

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 30th June 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in The Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

Present: Mrs. L. Traves (Chairman), B. Norris (Vice-Chairman), P. Coward, C. Hazzard, D. Hope, Mrs. J. Hurd, G. Jeans, E. Mitchell, R. Sims.

Also: Mr. D. Stone, Mr. R. Stone, Mr. L. Stanton & PCSO Gary Chambers

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).

Sally Brett from Lynch Close pointed out that there was a telegraph pole which is supported by a stay wire which is anchored into the pavement. Ms. Brett is visually impaired and walked into the stay wire. She suggested that it should be painted so that it is more visible.

Anne Harris from 2 Water Street said that there was a street light outside No. 5 Water Street which had not come on since February. Also that the white markings on the zebra crossings were now difficult to see and needed repainting. Sally Brett said that she was not made to feel welcome when she arrived at the meeting.

Clive Hazzard said that he had recently walked along Waterside and noticed that the river was becoming very overgrown again and wondered if the Parish Council could write to the riparian owners reminding them of their responsibility to clear out the river.

Mrs. Lesley Traves said that she had received reports regarding the condition of the hedge in The Lynch.

Jaki Farrell presented members with an update on Wiltshire Council's Youth Services Review (attached). Cllr. Jeans said that he was concerned as to the effect all this would have on the youth in the town and he was also concerned as to the implications this would have on the Youth Club Building which was the property of the Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity, the Trustees of which were the Parish Council.

Cllr. Jeans said that Wiltshire Council was only proposing to provide the Area Board with £24k per year for youth provision which needed to cover the 3 community areas of Wilton, Tisbury & Mere. Wiltshire Council will be appointing a Community Youth Officer at an approximate salary of £32k but there will be nothing in their contract to say that they need to find funding. It was suggested that, if in the SWW Area Board's case, the Community Youth Officer's salary could be diverted into the Seeds for Success Charity then Jaki could continue her good work in this area. It was agreed to write in a letter of support for the Area Board into funding a pilot project (as outlined above).

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs. M. Cassidy, R. Coward & J. Jordan

164. 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. Clive Hazzard declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 171a) (Finance)
- Cllr. George Jeans declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 171a) (Finance)

165. Minutes – RESOLVED to approve Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 2nd June 2014 on proposal made by Cllr. R. Sims, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. Hurd and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 2.6.14

166. Matters Arising

a) Casual Vacancies – [Minute No. 155a] – The Chairman announced that she had just received another resignation from Cllr. D. Hope who is moving out of Mere. She took the opportunity to thank Cllr. Hope for all he has done and wish him all the best in his new home. The Clerk confirmed that Wiltshire Council would be duly notified of this vacancy, the Notice of Casual Vacancy will be posted and, if an election is not requested, it is hoped that the Parish Council will be able to co-opt new members to fill both vacancies at the September meeting.

b) Groundsman's Vehicle – [Minute No. 155b] – The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had purchased a new vehicle for the grounds staff. The Chairman wanted to thank the Vice-Chairman with Cllr. Mitchell & Cllr. R. Coward for their involvement and help with this matter and confirmed that the Vice-Chairman had managed to sell the old vehicle and that the sale price would cover the recent repair costs.

c) Clock Tower – [Minute No. 155c] – The Chairman reported that the working group would need a little more time on this and hopefully, by the time we sit again in September, there would be more news to discuss. Cllr. Jeans pointed out that the Cancer Research Committee wanted to arrange a Xmas Lighting Ceremony this year on 5th December.

167. Reports & Consultations

a) Neighbourhood Policing Report – Gary Chambers, PCSO for Tisbury reported that there had been a few incidents of bicycles and scooters taken from people's front lawns and he also stated that if there was anything the police could do to support future youth work then he was sure they would like to help. Cllr. Hazzard asked about the law relating to disabled mobility scooters being driven on the pavement and PCSO Chambers said that some are designed to be used on the pavements only and others are designed to be used on the roads and pavements and it depended on the upper speed limit of the mobility scooter.

b) Wiltshire Councillor's Report – Cllr. Jeans said that he felt that the community would regret it if the Youth Club closed. He pointed out that there are 18 Area Boards within Wiltshire but the South West Wiltshire Area Board had 3 towns and 18 villages and only received the same amount of grant money as the Westbury Area Board which covered just the one town and Cllr. Jeans said that he had been urging Wiltshire Council to re-consider this point. It was agreed that the Parish Council should write a letter in support of Cllr. Jeans.

168. 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: 14/06066/TCA
Application for: Work to Trees in Cons Area
Proposal: Various works to trees – see attached letter for full details
At: 2 The Grange, Water Street, Mere. BA12 6DZ

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application on proposal made by Cllr. Hazzard, seconded by Cllr. P. Coward and carried with a majority vote in favour. In order not to compromise his position as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from discussion or voting.

