

WIVELISCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on MONDAY 8th MAY 2006 at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre.

1. PRESENT

D Luxton (Chairman), B Collingridge (Vice-Chairman), T Hill, P Langdon, P Parker, P Berman, B Whitman, C Cridland, B Wilson, C Bramall, R Matcham and Mesdames M Whitmarsh, S Fairfax, L Bedding, Miss B Boyland, and R N V Hewitt (Clerk). The meeting was also attended by two members of the public.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mesdame M Prior and T Parker.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th April 2006 having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dixon Luxton invited nominations for the post of Chairman of Wiveliscombe Parish Council. Peter Parker proposed Dixon Luxton for re-election and this was seconded by Bryn Wilson, and as there were no further nominations Dixon Luxton was elected. The Chairman then asked for nominations for the post of Vice-Chairman and Mary Whitmarsh proposed Brian Collingridge which was seconded by Brenda Boyland. There being no further nominations Brian Collingridge was elected.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Jubilee Gardens – The Clerk explained that two letters had been received objecting to the felling of the tree in the Jubilee Gardens and that at the last meeting Parish Councillors had agreed to decide what action was to be taken and hear any objections from local people. Mary Whitmarsh reported that the tree in question is a Spanish Oak and was planted in 1977. The Tree Officer had been consulted and advised that the tree will continue to grow and become too big for the garden and lopping will not inhibit its growth. Mary Whitmarsh felt that the shade was affecting the lawn and preventing various shrubs from growing properly. Brian Collingridge mentioned that following the last meeting he had written to local objectors and the Chairman reported that letters of objection had been received from Susan Steward and the Wiveliscombe W.I., and noted that no objectors were present at the meeting. The Clerk advised that as the tree was in a Conservation Area consent would be required from Taunton Deane Borough Council to fell the tree. Peter Berman proposed that the Parish Council should apply to Taunton Deane Borough Council for conservation consent with a view to felling the tree in the autumn and this was seconded by Peter Parker, this was agreed unanimously.

Maundown Speed Limit – The Clerk read an email from Dave Meehan regarding the speed limit from Langley Marsh to Washbattle Bridge. Peter Parker felt it was unnecessary to change the speed limit and Peter Berman agreed. It was agreed the matter should be passed to Highways for comment.

Grit Bins – The Clerk read an email from Dennis Quick regarding possible sites for a new grit bin. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the grit bin should be installed in Style Road, near to the doctor's surgery, and possibly set back into the bank.

Allotments – The Clerk read an email from John Hamilton, Chairman of the Allotment Association proposing to use allotment no. 1 (which is currently vacant) as a 'taster' to people who may only be interested in a ½ or 1/3 plot. He suggested the idea had received wide support from their members and the association would undertake to keep the allotment under control if parts of it were not used. Bill Whitman suggested the allotment should be sprayed for weeds whilst vacant. Peter Parker reported that there were seven people on the waiting list for an allotment and it was agreed that ideally he should let the allotment to someone on the waiting list and that in the meantime it should be sprayed for weeds.

The Clerk reported he had received an estimate acquired by the Tenant's Association for extending the water supply and it was agreed that the Parish Council would go ahead with Option 2 at a cost of £170.

Sara Fairfax asked if the Parish Council would be able to provide additional allotments in the future and Peter Parker felt this should be borne in mind when land is developed for private housing. Brian Collingridge agreed to look into what land is currently surplus to development needs. Peter Berman suggested that the allotments could be sold for development and new allotment land could then be purchased, and Bill Whitman agreed to explore the possibility of tenants sharing allotments.

Slape Moor Cottages – The Clerk read an email from Ian Titcombe at County Highways regarding the road junction at Slape Moor Cottages and advising that there was no action he could take as the road was private. It was agreed this would be referred to the complainant.

Road Signage – The Clerk read a letter from Jeremy Browne MP regarding his ongoing consultations for new road signs in respect of family centres and locations like Old Brewery Road. It was agreed that Brian Collingridge would respond.

Speed Limit Review – The Clerk read a letter from Jeremy Browne MP and Somerset County Council advising that there was little further action that could be taken to expedite the speed limit review. Peter Berman felt it was a pity the County Council got their priorities so wrong when the limits were set. It was agreed the Clerk would pass this comment on to the County Council and Jeremy Browne. Discussion then followed on whether the current speed limit could be enforced.

Brendon Power Washers – Brian Collingridge reported that solicitors had now met and matters were in hand.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Mary Whitmarsh reported that more planting was required at the Jubilee Gardens because of damage caused by children running through the main borders, which was agreed. Mary Whitmarsh went on to report that Taunton Deane were undertaking consultation workshops which she encouraged Councillors to attend, and that a new mayor had been elected. With reference to the proposed Children's Centre a meeting will shortly be held to discuss the consultants' findings and Parish Councillors were urged to attend. Peter Parker asked whether the land at Croft Way could be used for parking however it was felt that this was unlikely to happen.

