

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 13th January 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in The Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

Present: Cllr. Mrs. L. Traves (Chairman), B. Norris (Vice-Chairman), R. Coward, C. Hazzard, D. Hope, R. Hughes, G. Jeans, J. Jordan & E. Mitchell
Also P. C. Richard Salter, Mrs. J. Seward, Mr. R. Flower, Mr. T. Snook & others.

Meeting convened at 7.30 p.m. with Public Session

Mr. Snook representing Mere & District Railway Modellers said that the group had investigated and researched the site adjacent to the Youth Club that had been mentioned at the last meeting but had felt that the problems with this site meant that it would be beyond the scope of the Railway Modellers Club. The site adjacent to the school may be possible subject to certain conditions but the site at Castle Street Car Park would be their preferred option as toilet, power and water supplies are already in existence. Mr. Snook said that it is becoming extremely difficult for the Railway Modellers to operate as a group due to the fact that they are operating out of temporary accommodation. This year, their exhibition is extended to two days – Saturday, 21st June and Sunday, 22nd June at Mere Lecture Hall.

Mr. Clive Hazzard said that there is a downpipe which has come away from the hopper outside 'Lous It' hairdressers in Salisbury Street and this was causing pedestrians to become extremely wet when it was raining and asked the Clerk to make contact with the owner of the building.

Mr. Hope read out a reply he had received from the Chief Executive of Royal Mail which stated that *'in relation to Mere Delivery Office, no plans have been finalised at present for any re-location. The proposal is to centralise the delivery operation only and no closure of the Post office is being considered. Any mail we are unable to deliver will be held for collection from the Post office. Travel to the Warminster Delivery office will not be necessary and customers should see no change to their daily deliveries. When a final decision has been made, any customers affected by the changes will be notified closer to the time. This will include information about timescales, collection and redelivery arrangements.'* The Clerk informed members that the Parish Council had not received a reply to its letter.

The Parish Clerk informed members that Mr. & Mrs. Catley had given a donation to the Parish Council that would cover the purchase of a new Union flag for Castle Hill. Members noted this kind gesture with gratitude and asked the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Catley.

Mr. Roy Sims had written to enquire about the possibility of arrangements for some road restrictions for the Mere Cancer Committee's fund raising event on Saturday, 17th May, in particular closing off part of Church Street between 8.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.. The Clerk said that she would need to advise Mr. Sims that this was a matter to be dealt with by Wiltshire Council although the Parish Council would support such an arrangement.

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs. M. Cassidy, P. Coward, R. Hill, Mrs. J. Hurd, Ann-Marie Long & R. Sims

85. 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.

86. Minutes – RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 2nd December 2013 be approved as a correct record of proceedings on proposal made by Cllr. Hazzard, seconded by Cllr. Hope and carried with a majority vote of those present on 2.12.13, subject to the following addition to Minute No. 77 a) – *That these recommendations, as amended, would be forwarded to the Community Area Transport Group.* **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Budget Meeting held on Wednesday, 11th December

2013 be approved as a correct record of proceedings on proposal made by Cllr. Norris, seconded by Cllr. Hazzard and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 11.12.13

87. Matters Arising

a) Proposals for siting and building specification for a club house in the Recreation Ground for Mere & District Railway Modellers – Minute 77b) – The Chairman pointed out that the Council had heard from Mr. Snook, in the public session, that this is not a viable site so this matter can now be closed.

b) Proposal to enter serious negotiations with the Mere & District Railway Modellers as to leasing them the Old Band Hut in Castle Street Car Park – Proposal put forward by Cllr. B. Norris

Cllr. Hazzard said that this matter has been dragging on for far too long and would welcome such a proposal. Cllr. Norris said that the Parish Council took ownership of the band hut in October last year, and the purpose of acquiring the band hut was to put it back into community use. The band hut has not been used for a number of years and is in such a poor state that it cannot be used now and the longer the band hut is empty the quicker it will deteriorate. The Parish Council does not currently have the funds to carry out the necessary repairs. Mere & District Railway Modellers Club have expressed an interest in using the band hut and have funds available to put towards the costs of repairing the building. Cllr. Norris therefore proposed to enter serious negotiations with the Mere & District Railway Modellers as to leasing them the Old Band Hut in Castle Street Car Park. Proposal seconded by Cllr. Jeans and carried with a vote of 8 for. The Chairman said that she would set about holding the necessary meetings with a view to having a set of recommendations to present to the Parish Council at the next meeting.

