

Mere Town Council

TOWN CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Monday, 4th July 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in The Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.

Present: Councillors B. Norris (Chairman), N. Beale, C. Hazzard, R. Hill (from 7.49 p.m.), G. Jeans, E. Mitchell, R. Parsons, Mrs. K. Symonds, R. Sims & Mrs. L. Traves.

Also: R. Stone, D. Stone, Dick Morris, E. Henson, Mrs. A. Harris, Mrs. A. Beall,

Public Session

The Chairman will convene the Town 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).

Mr. Dick Morris of 47 Downside Close said that he had come to thank the Town Council for their help and was pleased to report that the road at Downside Close had now been resurfaced, paths had been surfaced and all the street lights were now working. He said that it was now necessary to get the road adopted.

Mr. Roy Sims said that he had attended the Mere & District Linkscheme AGM a fortnight ago and reported that the Literary Festival had a super agenda for their 20th Literary Festival which runs from 10th – 20th October. Mr. Sims also attended a Shaftesbury & Gillingham Transport Forum meeting where it was reported that the ladies toilets at Gillingham Railway Station were being revamped. Mr. Sims also reported that two events were being held for Cancer Research Mere – 9th July a Summer Coffee Morning at Dewes House by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Sainthill and on 15th July a concert by the Warminster Military Wives Choir in St Michaels Church at 7.00 p.m.

Mr. Sims also wanted to formally propose that Mere Town Council should have a town crier. It was agreed that this matter would be raised on the agenda for the next meeting.

Apologies for absence received from Councillors M. Cassidy, P. Coward, Mrs. J. Hurd & J. Jordan. Apologies also received from PCSO Peter Tcherniawsky

36. 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 Town Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

- Cllr. Jeans declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 43 a) [recipient]

37. Minutes – RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday, 6th June 2016 on proposal made by Cllr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 6.6.16.

38. Matters Arising

a) Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations – It was reported that the firework display to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations, held on 11th June had gone off successfully. The Town Council has received very positive feedback on the event, although there were one or two negative comments the worst of which was sent anonymously so has not been considered. The Town Council had received enough donations to cover the cost of the fireworks and the extra grounds staff time involved in getting the fireworks to and from Castle Hill. Thank you letters had been sent out to all those individuals and businesses that donated towards the cost of the fireworks and all the helpers involved in organising the event. Also thanks to Mr. Bill Deeker for providing and setting off the fireworks. The Town Council thanked Cllr. George Jeans especially who gave up a lot of time in co-ordinating this event.

b) Proposed Traffic Regulation Order for Consultation – Various roads, Mere – Parking and Waiting

Restrictions – The Clerk said that she had emailed Wiltshire Council to get an update on the consultation results and had been told that the report had been finalised and was awaiting a decision by the cabinet member.

c) Downside Close – adoption of roads, pavements, street lights etc. – The Chairman reported that Mr. Morris had already informed us of the work which had been carried out and confirmed that the Town Council would now proceed with lobbying to get roads adopted.

d) Issues raised during last month's public session relating to cleanliness & tidiness of town – The Chairman said that he wanted to publicly thank Mrs. Adrienne Howell and Barry Hansford for cleaning Dark Lane. He said that he felt that there were some points that needed clarifying in response to the issues that Mrs. Howell had raised during last month's public session:

Wiltshire Council used to pay the Town Council a considerable grant that allowed the Town Council to employ a street cleaner. This grant has now been withdrawn. Furthermore, Wiltshire Council used to collect all the rubbish that we emptied from the litter bins around the town without charge. The Town Council now has responsibility for half of the litter bins and Wiltshire Council has responsibility for the other half. However, the Town Council now has to pay to have the litter from the litter bins collected by Wiltshire Council. The Chairman said that there are some parts of Mere that the Town Council is responsible for and some parts of Mere that Wiltshire Council is responsible for and it is not clear to most people, outside the Town Council, which ones we are responsible for and we are often being blamed or criticised for issues which are outside our control. There are also areas on Mere that the community is responsible for i.e. householders, businesses – and property owners should be responsible for cutting back their hedges, clearing weeds from their properties etc. The Chairman said that there is also much more pressure on the staff of the Town Council due to the cut backs and lack of services now provided by Wiltshire Council. He asked members for suggestions on how the Town Council could improve matters:

Cllr. Sims said that every 4th week a road sweeper comes out but he cannot do a lot because of all the cars parked on the road – particularly around Bramley House. He also suggested the idea of putting a compost bin down by the cemetery and by the skate park. The Chairman pointed out that there was a compost area in the cemetery but this was often abused because people put plastic and other waste materials in the area which caused the grounds staff extra work in clearing it out. It was, however, agreed to purchase an inexpensive bin for garden waste to go in the new cemetery and to replace the bin in the skate park with a larger one.

Members unanimously voted not to have an Environment Committee. Cllr. R. Parsons said that he would liaise with Wiltshire Council to find out about verge cutting frequencies, footpath cutting frequencies & weed spraying etc.