Application Ref: 14/05662/VAR
Application for: Variation
Proposal: Removal condition 15 of S/2009/1522 to retain the pedestrian link as existing surface
At: Downside Close, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire. BA12 6AS

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application with the following condition:

The Parish Council is concerned that this developer has not met all of its planning conditions or obligations i.e. the 2m landscape strip on which the Parish Council relied on heavily to support the 2009/1522 application has never been implemented. Whilst the Parish Council raises no objection to this condition not being met (being mindful that local residents and landowners are not in favour of the condition being met), members feel that the developer should, at the very least, bring up the roads and pavements on this development to an acceptable and adoptable standard. At present there are protruding drain covers, uneven road surfaces which causes poor drainage and large collections of water during wet weather, uneven pavements and protruding kerbs. Enforcement action needs to take place to ensure that this work is implemented.

Proposal made by Cllr. C. Hazzard, seconded by Cllr. Norris and carried with a majority vote in favour. Cllr. P. Coward voted against this proposal. Cllr. E. Mitchell abstained from voting and in order not to compromise his position as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from discussion or voting.

***b) Submission of the Wiltshire Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule and Consultation on Proposed Modifications** – With reference to the information in the Clerks Report members agreed not to make any further comment on the Draft Charging Schedule or proposed modifications.

c) Report on meeting with Helen Taylor of Wiltshire Council's New Housing Team held on 12th June and discussion on possibility of providing new affordable housing in Mere – the Chairman confirmed that she had met with the Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Jeans and an officer from Wiltshire Council's New Housing Team, Helen Taylor, to discuss a scheme to build more council housing across the county. A proposal has been put forward, within this scheme, to provide 3 or 4 two-bed bungalows for elderly people on land which is within the ownership of Wiltshire Council behind Bramley House. The bungalows would be provided to people with a local connection and Helen Taylor wanted to gauge the Parish Council's opinion before proceeding to the stage of drawing up a scheme for planning approval. Although members felt that Bramley Hill was not necessarily the ideal location to build elderly people's bungalows, they said that a precedent had been set and it was well known that there was a shortage of this type of housing and no other locations had been found or proposed. It was therefore RESOLVED, on proposal put forward by Cllr. Norris, that the Parish Council should support this proposal in principal. Proposal seconded by Cllr. P. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote in favour.

169. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths, Traffic & Transport

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

- Brambles and overgrowth obstructing footpath across The Meads and from Edgebridge to Cemetery
- Priority Right of Way sign by Catholic Church is obstructed by overhanging tree
- Grass needs cutting behind Bramley House

Cllr. Jeans said that he had reported a very deep pothole outside the Old Police House in North Street.

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

a) Banner requests for clock tower – In view of the Council's decision in May that permission should be granted for a banner to be erected on the Clock Tower for 3 community (charity) events per year, each for a maximum of 8 days in duration and that the approval for advertising these events would be on a first come, first serve basis – the Chairman had published this information in Mere Matters and the Clerk confirmed that she had already received 4 requests - one for the Church Fete next year, the Carnival this year, Mere Cancer May Fayre next year and the School Summer Fayre next year. The Clerk asked the Council whether this permission was to operate on a calendar year basis i.e. 1st January to 31st December or whether there was any other basis for these permissions. Cllr. Jeans suggested that the School should approach him about erecting a banner on his property and it was agreed that applications for next year should be submitted by 31st January 2015. Cllr. Mrs. Hurd wanted to know why this was being restricted to 3 events and asked for the matter to be discussed at a future parish council meeting.

b) Request from Mere School to use Duchy Grounds for 10th Anniversary Celebrations – the Clerk stated that the Friends of Mere School are planning a 10th anniversary event at the school on 19th September and wanted permission from the Parish Council to hold the event on the Duchy Sports Grounds. The event would be held from 5.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. with a stage for the school choir, children's karaoke and maybe 1 or 2 singers/bands. They would apply for a joint entertainment/alcohol licence but would only be selling alcohol between 6.30 – 8.00 p.m. Between 5 – 6.30 there will be various sports coaches giving 'tasters'/training to the children and people will be able to bring a picnic or purchase food. At 8.00 p.m. as a finale they are planning to end the evening with fireworks. RESOLVED to support the proposals subject to there being no clashes or conflicts with the sports user groups and the organisers being responsible for the necessary licences, insurances and risk assessments etc.

171. Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Payments – to approve payments set out in payment schedule attached: Cllrs. Hazzard & Jeans, having declared an interest, left the room whilst this matter was discussed. However, before he left, Cllr. Hazzard explained that the poppies in the tubs and planters had been quite expensive and this was because it had been necessary to plant so many to give a good display – in the tubs outside Balcony Cottages there were 430 plants. RESOLVED, on proposal made by Cllr. P. Coward, seconded by Cllr. Mitchell, that the payments listed should be approved.

