

WIVELISCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on MONDAY 8th OCTOBER 2007 at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre.

1. PRESENT

D Luxton (Chairman), P Parker, P Berman, R Matcham, Sir H Farrington, B Wilson, C Cridland, R Adams, J Ollerenshaw, P Langdon, B Whitman and A Somerfield, Mesdames M Whitmarsh, L Bedding, S Fairfax, B Boyland, District Councillor J Bone, T Parker (Press Officer) and R N V Hewitt (Clerk), ten members of the public, and PC M Jones.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from R Kingsley-Hall and County Councillor C Smeaton.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th September 2007 having been circulated were approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Wiveliscombe Area Partnership – Service Level Agreement – Mary Whitmarsh presented an overview of the work of the Community Office, including the Wivey Link, and reminded Councillors how the Wiveliscombe Area Partnership needed to know in advance what monies would be received so that they could apply for other grants and funding. Peter Parker proposed that the Parish Council make an annual grant in the amount of £3,000 per annum to WAP however this was not seconded. Bryn Wilson proposed firstly that an annual payment be made for the duration of the current Council and secondly that it be in the amount of £3,500 per annum, and this was seconded by Bill Whitman. Councillors voted on both of Bryn Wilson's proposals and, with ten Councillors in favour, the proposal was approved.

West Street Parking Restrictions – Mary Whitmarsh spoke regarding the problems of parking and traffic congestion in West Street and suggested that if the road was one way from the Square this would have advantages: it would free up the centre part of the road and provide more short term parking spaces. Various members of the public spoke in support of the proposal before it was discussed by Parish Councillors. Peter Parker felt that Jones Garage would be concerned about potential loss of trade and Peter Berman said whilst he agreed in principle the bus company would have to support the proposal. Discussion followed about the best way to take the initiative forward and it was agreed that the Clerk and Mary Whitmarsh would consult with Somerset County Council Highways and the bus company to see if they were in favour of the principle and the matter would then be discussed at the next meeting.

The Clerk reported he had received an email from Ian Titcombe, Somerset County Council Highways, confirming that the parking restriction amendments discussed at earlier meetings would be advertised and a three week consultation period would follow. It was agreed that the Clerk would enquire when the yellow lines might be installed after the end of the consultation period.

Higher Grants Farm – The Clerk reported he had received a letter from several residents concerned about the development at Higher Grants Farm, Ford. The Clerk went on to confirm that he had forwarded the letter to Taunton Deane Borough Council in order that they could investigate that the planning consents recently granted were being adhered to.

Wiveliscombe Quiz Trophy –The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from David Bond advising that the Congregational Church had purchased a Wiveliscombe quiz trophy and would be holding a quiz on 27th October and would very much like the Parish Council to submit a team to compete for the award. John Ollerenshaw agreed to enter the quiz and any Parish Councillors interested should contact him for further information.

Style Road – The Clerk read an email from Ian Titcombe confirming that Dennis Quick would be dealing with the hedge in Style Road as soon as possible.

Village Nameplates – The Clerk read an email from Ian Titcombe confirming that village nameplates would cost in the region of £200 and after some discussion it was agreed that this could not be undertaken in isolation for one hamlet as it might lead to an increased demand in other rural areas within the Parish which the Parish Council could not afford.

Kingsmead School – The Clerk read an email from Ian Titcombe advising that one of the coach operators had complained about traffic congestion and whether the Parish Council would like another meeting to look at parking restrictions in this area. It was agreed that more traffic control would be more appropriate.

Sewerage Works –The Clerk read an email from Wessex Water confirming that the fallen tree would be attended to in due course. Councillors expressed concern about the traffic management at the Wiveliscombe roundabout which has been installed as a result of Wessex Water installing a new drain from Lion D’Angers, and felt that the delays were unreasonable particularly on a Monday morning and Friday afternoon when the contractors were not on site. It was agreed that the Clerk would point this out to Wessex Water.

Litter Bins – The Clerk read an email from Brian Gibbs at Taunton Deane DLO confirming that the bins would cost £85 and the posts £45 plus VAT. It was agreed that the Parish Council would proceed to purchase three bins for the bottom of High Street, Silver Street and Ford Road.

Croft Way Car Park – The Clerk read a letter from Jonathan Pallett at Taunton Deane Parking Services confirming that the white lines would not be repainted until the long term use of the car park has been considered. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond asking for copies of any draft proposals and requesting a site meeting to discuss the matter further.

Mary Whitmarsh reported that she had been in correspondence with John Lewis at Taunton Deane regarding reorganisation of the car park and that if HGV’s were parked elsewhere a further 26 parking spaces might be created, clearly this cannot be taken any further until an alternative HGV park is identified. Regarding the overnight occupation of vehicles on the car park, John Lewis has advised that whilst this is a contravention of regulations evidence would be required for Taunton Deane to take the matter any further.

