

# WIVELISCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## *MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2007 at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre.*

### 1. PRESENT

D Luxton (Chairman), B Collingridge (Vice-Chairman), T Hill, P Parker, T Parker, R Matcham, B Wilson, C Cridland, P Langdon, B Whitman, Mesdames M Whitmarsh, S Fairfax, B Boyland, M Prior, and R N V Hewitt (Clerk). The meeting was also attended by five members of the public, two Police Community Support Officers and Steve Kendall, Taunton Deane Borough Council Economic Development Officer.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from P Berman.

### 3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2006 having been circulated, after some discussion, were agreed as a correct record.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

**Allotments** – Peter Parker reported that the sub-committee comprising Peter Parker, Colin Cridland and Peter Langdon had met with the tenant's association's representatives, Mr J Courtier and A Somerfield, to discuss the matters raised at the last Parish Council meeting. After some discussion it was agreed by the Parish Council that each allotment would be divided into two for tenure purposes and that half allotments would be available to rent in the future, and where half an allotment was rented an extra 10% rent would be charged to cover admin charges. It was further agreed that the matter of the planting of a hedge would be left in abeyance pending confirmation as to the legal position with the boundary and that in the meantime only a small section of hedge be planted nearest Plain Pond. Bryn Wilson pointed out that the sub-committee had also discussed the possibility of the Parish Council making a grant equating to £1.50 per allotment tenant, to the allotment's association to cover the cost of each tenant belonging to the National Allotments Association which would include tenant's liability insurance. Brian Collingridge seconded this proposal on condition that it was a one off trial at this stage. The majority of Councillors were in favour and it was agreed the Clerk would write to the Chairman of the Tenant's Association accordingly. Bryn Wilson also proposed that a permanent allotment's sub-committee be appointed and after discussion it was agreed this should be so and Peter Parker, Colin Cridland, Peter Langdon and Bryn Wilson were appointed as members of the sub-committee.

The Clerk read an email from John Hamilton confirming there had been two cases of theft from the allotments involving the taking of vegetables which had been reported to the police.

**16 North Street** – The Clerk reported he had received a letter from Jane Bosworth confirming she had now sold the property and that whilst she had taken down the unsafe section of wall discussed at the last meeting, she was no longer responsible for it. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the new occupier bringing this matter to his attention.

**Twinning Association** – The Clerk reported that following the precedent of previous years the Twinning Association had requested a letter confirming the Parish Council supports the association's activities in order to submit a grant application. It was agreed the Clerk should write accordingly.

**Highways Matters** – The Clerk read two emails from Dennis Quick confirming that arrangements had been made for the drains to be cleared in Jews Lane and Councillor T Hill reported this had been done. Dennis Quick also confirmed that a works order had been placed for the drop kerb outside the Chemist which was causing a puddle to form during heavy rain but the work would have to wait until the next financial year because of budget constraints.

**Dog Wardens** – The Clerk read a letter from the Dog Wardens at Taunton Deane confirming they had made patrols in the Jews Lane area but were unable to take any further action because they had not been able to witness any incidences of dog fouling. Some discussion followed and it was generally agreed the difficulty was that people were reluctant to name dog owners so that the Dog Wardens could focus their activities.

**Councillor Vacancy** – The Clerk read an email from David Greig confirming that the Council did not have to co-opt a member to replace Chris Bramall who had recently retired as an election would be forthcoming in May, but a notice should be displayed notifying the public of the vacancy.

**St Margaret's Hospice** – The Clerk read an email from Michele Evans, the hospice appeal manager, confirming that she would be able to attend the next Parish Council meeting to discuss their fundraising activities.

**Youth Representative** – The Clerk read an email from Peter Lacey, SALC, confirming that a member of the public aged 18 or over could stand as a Councillor in the forthcoming elections and become effectively a youth representative. If the Parish Councillor envisaged appointing a minor as a youth representative then they would have to make various amendments to the Standing Orders. It was agreed this matter would be left in abeyance until after the May elections.

**10 Parishes Football** – The Clerk read a letter from Julie Graham, Senior Youth Worker at Somerset's Rural Youth Project, confirming that a football training initiative would be running in Wiveliscombe commencing on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

**Jubilee Gardens** – The Clerk reported that Mary Whitmarsh had asked if he would now order the tree surgery works necessary to remove the tree in Jubilee Gardens and after some discussion it was agreed the Clerk should do so.

