

WIVELISCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on MONDAY 9TH JULY 2007 at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre.

1. PRESENT

D Luxton (Chairman), B Collingridge (Vice-Chairman), P Parker, A Somerfield, R Matcham, P Berman, B Whitman, H Farrington, B Wilson, C Cridland, R Adams, P Langdon, J Ollerenshaw, R Kingsley Hall, Mesdames B Boyland, S Fairfax, L Bedding, and R N V Hewitt (Clerk), District Councillor J Bone, Press Officer Tim Parker and four members of the public.

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th June 2007 having been circulated were approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Somerset Waste Action Programme – Hilary Wright spoke for the Waste Programme about what happens to household waste once it has been collected and has left Wiveliscombe, and gave an interesting presentation on the pros and cons of recycling and processing waste.

Conservation Area Review – Benjamin Webb, Taunton Deane Borough Council Conservation Officer, spoke regarding the ongoing Conservation Area Review and explained that this was currently in appraisal form about to be put forward to the Strategic Planning and Transport Committee for adoption. Concern was expressed about the proposals to remove Abbotsfield and Culverhead from the current Conservation Area and to include the Recreation Ground. Benjamin Webb touched on the reasons for non-inclusion of these areas and it became apparent that the Square was also to be excluded from the Conservation Area. Much concern was expressed about the lack of consultation and insufficient notice given to the Parish Council and Benjamin Webb stated that the District Authority were not under any statutory obligation to consult. Representatives from Abbotsfield attended the meeting and referred to planning policy guidance notes which recommend consultation as a matter of good practise and queried why they had not been directly informed of the Conservation Area Review. Benjamin Webb was very defensive about the limited consultation exercise and claimed that he had written to the Parish Council earlier in the year. Peter Berman summed up the Parish Council's feelings by saying that Taunton Deane could either choose to ignore the Parish Council or decide to extend the consultation period so that local people's views could be heard. It was agreed that District Councillor John Bone would take the matter up with the portfolio holder at Taunton Deane as the consultation period had now ended.

Community Office – Brian Collingridge reported that Mary Whitmarsh would be putting forward some proposals for a Service Level Agreement at the next Parish Council meeting.

Stockers Close – The Clerk read a letter from Taunton Deane confirming that action would be taken regarding the boundaries of Stockers Close where they adjoin Mr Gadd's property.

Bulland Ford – The Clerk read an email from Dennis Quick, Somerset County Council Highways, confirming that the 'Unsuitable for HGV's' sign would be moved to the verge of

the B3227. Bill Whitman confirmed that he thought a sign had now been located in this position.

Grandthistle Properties Limited – The Clerk read a letter from Grandthistle Properties Limited in connection with the Malthouse and it was agreed the Clerk would respond saying that the Parish Council note the comments being made and have no control over the policing arrangements in the town. The Clerk reported that he thought the police had agreed to include the Malthouse on their beat and it was considered that it might be a good idea if the police had a key to the locked gate.

Recycling Collections – The Clerk read a letter from Taunton Deane Waste Services confirming that recycling bins for paper, glass and cans can be made available to residents of the Malthouse and Wyndhams Flats upon request.

Gadds Lane – The Clerk read an email from Somerset County Council Highways confirming that they had recorded a complaint made about overhanging vegetation along Gadds Lane and would deal with the matter as soon as possible. Highways had also confirmed that the overhanging vegetation is the responsibility of various adjoining property owners where it is coming from their land.

2007 Election – The Clerk read a letter from Craig Morse at Taunton Deane Electoral Services confirming that Parish Councillors should submit a nil return in respect of expenses as this is a statutory requirement.

Golden Hill – The Clerk reported he had received a copy of the agreed proposals for waiting restrictions in Golden Hill to be amended and this had now been sent to Caroline Smeaton for approval and further consultation. Ralph Matcham mentioned there was still no news about the revised parking designations outside the Primary School and it was agreed the Clerk would refer this to Ian Titcombe at County Council Highways.

Insurance – The Clerk reported he had now received confirmation from Allianz that the increased Fidelity Guarantee was in place.

Wiveliscombe Swimming Pool – The Clerk reported he had received an email from Phil Cookson confirming that plans for the improvement of the swimming pool had still to be submitted to Taunton Deane and that once consent had been granted they intended to claim the Precept Grant recently awarded by the Parish Council. The Chairman reported he had spoken to Mr Cookson and had confirmed he would be welcome to attend a Parish Council meeting to explain the application once it had been submitted.

