

# Mere Town Council

TOWN CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in The Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere.**

**Present:** Councillors: B. Norris (Chairman), P. Coward, C. Hazzard, R. Hill, R. Hughes, Mrs. J. Hurd, G. Jeans, R. Parsons, R. Sims, Mrs. K. Symonds & Mrs. L. Traves

Also: Mr. Dick Morris, R. Stone, D. Stone & Mr. R. Flower.

## **Meeting convened at 7.31 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. Dick Morris asked if there was any update on the adoption of the road at Downside Close. The Clerk said that she had received no news since her last enquiry with Wiltshire Council.

Mr. Sims said that the new Town Crier had carried out a splendid job at the Cancer Research Christmas Fair and he looked splendid too in his uniform for which there was still a shortfall of £150. Mr. Sims urged members to help out with the cost of providing the uniform.

**Apologies for absence** received from Cllrs. N. Beale, M. Cassidy, J. Jordan & E. Mitchell.

## **88. 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. 95a)

**89. Minutes – RESOLVED** to approve Minutes of Town Council meeting held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 on proposal made by Cllr. R. Sims, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Symonds and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 5.12.16. **RESOLVED** to approve Minutes of Annual Budget Meeting held on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 on proposal made by Cllr. Mrs. Traves, seconded by Cllr. Mrs Hurd and carried with a unanimous vote of those present on 30.11.16

## **90. Matters Arising**

**a) Standing Order relating to 'Previous Resolutions' (6 month rule) – in respect of request for grant towards toilet in St. Michaels Church:**

### Special Motion

Written notice received by 3 councillors to agree in principle only to supporting St. Michaels Church in their application for funding for an accessible toilet. The Clerk confirmed that written notice had been received from Cllrs. Beale, Jeans and Mrs. Hurd. Cllr. Jeans said that unfortunately, Mr. Marsh was unable to attend the meeting to represent the Church as he was unwell. However, the Church's proposals were to provide two toilets, one each side of the West door (one of which would be disabled). Cllr. Jeans explained that Wiltshire Council's South West Wiltshire Area Board had set aside funding to provide accessible toilets in the area and that this application from St. Michaels Church was the only one received by the Area Board. Although the toilets would not be publicly accessible, Cllr. Jeans felt that he could justify approving the grant application because the Church was visited. He said that he was hoping that if the Town Council supported the application in principle only then he would be able to persuade the Area Board to release the funding.

Cllr. Sims said that when this was initially discussed it sounded as though the toilets would be public toilets. Cllr. Mrs. Hurd said that she supported the idea but thought it may be better to apply for 1 toilet instead of 2. She also pointed out that the Methodist Church had recently closed and that there are other churches that could do with financial support. Cllr. P. Coward said that St. Michaels Church is a tourist attraction and

is a bit of a landmark compared to other churches. The Chairman pointed out that the Church of England was a very wealthy organisation and was concerned that this would be eating into Area Board funds that are limited. Cllr. Jeans assured the Chairman that this funding had been set aside and would be returned back to Wiltshire Council if not used. Cllr. Parsons explained that St. Michaels Church would be hosting a Flower Festival in 2017 which would be used to raise money for the toilets. Cllr. Hazzard asked if the Area Board Funding could be used to refurbish the existing public toilets in the car park. Cllr. Jeans explained that it was seed money to help make new toilets accessible to the public in view of the fact that so many public toilets are now closing down. **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should offer its moral support to St. Michael's Church's application for South West Wiltshire Area Board funding to provide toilets within the church. Proposal made by Cllr. Jeans, seconded by Cllr. P. Coward and carried with a unanimous vote.

**b) Response from DCLG on 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement: Technical Consultation Paper**

– The Clerk informed members that having considered the consultation responses, Central Government had decided that the principles of apply referendum to larger, higher spending/precepting parishes and towns will not apply for the 2017/18 financial year. The Clerk provided members with a link to the Minister's statement.

## 91. Reports & Consultations

**a) Neighbourhood Policing Report** – Copies of the Community Policing Report were distributed which gave details of local crimes in December 2016. Cllr. Parsons informed the meeting that there had been attempts to gain entry into cars in Denes Avenue over the weekend and also an attempted vehicle break-in at Bourton.

**b) Wiltshire Councillor's Report** – Cllr. Jeans said that he had recently attended the Seeds4Success AGM and reported that they were doing well. He said that he had asked for funding to repair another 3 Fingerpost Signs and had approached Sydenhams who had agreed to provide the wood for the refurbishments free of charge. He explained that it was difficult to find the craftsmen to carry out the work on the signs and warned that the grants for each sign may not cover the costs completely and that the Town Council may need to provide a financial contribution.

## 92. 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: 16/11344/FUL  
Application for: Full Planning  
Proposal: Key worker accommodation associated with equine activity  
At: The Old Dairy, Charnage, Mere. BA12 6AR

**RESOLVED** that the above planning application is recommended for approval with the following condition: That a **Section 106 legal agreement** (not planning condition) is applied, restricting the occupation of the proposed dwelling to employment associated with activities carried out on the land (outlined in blue on the location plan), part of which comprises the proposed dwelling; also that the proposed dwelling cannot be disposed of separately to the property known as The Old Dairy, Charnage, Mere.