**Asset Inspection** – The Clerk reported that the internal audit would be undertaken in March and as part of this the annual asset inspection should be undertaken, and Bryn Wilson agreed he would be responsible for implementing this.

**Jubilee Gardens** – Mary Whitmarsh reported the slats were missing on one of the benches at the Jubilee Gardens, and after discussion Bryn Wilson pointed out that at the last Parish Council meeting he had agreed to remove these and this had been done.

## 5. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Chairman invited Steve Kendall, Head of Economic Development at Taunton Deane Borough Council, to speak to the Parish Council. Steve Kendall explained he was responsible for the Christmas lights and that Taunton Deane was agreeable to passing on the annual budget to towns who are interested in managing their own lights. This had happened recently in Taunton and was about to take place in Wellington. The Wiveliscombe annual budget is currently £3,500 plus a contribution towards electricity, and the lights are erected, connected, removed and stored by the DLO. New lighting currently comprises LED lights which consume one tenth of the electricity of older lighting. In other towns Taunton Deane had made a loan to the town council to enable them to trade in their old lights and purchase new LED lights, and in Taunton all the Christmas lighting had been replaced for a sum of £12,500, and the town centre authority had arranged for a third party to erect the lights, rather than use the DLO. The loan is justified by Taunton Deane on the basis that outlay for electricity will be saved. Steve Kendall confirmed that Taunton Deane are unlikely to be able to improve the Christmas lights in the future due to budget constraints. Mary Whitmarsh asked if the budget might be reduced in the future and Steve Kendall confirmed that it would be guaranteed for three years. Discussion followed on the provision of the Christmas tree each year and whilst

Steve Kendall initially said the package would exclude the Christmas tree he felt that some solution could be found. Bill Whitman raised the issue of public liability and Steve Kendall confirmed that at present the DLO had insurance and Mary Whitmarsh asked if the Parish Council could deal with the DLO direct and Steve Kendall felt this would be possible. Brian Collingridge asked if the Parish Council could be given the name of the contracting company in Taunton and Steve Kendall agreed this would be possible and that a decision would have to be made by June 2007. After some discussion it was agreed the Parish Council were interested in the principle of this initiative and that a small sub-committee should be appointed to look into the matter further. It was agreed Bryn Wilson, Brian Collingridge, Bill Whitman and Brenda Boyland, together with the Clerk, would form that sub-committee. Tim Parker reminded Councillors that following a recent draft Government white paper it was proposed Councillors would have more responsibilities in future which would include this sort of initiative which should be treated as a 'trail blazer'.

## 6. PLANNING

The Clerk reported that TDBC had approved the following applications:-

49/2006/053 Flead Farm, Waterrow, Wiveliscombe: Change of use of annexe accommodation to form separate dwelling.

49/2006/055 Higher Grants Farm, Ford, Wiveliscombe: Construction of lake.

49/2006/056LB Wiveliscombe Evangelical Congregational Church, Silver Street, Wiveliscombe: Change of use to provide two offices and retention of arched window to kitchen.

49/2006/057 Wiveliscombe Evangelical Congregational Church, Silver Street, Wiveliscombe: Change of use to provide two offices and retention of arched window to kitchen.

49/2006/060LB 17 Golden Hill, Wiveliscombe: Repairs to chimney.

49/2006/064 37 Lion D'Angers, Wiveliscombe: Erection of conservatory.

The Clerk reported that the following applications had been received:-

49/2006/070 Mill Barn, Jews Lane, Maundown, Wiveliscombe: Erection of single storey extension to front with timber balustrade to steps – *Mr T Egerton, resident of a neighbouring barn conversion, raised various objections which he had reported directly to Taunton Deane. The Parish Council then heard from Mr Mears, the applicant, who spoke in favour of the application. Some discussion followed and it was agreed that a site meeting would be held on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007, at 1.30 pm, to be attended by the Chairman, Brian Collingridge, Bryn Wilson, Peter Parker, Peter Langdon, and the Clerk.*

49/2006/069 24 Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe: Construction of dormer roofs with windows on the northwest and southeast elevations – *Councillors Peter Parker and Ralph Matcham declared an interest and left the room at 8.05 pm. After some discussion the Parish Council agreed to support the proposal.*

49/2006/066 Kingsmead, Jews Lane, West Street, Wiveliscombe: Conversion of outbuildings to dwelling - *The Council agreed to support the application.*

The Clerk reported the following matters which were noted by the Parish Council:-

49/2006/065T Notification of permission to fell one Cypress tree within Wiveliscombe Conservation Area at Alpine House, 10 West Road, Wiveliscombe.