Wiveliscombe House – The Clerk referred to the last meeting when PCSO Sharon Cridland had explained to the Parish Council that the police were trying to fundraise monies for a computer and secure telephone line so that they could work from Wiveliscombe House. The Clerk reported he had met PC Mark Jones recently who had confirmed that the County Council had awarded a £750.00 grant towards the new computer through County Councillor Caroline Smeaton and the police were still looking for approximately £250.00 to cover the cost of the secure telephone line. It was agreed the Parish Council would consider making a grant at their August meeting and in the meantime the Clerk would contact PC Mark Jones to enquire why the police could not find this sum from their own substantial resources, particularly as the office space at Wiveliscombe House was very affordable and the police would incur savings by not having to travel to Wellington so often.

Press Officer – The Chairman pointed out that Tim Parker had agreed to act voluntarily as the Parish Council's Press Officer.

5. PLANNING

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

49/2007/025 Co-op Store, The Square, Wiveliscombe: Retention of canopy to rear of store for period of 3 years.

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

49/2007/041LB Abbotsfield South, Abbotsfield, Wiveliscombe: Reinstate glazed roof to conservatory, partially reinstate double height room from a ground floor room, move kitchen to first floor, convert old kitchen to shower room, and removal of crazy paving patio and reinstate using natural stone slabs and gravel (application received post agenda) – *The Parish Council discussed the application and decided they had no comments to make as they were more than happy to leave the matter in the capable hands of the Conservation Officer.*

49/2007/034 Land at rear of 6 High Street, accessed from the Car Park, Wiveliscombe: Erection of 3 No. one bedroom and 3 No. two bedroom flats in a three storey building with associated parking and cycle spaces – *After much discussion the Parish Council agreed to object to this application on the grounds that the proposal was over development of the site, there was insufficient space for parking both for the new development and the current vehicles associated with no. 6, intensification of the existing access, the development will lead to an increase in parking at Croft Way which is already at capacity and the increase of vehicles to the site gives rise to safety concerns for pedestrians using the nearby recycling facilities and accessing the Community Centre on foot. It was also generally felt that a three storey building on this site was not appropriate within the Conservation Area.*

49/2007/036 16 Style Road, Wiveliscombe (Amended scheme to 49/2006/038): Erection of single storey extension to rear – *The Parish Council agreed that it had no comments to make on this application.*

49/2007/038 The Farm House, Challick Farm, Wiveliscombe (Revised Design 49/2007/014): Erection of two storey extension and conversion of barn to living accommodation – *The Parish Council decided that having considered this application previously and in the light of the revisions it had no further comments to make.*

43/2007/076 Dining Room, Wellington School, South Street, Wellington: Erection of single storey extension – *The Parish Council noted this application of interest but as it is out of the Parish Council's area no comments or discussions were forthcoming.*

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

49/2007/024 Construction of new access off B3187 (near B3227) to serve proposed fishing lake between Milverton and Wiveliscombe.

49/2006/061 Change of use of kennel block to residential accommodation at Higher Whitefield, Wiveliscombe.

49/2007/026LB Retention of canopy to rear of store for period of three years, Co-op Store, The Square, Wiveliscombe – Received post agenda.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Cycle Racks – The Clerk read an email from John Herrington, Taunton Deane Borough Council, explaining that grants were currently available for the installation of cycle racks. Various sites were considered including the Recreation Ground, the Square and the Croft Way Car Park. It was agreed the Clerk would make further enquiries about what is involved, the cost of cycle racks and whether the grant would cover the entire cost.

Taunton Deane Standards Committee – The Clerk read a letter requesting nominations for Parish Council representatives to sit on the Taunton Deane Standards Committee. It was agreed the Clerk would put forward the names of Peter Berman and Bryn Wilson.

Lion D'Angers/Nordens Meadow – The Clerk reported he had received correspondence from Somerset Highways confirming that the centre of Lion D'Angers would be closed to traffic for six weeks from 20th August 2007 to facilitate improvements to the storm water sewers.

7. ACCOUNTS

The most recent bank statements were endorsed as originals and the book-keeping was signed as a correct record.

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| Mr C Heard (Jubilee Gardens) | £124.00 |
| Replicated Solutions (Website) | £205.63 |
| Victim Support Somerset (Grant) | £79.00 |
| Moore Stephens (Audit) | £158.63 |

8. PCSO's REPORT

There was no police presence at the meeting.

9. WIVELISCOMBE AREA PARTNERSHIP

Brian Collingridge reported that the proposed Business Park entrance off the main roundabout would not be going ahead as Grampian Foods had refused to cooperate and that access would now have to be off the B3227. The Children's Centre planning application was awaiting final approval from Somerset County Council and works have been programmed. Works at Allenslade for the new affordable and shared cost housing was well underway with many roofs now going up and the rental properties appear to be oversubscribed.

10. MATTERS OF REPORT

Several Councillors raised the matter of Sunday parking restrictions at Silver Street and West Street and it was agreed that the Clerk would query why these currently prohibit more than sixty minutes waiting on a Sunday.

Somerset Waste – It was agreed that the presentation made by Hilary Wright was very comprehensive and interesting and the Clerk should pass on the Parish Council's thanks to her.

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