***c) Request for parking restrictions in Water Street/Ivymead – Minute 80b)** – with reference to the map and information prepared by Cllr. Jordan, as distributed in the Clerks Report, Cllr. Jordan confirmed that there are huge difficulties getting coaches in and out of school and it has often been the case that the coach has not been able to enter the site. If a coach cannot get through then it is likely that emergency vehicles would be unable to get through. It was agreed that the Council should support the proposals, in principle, to request for parking restrictions in the places indicated on the plans and that these should be time limited parking restrictions between 8.30 – 4.00 p.m. on a Monday – Friday. However, it was agreed that Cllr. Jeans should conduct a consultation exercise with residents and with Yapp Brothers to see whether they would have any objections and it would then be discussed at the next meeting where the Parish Council would make a decision as to whether or not this request should be submitted to the CATG.

d) Request made during last month's Public Session for the Parish Council to write to Mr. Marks thanking him for the work he has done in the river – Cllr. Hazzard said that Mr. Marks voluntarily took on the role of river cleaning when no-one else would do it and he proposed that the Parish Council should write him a letter thanking him for the work he had done in the rivers. Cllr. Norris said that he was worried about writing to thank Mr. Marks for two reasons – Firstly, Mr. Marks's efforts have caused a bitter dispute between himself and his neighbour and the police and solicitors have become involved. If we, as a Parish Council, show support for Mr. Marks, we would be seen as taking sides. Secondly, how can we, as a Parish Council, thank one person for their efforts, when so many others have also worked hard to improve the rivers? Cllr. Norris said that the Mere Rivers Group's stance on this situation is not to get involved. The group is looking to take steps to inform all riparian owners of their rights and obligations in the hope that this may avoid future disputes. Cllr. Jeans said that he can recall the Parish Council receiving complaints because no-one did anything to the river and then Mr. Marks came on the scene and everyone used to say what a good job he was doing. Cllr. Jeans said that he did not want the Parish Council to become embroiled in a dispute and although he would like to thank Mr. Marks, he did not feel it was appropriate for the Parish Council to write a letter. Cllr. Hazzard reiterated that he was proposing that the Parish Council should write a letter to Mr. Marks, thanking him for the work he had done in the rivers. Cllr. R. Coward said that he had become involved in clearing the river and putting dams in it and he thought that it worked fairly well. However, Cllr. R. Coward felt that the Parish Council may inflame the situation if they wrote to Mr. Marks and said that as far as he was aware, the situation had calmed down and he suggested that the Parish Council should 'leave it be'. Cllr. Hazzard said that he had put forward a proposal and wanted a vote on the matter. Cllr. Jeans seconded the proposal which was hung with a vote of 4 for and 4 against. The Chairman used her casting vote and voted against the proposal. The proposal was not carried.

88. Reports

a) Neighbourhood Policing Report – PC Richard Salter said he had not prepared a report but he could say that there had not been a huge number of incidents over Xmas or New Year. It may be worth noting, however, that there have been some thefts from agricultural premises – two quad bikes have been stolen, one in West Knoyle and one in East Knoyle. Cllr. R. Coward asked about hare coursing and PC Richard Salter said that this was a priority matter as there had been several reports of hare coursing over the last month or so. “We have asked landowners to provide us with any vehicle numbers and we have traced one vehicle to the Frome area. We have also called the police helicopter out to a hare coursing incident.”

b) Wiltshire Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Jeans said that a lot of effort had been put into getting salt spinners, grit and salt and preparations for snowy weather and instead, we have just had a lot of rain. He reported that Mere now had a spinner to go on the back of the Parish Council’s 4WD vehicle and the Parish Council’s groundsman would be receiving some training next week. Cllr. Jeans also spoke about the Housing Allocations Policy and said that he had received some success in altering the wording which should benefit local people. He also spoke briefly about Youth Grants and Footpath Grants.

