

Mere Town Council

TOWN CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Monday, 3rd April 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in The Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere, BA12 6EW

Present: Councillors: B. Norris (Chairman), J. Jordan (Vice-Chairman), N. Beale, P. Coward, C. Hazzard, R. Hill, R. Hughes, Mrs. J. Hurd, G. Jeans, E. Mitchell, R. Sims, Mrs. K. Symonds & Mrs. L. Traves
Also: Mr. G. Avory, S. Gunn & C. Shaddick, Annie Harris, R. Hurst, E. Henson, Mr. Dick Morris, D. Stone, R. Stone, V. Phillips & S. Walker.

Meeting convened at 7.30 p.m. with 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. Stuart Walker spoke in favour of his planning application 17/02997/TCA and said that it was a housekeeping exercise for work on trees in the garden. He said that the dying tree was one that he had tried to rescue from a garden in Salisbury Street but is not doing so well and now has more brown needles than green. He said that he was keen to get this work done before the bird nesting started.

Mr. Sims asked if the Town Council was still interesting in writing to the Chief Fire Officer, Mr. Ben Ansell, regarding the withdrawal of the first response service carried out by the fire brigade in the event of a medical emergency. The Chairman said that he did not know that this service had been withdrawn and it was agreed that the Town Council would write to object.

Mr. Sims said that, although he was no longer a member, he wanted to remind people that the Heart of Wessex Local Action Group still had funding available to help local people and businesses to develop. See <http://www.heartofwessex.co.uk/>

Mr. Sims said that the Salisbury & Exeter Rail Users Group were holding a meeting at Gillingham Town Hall on 6th April to talk about improvements to the rail service.

Mr. Sims said that the next meeting of the Mere Surgery Patient Participation Group would be held on 27th April.

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs. M. Cassidy & Bob Parsons.

117. 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 personal interest in Planning Application 17/01740/FUL
- Cllr. Jeans declared a personal interest in Planning Application 17/02997/TCA
- Cllr. Mrs. Traves declared personal and pecuniary interest in Planning Application 17/02271/FUL
- Cllr. Hill declared a personal interest in planning application 17/02997/TCA
- Cllr. Jeans declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 124a) Payments (recipient)
- Cllr. P. Coward declared a pecuniary & personal interest in Minute No. 125 a)

118. Minutes – RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of Town Council meeting held on Monday, 6th March 2017 on proposal made by Cllr. Mrs. Traves, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hurd and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 6.3.17

119. Matters Arising

a) Update on adoption of road at Downside Close – The Clerk reported that Wiltshire Council had confirmed that the adoption process is currently underway and subject to addressing some administrative issues, they are hopeful that formal adoption may take place towards the end of next week.

b) Response to issues raised by Mr. Vernon Phillips in last month's public session – The Chairman said that he had given an off-the-cuff response to Mr. Phillips during the public session last month but he pointed out that many of Mr. Phillips's issues were aimed at areas that fall under the responsibility of Wiltshire Council. Cllr. Mrs. Hurd said that she thought it was very insulting to imply that the Town Council was leaving a bad legacy because a lot of these issues are not our problem and to say that we do not care about our town makes me wonder what we are doing here in the first place. Cllr. Mrs. Symonds said that a large number of the issues raised by Mr. Phillips were issues that are perennially being discussed at our town council meetings. Cllr. Mitchell said that he was very annoyed by Mr. Phillips statement and pointed out that a lot of Town Councillors give up a lot of their time voluntarily to do things for the community and in the time it had taken for Mr. Phillips to write his letter he could have gone out and cleaned the post box that he was complaining about. Cllr. Jordan said that the adoption of the road at Downside Close (as Minuted above) was a pleasing legacy and would like to compliment the council members and clerk on achieving this. Cllr. Mrs. Hurd asked if it was worth trying to persuade members of the public to try and do some volunteer work to help clean up our town. The Chairman pointed out that Wiltshire Council used to run a fleet of 18 road sweepers and now they only have 8 in the whole of the county. He said that to cut services like this was actually a false economy because they will never be able to keep on top of it now. Cllr. Jeans said that furthers services will be cut and that he had just heard that Wiltshire Council's contractors will not now be picking up the grass cuttings unless an extra maintenance charge is paid. He said that the expectation from Wiltshire Council is that communities will have to do more and more for themselves. Cllr. Jordan asked if the elected members complained and objected about the shoddy state of the roads and Cllr. Jeans replied that they did but that the decisions were all based on money and Wiltshire Council has serious problems looking after the elderly and vulnerable which is where the largest proportion of money was spent.

