

Mere Town Council

TOWN CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Monday, 12th August 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in The Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere, BA12 6EW

Present: Councillors C. Hazzard (Chairman), A. Colman, R. Hill, G. Ings, G. Jeans, A. Mead, B. Norris, R. Sims, Mrs. K. Symonds & Mrs. L. Traves.

Also Diane Mathiot, P. Sumner, Richard Moore, Lucy Dunne & owner

Public Session

The Chairman convened the meeting and welcomed everyone and explained that the Town Council does not usually meet in August but as so many planning applications had been received with consultation deadlines before the September meeting, it had been decided to call an extra meeting. The Chairman also read out the following statement: *'By entering the meeting room you are consenting to the use of your name being recorded in the Minutes. The meeting may also be recorded by the press or members of the public. Any person or organisation choosing to film, record or broadcast any meeting of the Council or its committees is responsible for any claims or other liability resulting from them so doing and by choosing to film, record or broadcast proceedings they accept that they are required to indemnify the Council, its members and officers in relation to any such claims or liabilities.'*

- Diane Matthiot of Millstream Cottage explained her objection to the planning application for the garage at Oxdene and said that it would have a great impact of her cottage, shading her property, garden and parking area. She said that the building would be very close to the boundary of Mulberry Cottage and she was concerned about the waters soakaway. Diane Mathiot said that the garage would block light to her cottage and would depreciate the value of her property. She also thought that the garage would be in contravention of the Duchy covenant relating to the properties at Burton.
- Patrick Sumner of Burton Grange said that he had attended the meeting to support Diane Matthiot in her objection to the proposed garage at Oxdene. He said that the garage would block her evening light which is the best light she gets. He also pointed out that the adjacent neighbours had built a garage but had set it back into the slope of the drive which was much less intrusive. He said that whilst he appreciated that this would be more expensive, he felt it was a more neighbourly approach. Mr. Sumner also pointed out that the applicant had ticked the box to say that there were no trees within falling proximity of the development but he wished to point out that this was inaccurate.
- Lydia Dunne, the agent for the applicants of the proposed garage at Oxdene spoke in support of the application, explaining that it was a timber framed garage and that often garages can be erected as permitted development but this one needs a planning application as it is forward of the front elevation of the property. Pre-application advice has been sought from the planning authority and they are happy with the proposals. Garage would be sited in the least visually intrusive position. It is 3m X 8m single storey, made of green oak. 3.35m to the ridge & 8m long and just over 2m to eaves. From the level at Burton path the top of the concrete plinth is 1.5m higher.
- Richard Moore spoke in support of the application for the proposed car port at Peacehaven and explained that he was the builder. He said that there was ample parking on the property and the car port is not going to be any higher than the house. He said that this would increase the saleability of the property as most of his customers required a space to park a car. Most of my customers are requiring a space to park a car
- Glen Ings said that he had been asked to pass on message from bowls club about the condition of kitchen facilities in the Andy Young Pavilion which have been grubby when they arrived recently.

- Roy Sims said that the coffee morning at Dewes House held on 13th July raised just over £400 for Mere Cancer
- C. Hazzard complained about the parking spaces in The Square, particularly outside the chemist stating that the white lines have worn away and the old double yellow lines, which had only been painted out and never burnt off were now showing so it looks as though parking is restricted here now. Also zebra crossing lines have worn away.

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs. P. Coward, R. Coward, John Jordan, E. Mitchell & R. Pester

50. 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.*

51. 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: 19/07170/FUL Consultation deadline 28.8.19
 Proposal: New car port in addition to the previously approved application: 17/07277/FUL
 At: Peacehaven, Pettridge Lane, Mere. BA12 6DG
 Cllr. Ings felt that the design was in keeping with the development and that the car port would be similar to the one that was erected on the adjacent property. RESOLVED to recommend approval on proposal made by Cllr. Ings, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a vote of 7 for and 2 abstentions. (In order not to compromise his position as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr Jeans abstained from discussion or voting)

Application Ref: 19/06625/LBC Consultation deadline 29.8.19
 Proposal: Move kitchen into family room, build partition in existing kitchen to form WC, add insulation to west bedroom external wall and ceiling
 At: The Chantry, Church Street, Mere. BA12 6DS
 Cllr. Mrs. Traves said that the works were internal and were unlikely to cause any objections. Cllr. Ings said that as it was a Listed Building there was the reassurance that the Conservation people would be involved and keep an eye on the works. RESOLVED to recommend approval on proposal made by Cllr. Mrs. Traves, seconded by Cllr. Norris and carried with a vote of 8 for and 0 objections. (In order not to compromise his position as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr Jeans abstained from discussion or voting)