39. Reports & Consultations

a) Neighbourhood Policing Report – A Community Policing Report for the meeting was provided by PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky and distributed to members and public present (report attached). Cllr. Sims added that there have been incidents lately where ladies have had their purses stolen from their handbags and urged ladies to ensure that their purses are secured in their handbags and shopping bags and not easily accessible.

b) Wiltshire Councillor's Report – Cllr. Jeans reported on the following issues: Wiltshire Council's Housing revenue has plenty of money but they don't necessarily spend it wisely. He is aware that there are numerous decoration problems and issues relating to mould and noise in the Council's housing stock but it is difficult to get these matters attended to. There is, however, money being spent on improving and tarmacking the car parks on and around council housing estates. Parking in Mere – Cllr. Jeans wanted to reiterate that Mere has a serious parking problems. He asked the Council to bear in mind that all the cars that are currently parking in Salisbury Street will need to find somewhere else to park when the double-yellow lines go down. He also said that there will be a potential of 19 parking spaces lost in Bramley Hill when the new bungalows are built on the garage site. With regards to the prioritisation of road surface improvements, Cllr. Jeans said that he had written to Cllr. P. Whitehead (Cabinet member for Highways & Transport) but that the Chairman of the Community Area Transport Group had said that the fault was with Balfour Beatty. It was agreed that the Town Council would write to Cllr. Philip Whitehead to say that we are disgusted with the situation (minor roads being

resurfaced when there are other well used roads of higher priority) and to ask whether Town & Parish Councils can be given an opportunity to put our priorities in for consideration. Members unanimously agreed that the Town Council should write a strongly worded letter.

40. 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: 16/05486/FUL

Application for: Full Planning

Proposal: Proposed construction of single storey extension to east elevation. Proposed alterations to flat roof on north elevation, including the addition of a porch.

At: Breeches Farm House, Barrow Street, Mere. BA12 6AB

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

b) Communication with MedCentres regarding revisions/amendments to Planning Application 16/02898/FUL (Extension to Mere Surgery)

The Clerk explained that she had received some revised documents from Mr. Arnold of MedCentres and the following email from Mr. Mike Arnold of MedCentres: 'The Roman Catholic Church has agreed, in principle to make off site car parking available for staff of the medical centre. Since there is a financial impact to this proposals, we have held detailed discussions with the planning authority in respect of the final number of car parking spaces required off site. The outcome of these discussions is that they had calculated the number of additional spaces required by the medical centre to be 8. This is based on a requirement of 3 parking spaces per clinical room and a net addition to the surgery of two clinical rooms (two of the rooms will replace the current exam rooms which have to be used by nurses presently due to the lack of space). This is in line with NHS recommendations of spaces per clinical room and accords with projects we have completed elsewhere. In addition to this, we have suggested two additional staff spaces will be required. Added to this requirement is the loss of car parking caused by the extension, which as shown in appendix A is 3 spaces i.e. overall there is a requirement of 11 spaces. We have also, in conjunction with the Practice, conducted an assessment of available spaces at three key times over a 5-day period. This reveals that on average there are 6 free spaces suggesting that if 5 off site spaces are provided this will mitigate the impact of the proposals. I hope Councillors agree this is a reasoned approach. In relation to some of the other points raised, in particular the location of the extension, our Architects have been drawing various options over the last two weeks. However, as the attached drawing shows, and reported previously, even pushing the building back on to the wall itself does not give sufficient space to enable another row of parking to be inserted in front of the extension. Given the cost and time involved in relocating the steps there, therefore seems little point in doing so as there would be no gain. We have therefore left the plans as they are. I can also confirm that the D&A statement has been redrafted to remove reference to licencing spaces in the current car park.'

The Clerk said that she had been informed that Wiltshire Council would be sending out amended plans for the Town Council to consider as statutory consultees and was therefore reluctant to suggest that the Town Council should consider the revised plans sent out by MedCentres at this stage but await the formal consultation documents from the planning authority.

Cllr. Jeans pointed out that he was extremely disappointed as he had spent a lot of time and effort in trying to come up with suggestions, ideas and propositions that may help alleviate some of the concerns of the Town Council, highways authority and planning authority but he felt that these suggestions and ideas had been disregarded by Mr. Arnold. Members felt that the best way forward with this would be to meet and discuss all this with the partners of the doctors surgery and it was agreed that, if it is necessary to hold an extra Town Council meeting to discuss the planning application amendments, then they should be invited an hour earlier.

41. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths, Traffic & Transport

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

Cllr. R. Sims reported that the 'steep hill' sign on the Warminster Hollow road was still missing. The Clerk reported that Wiltshire Council's response to this (which was initially reported on 7th October 2015) was that it was noted and work tickets had been submitted. They were awaiting contractor to schedule and could not give a date for the work to be carried out.

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

43. Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Payments – Having declared a pecuniary interest in this matter, Cllr. Jeans left the room and took no part in discussion or voting. **RESOLVED** to approve payments set out in payment schedule attached

44 General Items

a) South West Wiltshire Area Board Initiative to provide funding to enable greater access to the internet for local communities through the improvement of local community communications. – the Clerk explained that she had received information on this initiative and wondered whether it might be appropriate to co-ordinate some kind of approach with the Children's Centre, considering that they have a large room available that is full of computers. Members agreed that the Clerk should explore any opportunities. Cllr. Jeans asked if a Wi-Fi connection for the Andy Young Pavilion could be considered also.

45. Forthcoming meetings/events

Area Board Meeting – the Chairman said that he would attend the meeting.

Meeting closed at 20.37 p.m.

Note: Members are reminded that the Town 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.

MERE PEACE MEMORIAL SPORTS AND RECREATION GROUND

Registered Charity No. 1093497

The following payment was approved and cheque duly signed:

BWBSL (Wessex Water)	Standing charge for water supply	13.59
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