120. Reports & Consultations

a) Neighbourhood Policing Report – Cllr. Sims reported that Tisbury no longer has a police station although they still have a PCSO who will be sharing office space in the new Nadder Centre

b) Wiltshire Councillor's Report – Cllr. Jeans reported that bin lorries had now been fitted with cameras so that they could film pot holes and bad road surfaces. He said that a lot of the road repair work was now reactive through the Wiltshire Reporting App and he encouraged people to use it. He pointed out that you cannot interact with it but you do get updates and responses. Cllr. Jeans said that he had received complaints about the new parking restrictions in Mere town centre not being enforced and so he had asked for the parking ambassadors to come out to Mere.

121. 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: 17/01740/FUL
Application for: Full Planning
Proposal: Internal alterations to meeting room; new entrance doors and paving; alterations to boundary wall.
At: Mere URC, Boar Street, Mere. BA12 6DD

Cllr. Mrs. Hurd said that they wanted to use the building for more community events and was keen to see this application approved. RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application on proposal made by Cllr. Sims, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hurd and carried with a majority vote. Cllr. Jeans, having declared a personal interest in the above application, refrained from discussion or voting.

Application ref: 17/02271/FUL
Application for: Full Planning
Proposal: Proposed extension and alterations

At: 3 Manor Road, Mere, BA12 6HY

Cllr. Mitchell said that he had viewed the property and the proposal was for a flat roof extension. On one side of the property is the telephone exchange and the other side is a wall and so he couldn't see why it shouldn't be approved. RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application on proposal made by Cllr. Mrs. Symonds, seconded by Cllr. Mitchell and carried with a majority vote. In order not to compromise his position as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from discussion or voting. Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above application, Cllr. Mrs. Traves did not take part in discussion or voting.

Application ref: 17/02510/FUL
Application for: Full Planning
Proposal: Installation of velux windows to create loft conversion
At: 10 Lovage Way, Mere, BA12 6RU

Cllr. Mrs. Symonds said that the proposal seemed unobjectionable and she assumed that the applicants would get structural advice and would need to get permission from the Duchy of Cornwall. The Chairman said that the velux windows would not overlook any properties. RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application on proposal made by Cllr. Mrs. Traves, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Symonds and carried with a majority vote. In order not to compromise his position as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from discussion or voting.

Application ref: 17/02997/TCA
Application for: Work to Trees in Cons Area
Proposal: T1 – Walnut – Reduce by up to 3 metres
T2 – Hawthorn – Remove low level limbs over pathway. No more than 5% of canopy
T3 – Hazel – As Above T4 – Fell Moribund Tree

At: The Old Hunting Lodge, Boar Street, Mere. BA12 6DD
RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application on proposal made by Cllr. Mrs. Traves, seconded by Cllr. R. Sims and carried with a majority vote. Having declared a personal interest in the above application, both Cllr. Hill & Cllr. Jeans refrained from discussion or voting.

Application ref: 16/09919/FUL & 16/10183/LBC (Revised) –
Application for: Full Planning & Listed Building Consent
Proposal: Conversion and renovation of the existing Grade II* Listed Old Ship Inn into 7 Apartments and 2 X 3 bed cottages. To include the demolition of outbuildings and construction of a new build 2 bed cottage to the rear.

At: The Old Ship Inn, Castle Street, Mere.

Under Wiltshire Council's delegation scheme, the above application will be determined at the Southern Area Planning Committee Meeting – Thursday, 6th April 2017 at Sarum Academy, Westwood Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire. SP2 9HS

The Chairman confirmed that the revisions to the planning application were largely in response to consultation comments made by the Conservation Officer and included a reduction in the number of apartments.

Cllr. Mrs. Hurd said that when the Town Council discussed this before, there were issues raised about the number of off-road parking spaces. Cllr. Mrs. Symonds said that the Town Council objected to the application on the basis that the number of parking spaces would be inadequate for the number of dwelling spaces proposed. There was a discussion on the number of parking spaces per dwelling and whether or not there was sufficient car parking for the existing properties that had on site parking but it was pointed out that it was not possible to retrospectively enact that there have been more parking spaces for the existing houses. The Chairman said that although the revisions seemed to be going in the right direction, he was still concerned about ambiguity, for example the car parking spaces needed to be 2.4m in width and 4.8m in length and the space allocated for the waste bins was wholly inadequate. He therefore felt that the Town Council should object to the application until certain issues had been clearly resolved. There was a discussion over whether the Town Council should object to the application listing

the issues it is concerned about or whether it should recommend approval of the planning application subject to the issues being met as conditions to the planning permission.

Cllr. Jeans said that whoever is going to the planning committee meeting needs to have a clear mandate from the Town Council and he will support the Town Council's views.

Cllr. Hazzard proposed that the Town Council should approve the revised application only subject to the following conditions being met:

- Measure out car parking spaces to ensure that 27 spaces meeting car parking standard sizes.
- Allocate & mark car parking spaces to individual properties & visitors
- Measures need to be taken to protect tree routes in order to safeguard tree in car park.
- More attention to provide adequate bin storage provision.
- Subject to archway doors being wooden & not glass and there being no vehicular access through archway gates.
- Restore & retain Kingston Ivory bracket & sign.
- S.106 legally binding agreement to ensure all external and internal works (to include landscaping, car parking layout etc) are completed in accordance with approved plans.