49/2006/051LB The Music Room, Tanglewood, Langley Cross – Application withdrawn

## 7. SPEEDWATCH

Bryn Wilson reported that he had volunteered to help PCSO Sharon Cridlin with Speedwatch in the town and it had become apparent during this exercise that the speed detector gun had to be borrowed from Bishops Lydeard. After some discussion it was agreed by the Parish Council that Bryn Wilson would look into the cost of purchasing the necessary equipment to

be held at Wiveliscombe House so that Speedwatch could be undertaken at any time, and this would be discussed at the next meeting.

## **8. WIVEY LINK**

Brian Collingridge reported that the Wivey Link were applying for grant funding in order to purchase an additional smaller vehicle so that demands could be met and the scheme could be made more environmentally friendly and economic. The cost of a new vehicle would be in the region of £12,000 and the lottery bid which was being submitted, if successful, would be dependant on matched funding. The principle of the Parish Council contributing the sum of £500 was discussed and it was agreed the Clerk would put this on the next agenda for further discussion but in the meantime the Clerk could confirm to the Wivey Link that the Parish Council supported the initiative in principle.

## **9. PCSO'S REPORT**

PCSO Sharon Cridlin reported there had been a local accident and regretted that this had caused her to be late arriving at the meeting, In addition, one arrest had been made in the town over the Christmas holiday period and the North Street wc's had been vandalised. Bryn Wilson raised the matter of staffing over the Christmas holiday and pointed out that on one occasion when he had spoken to Beat Manager, PC Mark Jones, asking him to attend the Recreation Ground, he had been unable to attend because he claimed to be the only officer on the beat in Wellington at that time. This prompted some discussion and PCSO Sharon Cridlin confirmed that this was the case and it was agreed the Clerk would raise the matter with Inspector Mike Ashwin and copy the correspondence to Sergeant Julie Tolley and County Councillor Caroline Smeaton.

## **10. ACCOUNTS**

Copies of the most recent bank statements were endorsed as originals.

The following account was approved for payment:-

Replicated Solutions	£175.00
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## **11. WIVELISCOMBE AREA PARTNERSHIP**

Brian Collingridge reported that the family centre building project was up and running and the building would be of timber framed construction. The housing article in the Messenger had created some interest and it was likely that MAGNA would be constructing timber framed homes and apparently the tenders coming in for the construction were favourable.

## **12. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Mary Whitmarsh reported the following matters:-

ISIS Project – Improving services in Somerset – This is an initiative to provide integrated services (police, fire, etc.) and is now in the process of being finalised with potential operators being shortlisted.

The Somerset Waste Board had been established by the County Council who are now appointing contractors to run the scheme.

The Vision for Taunton was now to be referred to as Project Taunton and would include re-development of the market site. The Cricket Club were also going ahead with their development proposals.

Bryn Wilson queried what progress had been made with flooding provision and schemes in the Taunton area and Mary Whitmarsh said she believed these were underway.

### **13. MATTERS OF REPORT**

Bryn Wilson presented the Parish Council with a selection of photographs detailing empty bottles of alcoholic drinks and evidence of drug taking at Kingsmead (near the rear entrance) and went on to mention similar problems in the Recreation Ground, the Square and Jubilee Gardens. Bryn Wilson also pointed out that Taunton Deane had recently imposed a No Drinking Order which would prohibit the carrying of opened bottles of alcoholic drink in the town and would enable the police to exercise a discretion in taking more stringent action. It was agreed the Parish Council would discuss this further at the next meeting and in the meantime the Clerk would contact Taunton Deane to find out more about the scheme.

Ralph Matcham reminded Councillors the traffic was dangerous outside the Primary School and it was agreed that the Clerk would ask County Councillor Caroline Smeaton what progress was being made with her investigations into the reputed traffic calming scheme discussed at previous Parish Council meetings.

Tony Hill queried what was happening with the bench in the Jubilee Gardens and was reminded this had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.