Speed Limit, West Road – The Clerk read a letter from Mr & Mrs Richard Newby regarding their campaign to alter the speed limit along West Road, and confirming that the relevant authorities have refused to reduce the speed limit on that section of the road. In the circumstances Mr Newby suggested that the town nameplate could be improved and they would be willing to donate a Christmas tree for erection in the Square this Christmas. The Parish Council agreed to ascertain the cost of new town signs and to suggest that Mr Newby speaks to Taunton Deane regarding the Christmas tree.

10 Parishes Festival – The Clerk read a letter from Pauline Homeshaw expressing thanks for the precept grant towards the 10 Parishes Festival.

5. PLANNING

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

49/2007/037 Tanglewood, Langley Cross, Wiveliscombe: Re-roof garage block, stone clad extension to east, new roof lights and renew windows and doors.

49/2007/042 The Three Horseshoes, Langley Marsh, Wiveliscombe: Installation of uPVC double glazed windows to replace timber framed windows.

49/2007/044 Land adjacent to Warren House, Milverton: Installation of radio transmission/receiving aerial and supporting 10m high timber mast and associated radio equipment housing.

49/2007/050 54 Nordens Meadow, Wiveliscombe: Conversion of integral garage to living accommodation.

49/2007/051 Higher Grants Farm, Wiveliscombe: Erection of detached double garage and revision to 49/2006/048 consisting of a glazed door to the west elevation.

49/2007/052 South of Pitt Farm, Ford, Wiveliscombe: Change of use of agricultural land to construct a riding manege.

49/2007/053 Ford Gate Cottage, Wiveliscombe: Replacement of conservatory with single storey extension, utility room and terrace to rear (amended scheme).

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

49/2007/056LB Tanglewood, Langley Cross: Re-roof garage block, stone clad extension to east, new roof lights and renew windows and doors – *The Parish Council had no comment to make.*

49/2007/057T The Old Quarry, Abbotsfield, Wiveliscombe: Application to fell 1 Sycamore tree and to coppice 2 Sycamores and 1 Lime tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Wiveliscombe No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1998 – *The Parish Council had no comment to make in respect of the above application.*

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

White Hart Hotel, Wiveliscombe: Reconfiguration of vehicle entrance and parking, provision of beer garden and smoking shelter, alterations to store building forming an external servery.

For Information:-

49/2007/054 Wivey View, Higher Whitefield, Wiveliscombe – Variation of Condition 11 of planning permission 49/2003/061 to allow for permanent residential rental usage in addition to the previously approved holiday accommodation use – *Withdrawn.*

49/2007/034 Land at rear of 6 High Street, Wiveliscombe: Erection of 3 no. one bedroom and 2 no. two bedroom flats in a three storey building with associated parking and cycle spaces – To be considered at a TDBC Planning Committee Meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

SCC – HGV Consultation – The Clerk read a letter from Somerset County Council asking the Parish Council to identify areas in and around the town which are natural pinch points for heavy goods vehicles as they are putting together a register for hauliers to consult. It was agreed that the Clerk would complete the form.

Eco Youth Group – The Clerk passed this request for volunteers to Ralph Matcham.

The Rambler's Association, Path Prioritisation – John Ollerenshaw gave a brief overview on the Path Prioritisation Scheme and the rambler's correspondence was passed to him for attention.

Taunton Deane Local Strategic Partnership, Community Partnership Meeting Invitation – This was discussed by Parish Councillors and Bill Whitman agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

7. POLICE REPORT

PC Mark Jones reported that it had been a busy month in Wiveliscombe with one serious assault, a mini riot including damaged cars in North Street and a broken window at the Court House, and a knife assault incident outside the chip shop.

8. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Members of the public raised the matter of young people and underage drinking and poor behaviour at the Recreation Ground, and some discussion followed. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next Parish Meeting with reference to a potential alcohol ban in the town.

9. ACCOUNTS

The most recent book-keeping and bank statements were endorsed as originals.

Mr C Heard (Jubilee Gardens)	£128.00
Replicated Solutions (Website)	£205.63
St Andrew's Church (Grant)	£925.00
Recreation Ground (Grant)	£2310.00

10. WIVELISCOMBE AREA PARTNERSHIP

Peter Berman reported that the Children's Centre would be constructed by Christmas ready for occupation in March 2008.

11. PRECEPT 2008/09

The Clerk reminded Councillors that a budget and draft figures had been circulated with the agenda and asked if there were any queries or whether an overview was required. It was generally felt that the figures were clearly understood and Bryn Wilson proposed that the precept be set in the amount of £17,600, the same as last year, and the proposal was seconded by Peter Parker. A vote was taken and the proposal was approved unanimously.

12. MATTERS OF REPORT

John Ollerenshaw reported that he had attended a Somerset County Council meeting regarding footpaths and rights of way and had been requested to complete a list of landowners so that minor matters could be reported direct. The bulb planting would be going ahead at the Wiveliscombe Roundabout sculpture on Saturday morning and volunteers were required.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.