Proposal seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a vote of 9 for, 2 against and 2 abstentions. The Chairman said that he would attend the committee meeting in order to represent the Town Council.

122. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths, Traffic & Transport

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

- Junction sign to Wolverton has fallen down on B3095
- Footpath that goes from bottom of Angel Lane down to Lordsmead could do with having sides cut back (similar to Burton Path)
- Layby opposite Fives Court in Angel Lane needs a good clean up.
- Clements Lane road sign is unreadable. (black is nearly white)

Cllr. Jeans said that the Town Council would now be expected to pay for new road name signs. The Clerk said that she found this very frustrating and gave an example – some months ago, after having been contacted by a volunteer who was prepared to repaint some road name signs to make them smarter and cleaner, she asked Wiltshire Council if it was agreeable and was told that it needed to be approved paint and the volunteer needed to have street works accreditation and £5m public liability – needless to say the volunteer declined to carry out the work. The Clerk said that they cannot expect us to do all this volunteer work and then put too many obstacles in our path. Members agreed that the signs should just be repainted.

b) Parish & Town Council Highway Evenings + Highways & Transport Newsletter April 2017 (attached)-

the Clerk had distributed copies of the Newsletter to members with their agenda papers and she confirmed that Wiltshire Council would be holding a series of meetings during May in order for councils to come along and find out more about the Highway & Streetscene Service. The Salisbury meeting would be held on 23rd May at City Hall, Salisbury between – 1900hrs to 2100hrs.

c) Application for Residents Parking Permit – The Clerk said that she had received an email request from a resident of The Square requesting that Mere Town Council support their application for a Residents Parking Permit. The Clerk said that this email had been received at the end of last year but she had been confused by it because the forms accompanying the request were forms to request parking restrictions and not forms to request a parking permit. Also that the Clerk was not aware that a parking permit scheme for Mere was an option available to residents. Cllr. Jeans said that a parking permit scheme was not an option and that Wiltshire Council had informed him that they would not agree to parking permits outside the city areas.

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

- Cllr. Jordan said that he would like to compliment the Council's grounds staff on the work they have done on the topiary in the Churchyard and the Cemetery recently.
- The Clerk reported that a memorial bench seat had been stolen from Long Hill.

124 Finance, Policy & Resources

a) Payments – RESOLVED to approve payments as set out in attached payment schedule on proposal made by Cllr. Sims, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Symonds and carried with a majority vote. Cllr. Jeans, having declared a pecuniary interest, left the room whilst this matter was discussed and took no part in voting.

b) Waste Charges for 2017/18 – The Clerk informed members that Wiltshire Council would be increasing their waste charges by £50 for the year. It was agreed to renew the contract this year but the Clerk was asked to enquire about competitive rates from other companies for the future.

c) Report on allotment rent audit which took place on 29th March 2017 – The Clerk reported that £1149.84 had been received in allotment rents. To date, there was still an amount of £261 outstanding from 10 allotment holders. There was one vacant allotment at Wellhead, 5 vacant allotments at Southbrook and 0 vacant allotments at Jack Paul Close. There were two people on the waiting list for allotments.

125. General Items & Consultations

a) Application for a new premises licence at The Hill Brush Company, Norwood Park, Castle Street, Mere. BA12 6FE – The Clerk informed members that the licensing authority had received an application for a new premises licence at the Hill Brush Company – the application being for the following activities: Plays, Films, Live Music, Recorded Music, Performances of Dance, Supply of alcohol (on and off the premises) Mon-Sun

– 0800 – 23.00 with non-standard timings for New Year’s Eve until 01.00
Opening Hours to the public

Mon – Sun 08.00 – 23.00 with non-standard timings for New Year’s Eve until 01.00

RESOLVED to support the application on proposal made by Cllr. Mitchell, seconded by Cllr. Hughes and carried with a majority vote. Cllr. P. Coward having declared a pecuniary and personal interest in the above application, left the room whilst it was being discussed and took no part in voting.

b) Agenda Items and details for Annual Town Meeting

- Future of car parks & public Toilets
- Neighbourhood Plan

126. Forthcoming meetings/events

Annual Town Meeting – Wednesday, 26th April 2017 – The Grove Building, Church Street, Mere.

Cllr. Philip Coward said that he would be making up his mind tonight whether or not to stand for re-election as Town Councillor. He pointed out, however, that Cllr. Hill had decided not to stand for re-election and had served 40 years as a Parish/Town Councillor. Members gave a show of hands to Cllr. Hill and the Chairman said that this was quite an achievement and thanked him for all his hard work.

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

To approve the following payments: - All approved

BWBSL (Water2Business) Water supply to old cricket club (standing charge only) 11.02

National Non-Domestic Rates for Tennis Courts 0.00