard reported that the attendance was reasonable and that, on the whole, most sporting groups had had a good season. There were slight issues with archers and footballers on occasions but the football teams are now using the Astroturf in Gillingham for their practice sessions.

214 Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Payments – **RESOLVED** that the following payments be approved on proposal made by Cllr. R. Hughes, seconded by Cllr. M. Cassidy and carried with a unanimous vote. Cllr. Jeans, having declared a pecuniary interest, left the room whilst this matter was discussed.

Mainstream Digital	Monthly call charges + quarterly line rental	49.32 Paid by DD 14.10.14
Mainstream Digital	Broadband provision 17.9.14 – 16.12.14	57.60 Paid by DD 14.10.14
Nugent Plumbing & Heating Ltd	Andy Young Pavilion – fit & supply new gas regulator	352.74
Orchard Street Furniture Ltd	Memorial Seat for New Cemetery (donation received towards this item)	557.66
BLN Sweepers Ltd	Reimbursement of B&E trailer test fee for Josh Suter	115.00
Sydenhams	Timber, materials to repair gutters AYP, sundries	16.90

Mere School	Swimming Pool electricity used from 17.6.14 – 30.9.14	3.94
Mere School	Changing Rooms & Office electricity used from 17.6.14 – 30.9.14	132.94
Mere School	Changing Rooms gas used from 17.6.14 – 30.9.14	189.50
Mere School	Andy Young Pavilion & Bowling Green water used from 17.6.14 – 30.9.14	56.13
Mere School	Changing Rooms water used from 17.6.14 – 30.9.14	144.43
Mere School	Cricket Club water used from 17.6.14 – 30.9.14	14.97
Wiltshire Council	Planning fee for application to vary condition on horticultural shed	97.50 – Paid by cheque 14.10.14
Scats Countrystores	Tools, cleaning products & sundries	37.18
Eon energy	Electricity for public toilets 11.9.14 – 14.10.14	58.55
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)	Annual membership subscription	36.00
E. G. Coles	Filters for Kubota tractor	61.94
Cash (DVLA)	Reimbursement for vehicle tax (Mitsubishi)	140.00
The Consortium	Toilet rolls for public toilets	62.60
Glasdon UK Ltd	2 new litter bins (one for Jubilee Gardens & one for Walnut Road Play Area)	523.75
Cash (emapsite)	Reimbursement for map purchased for planning application for horticultural shed	16.79
Jeans	2 X 47kg gas bottles for AYP	112.00
Seeds4Success	Bird & Bat Box for HLS Scheme	10.00
North Street Nurseries	Autumn planting of tubs & flower beds	840.00
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	Components for repairs to play areas (as identified in Annual RoSPA report)	139.44
Forge Garages	Fuel for October	137.30
Imprest Accout – cheque Nos. 3003 - 3010	Petty Cash, Wages, PAYE & Pension	4468.71
Rochford Garden Machinery	Parts for strimmers	104.72
J. H. Rose & Sons Ltd	Shingle for cemetery paths	135.54
Mrs. A. Vella	Temporary holiday cover for public toilet cleaning	86.40

b) To approve budget/expenditure report for period ending 30.9.14 (Q2) – RESOLVED that the budget/expenditure report be approved on proposal made by Cllr. Mrs. Symonds, seconded by Cllr. Beale and carried with a unanimous vote in favour.

c) To set date and membership of Annual Budget Meeting – It was agreed that the Annual Budget Meeting would be held on Wednesday, 3rd December and that the attendees would be: Chairman, Vice-Chairman + Cllrs. C. Hazzard, N. Beale, M. Cassidy, J. Jordan, G. Jeans & P. Coward (if possible)

d) Xmas Lights – the Clerk confirmed that Cllr. Hazzard was arranging to hire a small cherry picker so that the Xmas lights could be erected and the Multi Use Games Area Floodlight bulbs could be changed on the same day. All the permissions had been requested (Southern Electric, Wiltshire Council, Insurance Company with risk assessments produced and submitted).

215. General Items

a) Flood Risks – information from Wiltshire Council regarding initiatives and schemes to help reduce flooding incidents – the Clerk pointed out that Wiltshire Council had sent a pro-forma letter to approach landowners to request them to clear overgrown ditches and watercourses where there is a risk of flooding. Wiltshire Council had also introduced a GPS flood and asset identification scheme whereby they were asking parish councils to record locations of flooding incidents and assets such as culverts within the parish boundary which are known issues. Wiltshire Council also had a Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme (PEAS) to enable town and parish councils to be more self sufficient and not reliant on the emergency services or Wiltshire Council for assistance in the first instance. They were offering: 1 ton dumpy bag of sand, 50 empty sandbags, 50 gel sacks, flood warning road signs and flood warden fluorescent tabards and in exchange for this participation they were asking for a copy of the parish flood or emergency plan with up-to-date contact numbers of parish councillors or representatives such as the flood warden who can be contacted in flood or emergency situations. Finally, the Repair & Renew Grant has been established to provide support to install flood resilience measures to homes and businesses which have flooded. It could help to reduce the risk of future flooding and minimise the impact. If you have residents within your parish who were flooded internally please advise them of this grant. Cllr. Jeans said that there may be problems with ditches in the Southbrook area but the identification of the landowners may be difficult.

***b) Consultation on BT's current programme of proposed public payphone removals & suggestions for use of the payphone in The Square** – With reference to the information in the Clerks Report, members agreed that Cllr. Beale's suggestion of adopting the kiosk in The Square for £1.00 and using it to promote the work of groups and organisations within the town should be pursued.

c) Report on Salisbury Civic Day

d) Request from Church to enter Christmas Tree Festival 2014 – it was agreed that Cllr. Richard Hughes would provide the Xmas Tree and Cllr. Clive Hazzard would decorate it and erect it in the Church.

216. Forthcoming meetings

- CATG Meeting – Monday, 10th November 2014 at 2 p.m.– Dinton Village Hall – Cllr. R. Sims is going to CATG meeting.

217. Clerks Report – RESOLVED to approve and adopt Clerks Report on proposal made by Cllr. Norris, seconded by Cllr. Sims and carried with a unanimous vote.

*Further information on these items in Clerks Report

Note: Members are reminded that the Parish Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights.

Andy Young Pavilion Fire Alarm tested (G. Jeans & L. Wood)

MERE PEACE MEMORIAL SPORTS AND RECREATION GROUND

Registered Charity No. 1093497

a) To report on meeting held with John Price (Wiltshire Council's Property Services) to discuss condition survey of Youth Club and hand over of building.

The Clerk read out a report (attached). The Clerk also pointed out that Jaki Farrell had requested a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss options and suggestions with the delivery of a youth service and the uses and management of the youth club building. It was agreed to invite Jaki to a meeting to be held on Tuesday, 18th November at 10.30 a.m. in the Parish Council office and that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. Hurd and Cllr. Mrs. Symonds would attend.

b) To set meeting with Jaki Farrell to discuss her concerns/requirements for Youth Centre and implications for Parish Council/Charity with management of building (Tuesday, 18th November) - It was confirmed that the meeting would be held on 18th November at 10.30 a.m. and that the following councillors would attend:

Chairman, Vice Chairman + Cllrs. J. Hurd and Mrs. K. Symonds