The Consortium	Public Toilets – Toilet rolls	62.60
Scats Countrystores	Various (cleaning equipment for public toilets, grease cartridge, battery booster for truck, load straps & lorry rope)	104.22
Mainstream Digital	Telephone call charges	8.56 (already paid by DD)
D. P. Repairs Ltd	Repairs to Diahatsu Fourtrack	451.20
R. J. & K. D. McLean Ltd	Second-hand Mitsubishi L200	7020.00 (already paid)
e-on energy	Electricity supply to public toilets	28.16 (already paid by DD)
Mole Valley Farmers	Pump for water tank	41.40
Mere School	Andy Young Pavilion & Bowling Green Water used 5.3.14 – 17.6.14	68.16
Mere School	Changing Rooms Water used from 5.3.14 – 17.6.14	116.37
Mere School	Changing Rooms, MUGA & Office Electricity used from 5.3.14 – 17.6.14	178.41
Mere School	Changing Rooms Gas used from 5.3.14 – 17.6.14	198.43
Mere School	Swimming Pool Electricity used from 5.3.14 – 17.6.14	20.66
Gilyard Scarth	Fee for Property valuations for insurance purposes	840.00
DP Repairs Ltd	Service to Mitsubishi L200	309.00
Octopus Personnel Limited	Holiday Cover for cleaning public toilets	85.43
A R Diesels Ltd	Test & inspection of Diahatsu Fourtrak	114.00
Jeans	Replacement fittings for public toilets Hoover bags & protective clothing	45.41
Rochford Garden Machinery	Fuel filter & sundries	36.37
Forge Garages	Fuel & OIL	338.53
Imprest account – cheques 2967 - 2975	Petty Cash, PAYE, Wages & pension	7537.09
North Street Nurseries	Summer Planting of tubs & planters (poppies)	1575.00
Tinknell Fuels Ltd	Fuel & Oil for grounds machinery	189.00
Sowing Seeds	S. 137 Donation for Leisure Credit Scheme – Mere Youth Development Centre	450.00
	S.137 Donation in lieu of flag raising	75.00
Mere & District Linkscheme	S.137 Donation	350.00
Mere Matters	S.137 Donation	600.00
Wiltshire Good Neighbours	S. 137 Donation	100.00
Cash (reimbursement for Royal British Legion)	S.137 Donation for Poppy Wreaths for Wessex Memorial Parade	34.00
Mirage Signs	Lettering to update Chairman's Honours Board in Lecture Hall	48.00

b) Report from Mr. Chris Weedon of Gilyard Scarth on property valuations for insurance purposes – the Clerk confirmed that Mr. Weedon had submitted his report, summarised below:

Insurance Re-instatement Recommendations

The current cost of reinstating these properties in their present form, for insurance purposes, are set out below:-

a) North Chapel £200,000

b) South Chapel £205,000

- c) Cemetery Front Walls, Pillars and Railings £55,000
- d) The Old Band Hut £ 65,000
- e) The Andy Young Pavilion £170,000
- f) The Clock Tower £ 72,000
- g) The War Memorial £ 17,500
- h) Toilets in Salisbury Street Car-park £ 75,000
- i) Youth Club Building in Mere Recreation Ground £210,000

I should point out that this report is provided specifically to advise you as to appropriate insurance reinstatement costs. No survey of any of these structures has been undertaken and this document does not purport to pass comment on their condition.

Members felt that there were anomalies between the valuations for the Clock Tower versus the Band Hut and the Public Toilets. Members also felt that it was necessary to have a breakdown of what the insurance premium is for each building before they could make an informed decision on whether or not to increase the valuations. The Clerk was therefore asked to write back to Mr. Weedon to ask for clarification on the value of the clock tower, band hut and public toilets and also to ask the insurance company for a breakdown of the premium paid for each building.

c) Insurance claim for broken glass at Andy Young Pavilion – the Clerk confirmed that three quotations had now been received and submitted to the insurance company. The cheapest quotation was £550 + VAT from Gillingham Glass. The Insurance Company had now sent a cheque for £300 (£550 less £250 policy excess) to cover the replacement glass. Gillingham Glass had been asked to carry out the replacement a.s.a.p.

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

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

172. General Items

a) Wiltshire Council's Kerbside Garden Waste Consultation – The Clerk informed members that Wiltshire Council was currently undertaking a public consultation exercise to gain residents' views on potential future changes to the current kerbside garden waste collection service. The council currently delivers a fortnightly non-chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service to those residents that request the service.

The consultation will give residents a number of options for how the kerbside garden waste collection service could be changed to make savings:

1. A three month suspension of the non-chargeable kerbside garden waste service with no collections taking place in December, January and February.
2. A five month suspension of the non-chargeable kerbside garden waste service with no collections taking place in November, December, January, February and March.
3. To introduce a chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service instead of the current non-chargeable service.

Cllr. Norris said that he thought Wiltshire Council would end up introducing a chargeable collection. Cllr. Mitchell said that he understood that all councils had now been directed to revert back to weekly rubbish collections. It was agreed that the Parish Council would respond in favour of Option 1.

173. Forthcoming meetings

- CATG Meeting – 14.7.14 – Dinton Village Hall 2.00 p.m.

174. Clerks Report – RESOLVED to approve and adopt Clerks Report.

Cllr. Mrs. Hurd asked for banners on the Clock Tower to be raised as a future agenda item.

It was agreed that Cllr. Hazzard would represent the Parish Council at the Southern Planning Committee meeting when the planning application 14/02315/FUL would be considered.

Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

*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.