Application Ref: 19/06835/FUL Consultation deadline 21.8.19
 Proposal: Proposed extensions & alterations to existing bungalow to form 4 bed, 2 storey dwelling, as previously approved as new dwelling under application no. 18/03780/FUL
 At: Shearstone, Southbrook, Mere. BA12 6BG
 Cllr. Ings said that he felt this development was in keeping with the surrounding properties. RESOLVED to recommend approval on proposal made by Cllr. Ings, seconded by Cllr. Mead and carried with a vote of 7 for and 2 abstentions. (In order not to compromise his position as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr Jeans abstained from discussion or voting)

Application Ref: 19/06826/FUL Consultation deadline: 20.8.19
 Proposal: Retrospective consent for the erection of a stone outbuilding in the garden of 'Tithings'

At: Tithings, Castle Street, Mere. BA12 6JQ

RESOLVED to recommend approval on proposal made by Cllr. Hill, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a vote of 7 for, 1 objection and 1 abstention. Cllr. Colman's objection related to the fact that the application was retrospective. (In order not to compromise his position as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr Jeans abstained from discussion or voting)

Application Ref: 19/06314/FUL Consultation deadline: 20.8.18
Proposal: Change of use of barn and land from logging and landscape garden business to light industrial and storage.

At: Yard at Wet Lane, Wet Lane, Mere. BA12 6BA

Cllr. Colman said that he did not think the building would be suitable for the storage of sterile instruments and the Chairman pointed out that this would not be a planning consideration. Cllr. Norris said that he understood that this was land that was once proposed for a dwelling and then stables and then a logging business. He said that he felt that the road was not wide enough for light industrial usage and he was therefore unable to support the change of use from agricultural to light industrial. Cllr. Mead said that van deliveries and collections would surely be preferable than articulated lorries of cordwood and the proposed use would be less noisy. RESOLVED to recommend approval on proposal made by Cllr. Mead, seconded by Cllr. Ings and carried with a vote of 4 for, 3 against and 2 abstentions. (In order not to compromise his position as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr Jeans abstained from discussion or voting)

Application Ref: 19/06721/FUL Consultation deadline: 19.8.19
Proposal: Erection of garage

At: Oxdene, Limpers Hill North C303 to A303 Burton Junction, Burton, Mere. BA12 6BR

Cllr. Jeans pointed out to members and those members of the public present that whilst the planning office may have said that they were happy with the proposals in the pre-application advice stage, this does not mean that planning approval will be granted. Pre-application advice is a service to offer guidance to the applicants and is in no-way a pre-determination of the planning process. The Chairman confirmed that he had visited the site this afternoon. He said that although the plinth is raised above the level of the footpath, it was set back over 8m from the edge of the footpath. He understood the concerns of Diane Mathiot relating to loss of light but felt that the garage was about 12m distance away from her boundary and that this boundary was already overshadowed by shrubbery along the border. He also pointed out that issues relating to covenants are a civil matter and would not constitute a planning consideration. RESOLVED to recommend approval on proposal made by Cllr. Ings, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Traves and carried with a vote of 4 in favour, 0 objections and 5 abstentions. (In order not to compromise his position as Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr Jeans abstained from discussion or voting)

52. Finance, Policy & Resources

***a) Payments** – The payments as set out in the payment schedules were approved on proposal made by Cllr. Norris, seconded by Cllr. Mead and carried with a unanimous vote. Cllr. Norris did raise a concern about the cost of water being used by the cricket club and bowls clubs. The Clerk did, however, confirm that these clubs were billed for their usage and the Town Council was reimbursed.

b) To update councillors on current staffing issues - The Chairman informed members that Mr. Ben Rowland had resigned from the Town Council's employment and that this resignation took effect on 2nd August. Therefore the Town Council was currently operating with only one groundsman. An advertisement for a new employee had been placed in the Blackmore Vale Magazine, online and on local social media groups. The Clerk was currently sending out information packs and application forms and we are anticipating that interviews will take place at the beginning of September.