Proposal made by Cllr. C. Hazzard, seconded by Cllr. Parsons and carried with a vote of 10 for. In order not to compromise his position as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr. Jeans abstained from discussion or voting.

The Clerk informed members that she had received notification today that the Planning Authority had received an Outline Planning Application for the construction of up to 130 dwellings at Gillingham Corner - including affordable housing, open space, landscaping, drainage features and associated infrastructure. All matters are reserved for subsequent approval except for access. The Clerk informed members that the consultation deadline expired on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> February and so the Town Council would, she assumed, want to consider this at the February Town Council meeting due to be held on 6<sup>th</sup>. Members agreed that the application should be considered on 6<sup>th</sup> February and asked the Clerk to seek an alternative venue for

the meeting (Grove Building, Lecture Hall or School) and also to ask the applicants if they would like to send a representative to attend the meeting.

**b) Update on planning permission for bungalows at Bramley Hill and likely construction timetable** – The Clerk confirmed that planning permission has been granted (with conditions) for the two bungalows at Bramley Hill/Homefield, Mere. She has been informed that the tender process will now commence in order to procure a principal contractor. In addition, refurbishment works to the remaining garages at Bramley Hill will be carried out in order to decant existing garage tenants from the garages that are due to be demolished in advance of the bungalow construction. Wiltshire Council anticipate that construction of the bungalows could commence during the summer of 2017. Cllr. Jeans said that he had previously sought agreement that the occupants of these new bungalows would come from existing larger houses and that the whole idea was to decant people from larger houses so that the larger houses could be freed up to families needing accommodation. The Town Council also gave their support on that understanding. It was agreed to write in and ask for confirmation that this principal would apply. Cllr. Jeans also said that there would be some garage doors available for recycling if anyone was interested.

### **93. Highways, Rivers, Footpaths, Traffic & Transport**

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

- Cllr. Hughes said that there were still potholes outside the old scrapyards at Limpers Hill. The Clerk said that she thought the Parish Steward had addressed this issue and would investigate further.
- Cllr. Parsons said that there were visible electricity cables outside the street light which had been knocked over on Gillingham Corner. The Clerk said that this was being addressed as a priority issue.
- Cllr. Parsons also pointed out that the traffic direction sign opposite the Zeals turning on the B3092 had been knocked over and he had noticed that there were a number of road signs in the area that are rotting at the base and looked as though they could be unstable. The Clerk was asked to contact Wiltshire Council to ask for reassurance that the road signs are inspected regularly and that Wiltshire Council are satisfied that they are in a safe condition.

**b) Proposed 40mph speed limit running from the 30mph speed limit end on Castle Street to a point approximately 120m west (to encompass entrance to new brush factory site)** – The Clerk confirmed that she had received details for a proposed 40 mph speed limit in association with a section 38 agreement with the construction of the new brush factory and new road layout. Members were all happy with the proposed 40 mph speed limit in this location.

**c) Traffic Management – Mere** - The Clerk informed the Town Council that she had received a copy of the sealed traffic regulation orders for the new traffic management scheme (yellow lines and parking restrictions). The Traffic Regulation Orders will come into effect on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

### **94. Buildings, Open Spaces, Play Areas, Sports Grounds, Allotments & Cemeteries**

### **95. Finance, Policy & Resources**

**a) Payments** – Having declared a pecuniary interest in this matter, Cllr. Jeans left the room and took no part in voting or discussion. RESOLVED to approve payments as set out in payment schedule for meeting on proposal made by Cllr. Mrs. Traves, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hurd and carried with a unanimous vote of approval.

**\*b) To adopt recommendations made by Budget Meeting, as shown in Minutes of Budget Meeting held on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (Minutes attached)** – RESOLVED to adopt recommendations made by Budget Meeting on proposal made by Cllr. Mrs. Symonds, seconded by Cllr. Norris and carried with a unanimous vote.

**c) To approve Precept on Wiltshire Council for 2017/18** – RESOLVED to approve the precept of £121,204.51 for 2017/18. The Chairman signed the Precept form in the presence of the Town Council.

**\*d) To review Financial Regulations and Standing Orders (attached)** - RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations & Standing Orders be agreed with no amendments: proposal made by Cllr. Jeans, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hurd and carried with a unanimous vote.

## **96. General Items & Consultations**

- a) **Police & Crime Commissioner Consultation on draft Police and Crime Plan for 2017-2020 and the cost of policing in 2017/18 (see attached link)** - Noted
- b) **Nominations for Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2016** –RESOLVED that Cllr. Hill and Mrs. Hill be nominated to attend the Garden Party in recognition of long service.
- c) **Judging of Xmas Lights** – The Chairman reported on the results as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> was Dick Morris, Downside Close, second was Richard & Rose Adams of Denes Avenue and 3<sup>rd</sup> was Michael & Karen Hurst of Denes Avenue. The Chairman also said that when they had given out the prizes they were pleased to hear that Mr. Morris had raised £75 for the Mere & District Linkscheme by having a collection box outside. The Chairman also thanked the judges and George Jeans for giving out the prizes.

## **12 Forthcoming meetings/events**

*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.*

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## **MERE PEACE MEMORIAL SPORTS AND RECREATION GROUND**

Registered Charity No. 1093497

To approve Annual Return 2016 to submission to the Charity Commission – item deferred.

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Meeting closed at 20.29 pm