7. KINGSMEAD SCHOOL

The Chairman pointed out that concern had been expressed at the Annual Parish Meeting about the possible closure or re-structuring of the Special Needs Unit at Kingsmead and invited Mark Blaker to speak on the matter. Mark Blaker explained that he was the parent of a child who attends the unit and that funds are being withdrawn by the Education Department. The deadline for objections is Friday 12th May and these should be referred to John Rose at County Hall. Discussion followed and it was agreed the Clerk would write two letters, the

first querying why the Parish Council had not been consulted and asking for an extension to the consultation time and the second objecting to the closure of the unit and asking what alternative proposals were planned.

8. PLANNING

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

49/2005/052LB The Old Barns, Waldrige Farm, Wiveliscombe: Conversion of former agricultural building to single dwelling, as amended by agent's letter dated 5 March 2005.

49/2005/053 The Old Barns, Waldrige Farm, Wiveliscombe: As above.

49/2006/005 Higher Grants, Ford, Wiveliscombe: Erection of garage.

49/2006/006 Higher Grants, Ford, Wiveliscombe: Demolition of dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling and change of use of land from agricultural to domestic, as amended by agent's letter dated 7th April 2006.

49/2006/007 Higher Grants, Ford, Wiveliscombe:

Conversion of barn to dwelling.

49/2006/009CA The Old Hancock Brewery, Golden Hill, Wiveliscombe: Demolition of old brewery buildings.

49/2006/010 Burchers Farmhouse, Milverton: Erection of single storey extension

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

49/2006/016 Maundown Water Treatment Works, amended application – *It was agreed the Parish Council would support the application.*

49/2006/021 Nunnington Park Farm, Wiveliscombe: Erection of silage clamp – *The Parish Council had no comment to make.*

49/2006/022 Nunnington Park Farm, Wiveliscombe: Proposed extension to existing portal frame agricultural building for dry storage and livestock – *The Parish Council had no comment to make.*

49/2006/023 Culverhay, Wiveliscombe: Erection of agricultural building for animals – *Mrs Neate (the applicant) explained that the building was solely for animals and Peter Parker reiterated comments he made at the last meeting including that he and Peter Langdon had been on site and felt that the works were acceptable. The Parish Council agreed to support the application.*

The following applications had been received after circulation of the agenda:-

49/2006/026 Culverhay Cottage, Wiveliscombe: Erection of two storey extension – *The Parish Council had no comment to make.*

49/2006/024 Cordings Farm, Whitefield, Wiveliscombe: Erection of cattle shed/storage building – *The Parish Council had no comment to make.*

49/2006/027 24 North Street, Wiveliscombe: Conversion of barn to dwelling and extension of stable to form garage – *The Parish Council discussed this application and agreed to object on the following grounds:-*

(1) *Gadds Lane should not be used for vehicles because it is a footpath and vehicles will be dangerous to pedestrians.*

(2) *The conversion of the stable to a new garage will lead to an intensification of the access utilising part of Gadds Lane.*

(3) *Vehicles using Gadds Lane pose a danger at the junction with North Street.*

49/2006/015 Kingsmead, Jews Lane, West Street, Wiveliscombe: Conversion of outbuildings to dwelling – *The Parish Council supported the application.*

The Clerk reported that TDBC had refused the following application:-

49/2006/014T Application to fell two Yew trees included in Taunton Deane Borough (Wiveliscombe No1) Tree Preservation Order (1998) on land adjacent to the main road, at the entrance to Abbotsfield, Wiveliscombe.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

SCC – Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Workshop, 14th September 2006 – This was noted by the Parish Council and passed on to Brenda Boyland.

TDBC – Talking Tomorrow's Taunton Deane Exhibitions – Discussion took place about the importance of these exhibitions.

TDBC – Affordable Housing Open Day – Noted by the Parish Council.

10. PCSO'S REPORT

There were no officers available to report at the meeting and it is hoped by the Parish Council that a new PCSO would be appointed for the area in the near future.

11. ACCOUNTS

The most recent bank statement was endorsed as a true copy along with a copy of the book-keeping. The Clerk confirmed that the annual precept had been received and Peter Berman suggested that the Clerk should enquire with SALC whether further interest was due as the precept had been paid late.

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Busy Bees Playgroup (Grant)	£172.00
A J Bullen (Internal Audit)	£135.23
Rainbow Playgroup (Grant)	£258.00
Wiveliscombe Congregational Church (Grant)	£1280.00

The Clerk presented the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2006, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda. The accounts were approved by the Parish Council.

The Clerk explained that the external audit was due and asked the Council to agree the necessary responses in order that the Statement of Assurance could be completed, having circulated a copy with the agenda. It was agreed by the Parish Council that they had complied with the requirements of the Statement of Assurance.

12. WIVELISCOMBE AREA PARTNERSHIP

Brian Collingridge reported that an open day is to be held for the bungalows at the primary school which are due to be completed in mid June, and then went on to say that the family centre site at Croft Way would be further discussed at the next committee meeting when the consultants report back on their findings to date, and urged Councillors to attend.

13. MATTERS OF REPORT

There were no matters of report.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.