89. 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: 13/06610/FUL

Application for: Full Planning

Proposal: Single storey side extension

At: 1 Lordsmead Road, Mere BA12 6BZ

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

b) Neighbourhood Planning Workshop Event Two – identifying sustainable sites for development –this second workshop event was being delivered at two different locations – one in Trowbridge on Monday, 3rd February and one in Salisbury on Tuesday 11th February. As Cllrs. Hope and Jeans had attended the first workshop event, they both said that they hoped to attend one of the second workshop events. Both councillors would report back to a future meeting when the Parish Council will discuss suggestions and ideas over whether or not a Neighbourhood Plan for the Mere area should be created along with the feasibility and viability of such a project.

c) Wiltshire Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation –The Clerk informed members that the consultation would close on 24th February. Cllr. Jeans pointed out that he sat on the committee that had created this consultation document and had spent many hours on this so he hoped the Council would consider this. The Clerk said that she would send a link for the consultation document to councillors and would prepare some kind of report for the next meeting. Cllr. Jeans did point out that Wiltshire Council had said that they were not prepared to publish the fact that the imposition of the CIL is open to challenge and asked the Clerk to look for any reference to this within the consultation documents.

90. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths, Traffic & Transport

***a) Request for litter bin and signs along verge at Gillingham Road** – with reference to the information in the Clerks Report, Cllr. R. Coward said that he had experienced similar problems at Mere Down and he had even found a bath dumped there recently. It was agreed to inform Mr. Doggrell that he might want to enquire with Wiltshire Council as to the ownership of the layby and if it does not belong to Wiltshire Council then he could block off the layby with some kind of physical obstruction e.g. bollards, boulders etc. as long as these obstructions were within 1m of the verge.

b) South West Wiltshire Public Rights of Way Improvement Programme – the Clerk informed members that the South West Wiltshire Area Board was holding a launch event on Thursday, 16th January at Dinton Village Hall to look at how public rights of way in the Mere, Tisbury & Wilton community areas can be

improved. Two sessions were being held, one between 4 – 5 p.m. and one between 6.30 – 7.30 p.m. Cllr. Hope said that he would be attending the 4.00 p.m. event.

91. Open Spaces

a) HLS Scheme & Goats grazing Long Hill – Cllr. R. Coward said that in December, the Clerk had asked Mr. Horne to remove the goats from Long Hill because they were stripping the bark from the trees. Initially, the goats had just been stripping the young saplings and this wasn't such a concern but more recently they had been less discriminate and were causing damage to trees that we want to remain on the hill. The goats have now been moved to a temporary new home. The Clerk has instructed contractors to carry out the scrub clearance in Area 2 as per the HLS Scheme for Year 3 which needed to be completed before the end of February. Cllr. Coward said that he was keen to see the goats back on the hill in the spring/summer because they had done such a good job of keeping back the scrub and asked the Parish Council if they would be prepared to invest in some electric fencing so that the goats could be contained on Long Hill within the area that had just been cleared (Area 2) this summer. This would be used as a kind of experiment and, if this is successful, they could then be contained within smaller areas on Castle Hill. Members were unanimously in agreement with this proposal.

92. Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Payments – RESOLVED to approve the following payments on proposal made by Cllr. R. Coward, seconded by Cllr. Norris and carried with a unanimous vote:

J. L. Paul	Remove bearings on 'Topper' machine	60.00
J. L. Paul	Erect gas bottle cage by Andy Young Pavilion	710.00
Wiltshire Council	Rates for office 1.4.13 – 31.3.14	1074.15
Post Office	12 months road tax for Diahatsu	225.00 – already paid
I. V. & S. M. Thomas	Hedge cutting Nov. 2012 & March 2014	336.00
Mere School	Changing Rooms – Water & Sewerage – 17.7.13 – 18.11.13	265.06
Mere School	Cricket Club – Water – 17.7.13 – 18.11.13	52.38 – to be reimbursed
Mere School	Changing Rooms + Office + MUGA lights + AYP - Electricity – 17.7.13 – 18.11.13	231.08
Mere School	Changing Rooms – Gas – 17.7.13 – 18.11.13	239.93
Mere School	AYP + Bowling Green – Water – 17.7.13 – 18.11.13	231.98 - ??? to be reimbursed
Rochford Garden Machinery	Service to Husq. Ride-on + repairs (under warranty)	302.66
Scats	Sundries (Public Toilets & Grounds machinery)	58.52
Sydenhams	Padlock + Bolts & Nuts (trailer) + Acrylic sheeting & sealant for chapel windows	167.27
Mrflag.com	Union flag	148.80 (donation received to cover costs)
Forge Garages	Fuel & Oil for December	204.79
Cash	Reimbursement for anti-virus	39.99

	computer security software	
Southern Electric	Unmetered supply for Clock Tower	17.10
Ryan Morse	Ground work – 24.12.13 – 8.1.14	370.00
Mrs. L. Stokes	Purchase of tools for Mere Footpath Group	127.54 – to come from SWAB Grant (held by Parish Council)
Cash	Reimbursement for pavilion (gas cylinder compound) keys	7.50
Shaftesbury Garden Machinery	Service machinery (7 items)	435.60
The Consortium	Toilet rolls	61.16

b) To adopt recommendations made by Budget Meeting, as shown in Minutes of Budget Meeting held on 11th December 2013 – Cllr. Hope pointed out that he was pleased to note that budgetary provision is being made towards the cost of providing curtains for the Andy Young Pavilion – albeit without commitment at this stage – with a view to matched funding being sought from the Area Board. However, he pointed out that this had been previously raised as a measure that might improve the dreadful acoustic in the pavilion and that a hearing loop system would be preferable. Cllr. Jeans said that he had a contact who was a sound engineer and he would ask him for ideas with regard to costs etc. With regard to the chapels in the cemetery, Cllr. Hope said that these buildings are of local architectural or historic interest and that the Parish Council should insist that any re-pointing work should be lime based. With these additional points incorporated, it was RESOLVED that these recommendations should be approved by the Parish Council on proposal made by Cllr. Hazzard, seconded by Cllr. Jordan and carried with a majority vote. Cllr. Mitchell abstained from voting.

c) To approve Precept on Wiltshire Council for 2014/15 of £99,220.80 – RESOLVED to approve the precept of £99,220.80 on proposal made by Cllr. Jeans, seconded by Cllr. Jordan and carried with a majority vote. Cllr. Mitchell abstained from voting. The Chairman signed the Precept Form accordingly.

93. General Items

a) Xmas Lights – Cllr. R. Hill – In the absence of Cllr. Hill, Cllr. Hazzard said that he firstly wanted to thank Cllr. Jeans for his work in helping with the electrics in the clock tower over the Xmas period. It was agreed that, since the Parish Council has to do some major renovation and redecoration work to the clock tower which will probably entail the need for scaffolding, then this would be the time to consider installing some kind of pulley system for the light strings but, in the meantime, the lights would stay where they are.

b) Mere Carnival – Cllr. Hazzard reported that Mere Carnival is in crisis and is struggling with a very small committee of only about 5 members - the Treasurer has recently resigned and the secretary is threatening to resign unless more committee members can be found. Cllr. Hazzard said that funding is not a problem but manpower and help is in very short supply and threatening the future of the carnival. The Carnival has put a notice in Mere Matters, inviting people along to the Walnut Tree Inn on 11th February at 7.30 in the hope that they can rally more volunteers and helpers.

94. Forthcoming meetings

South West Wiltshire Public Rights of Way Improvement Programme – Dinton, Thursday, January 16th

95. Clerks Report – RESOLVED to approve the Clerks Report on proposal made by Cllr. Hope, seconded by Cllr. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote.

future agenda items:

- To seek clarification on the Parish Council's responsibility towards of the rivers

*Further information on these items in Clerks Report