

# WIVELISCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## *MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007 at 7.00 pm in the Silver Street Centre.*

### 1. PRESENT

D Luxton (Chairman), B Collingridge (Vice-Chairman), T Hill, P Parker, R Matcham, P Berman, H Farrington, P Langdon, B Whitman, Mesdames B Boyland, S Fairfax, and R N V Hewitt (Clerk). The meeting was also attended by two members of the public.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from T Parker, C Cridland and Mrs M Prior,

### 3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007 having been circulated were approved but Councillor Peter Berman pointed out that he had been travelling for several months and before his departure he did tender in writing his apologies to the Clerk for forthcoming meetings and this was noted by the Parish Council.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

Before turning to matters arising the Chairman mentioned to the Parish Council that Councillor Margaret Prior had recently had a bereavement and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to her to express the condolences of the Parish Council.

**Grants Lane** – The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Mr D Donati complaining about the build up of mud on the highway adjacent his property. The Chairman pointed out that he had reported this matter direct to the Highways Authority for attention.

**Election Nominations** – The Clerk confirmed that he had received a Statement of Persons Nominated for the forthcoming Parish and District Council elections and that due to insufficient candidates standing there would not be an election.

**Highway Matters** – The Clerk referred to several emails from Dennis Quick, Highways Manager at Somerset County Council, confirming that various matters reported by the Parish Council would be attended to. In particular, the Clerk highlighted that the Highways Authority would not be willing to meet at Bulland Ford and had already put measures in hand including relocating the HGV sign, however it was felt by the Parish Council that this sign should be positioned at the entrance of Challick Lane where it adjoins the B3227 and it was agreed the Clerk would point this out to the Highways Authority. Parish Councillors also pointed out that the overgrown hedge at 25 Golden Hill had been cut back but vegetation was still growing at the base of the wall which would cause the problem to re-occur, and it was also pointed out the silt traps for the drains at Jews Lane still need cleaning out. With regard to the latter item it was agreed that the Clerk would ask the Highways Authority to confirm exactly when the drains would be dealt with at Jews Lane.

**Allotments** – The Clerk read an email from John Hamilton, Chairman of the Tenants Association, confirming there had been another minor theft on the allotments and suggesting that a padlock should be put on the gate. Peter Parker reported he had been to a meeting where various tenants had objected to the principle of locking the gate and it was agreed not to take any action but to monitor the situation.

**Parking Restrictions** – The Clerk read an email from County Councillor Caroline Smeaton confirming the timetable for improving the parking restrictions in North Street, opposite the primary school, and Councillor Ralph Matcham pointed out that in recent weeks the congestion had improved.

**Community Centre** – The Clerk informed the Parish Council that he had received a request from the management committee for a Parish Councillor to be nominated as a member on the management committee of the Community Centre and it was agreed that this should be carried forward to the next meeting for the attention of the newly elected Parish Council.

**County Council Unitary Proposals** – Peter Berman spoke regarding the procedure for dealing with the County Council’s proposals for a Unitary Authority and referred to an invitation to attend some ‘consultation’ meetings. The Clerk mentioned he had received an invitation to attend such a meeting and it was agreed that Peter Berman would speak to the County Council querying whether the proposed meetings were appropriate given that the Government would be administrating the process. It was also agreed by the Parish Council that this was a matter that the newly elected Parish Council should deal with and should be put forward for discussion, again at the May meeting.

**Gadds Lane** – Parish Councillors raised the issue of the stone wall which is in need of repair at Gadds Lane, and a raised concrete block wall which requires attention and is owned by Taunton Deane or Somerset County Council. It was agreed the Clerk would chase these matters up and with regard to the stone wall would refer this to the Conservation Officer at Taunton Deane Borough Council.

## 5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Chairman invited comments from members of the public attending the meeting and Mr Keyhan referred to two matters for the Parish Council’s attention. Concern was expressed about the proposed Children’s Centre building roof and water run off from the site which might impact on the Culverhay Stream which is already at capacity during the winter months. Brian Collingridge was able to confirm that a new sewer for foul and clean water was proposed in the plans which were still to be considered by the Parish Council in due course. Secondly, road safety was discussed, in particular in the vicinity of Kingsmead School and Mr Keyhan felt that speeding cars in this area were likely to cause a serious accident and the speed limit should be reduced to 20 miles per hour. Bryn Wilson pointed out that this issue had been explored in some detail previously, however it was agreed by the Parish Council that the Clerk would refer this matter to Ian Titcombe at Somerset County Council Highways for comment. Peter Berman pointed out that the traffic at Kingsmead was compounded by the road signage in the area directing traffic to Wellington via South Street and past Kingsmead.

## 6. PLANNING

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

49/2007/006 Flead Farm, Wiveliscombe: Erection of agricultural storage building to be used to store machinery/materials, and housing livestock and fodder.

49/2007/007 24 Silver Street, Wiveliscombe: Conversion of shop and storage/garage to enlarged one three bedroom dwelling and replacement of shop front (as amended by agent’s letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007)

49/2007/009T Abbotsfield: Application to fell 2 Ash trees included in Taunton Deane Borough (Wiveliscombe No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1998.

49/2007/011 Kingsmead House, Wiveliscombe: Erection of double garage.

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

49/2007/012 1 Market Place, Wiveliscombe: Erection of single storey UPVC conservatory to rear – *The Parish Council supported the application.*

49/2007/014 The Farm House, Challick Farm, Wiveliscombe: Erection of two storey extension and conversion of barn to living accommodation – *The Parish Council had no comment to make.*

49/2007/015 Land at Wiveliscombe Motors, West Road, Wiveliscombe: Erection of two detached dwellings, demolition of garage buildings – *Concern was expressed about the impact of the proposed roof lines within the Conservation Area.*

49/2007/016CA Wiveliscombe Motors, West Road, Wiveliscombe: Demolition of garage buildings – *The Parish Council had no comment to make.*

49/2007/013 40 Nordens Meadow, Wiveliscombe: Erection of conservatory – *The Parish Council supported the application.*

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

49/2006/071 Use of land for B1 (light industry) B2 (general industry) and B8 (warehouse and distribution) development including the formation of vehicular access from the B3227, OS plot 8457, land south of B3227, east of Wiveliscombe.

## **7. SPEEDWATCH**

The Chairman invited Bryn Wilson to show the Parish Council the new speed detection gun which had been purchased and a short discussion followed about how the Speedwatch campaign operates in the town

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

Police presence – The Chairman reported he had received an email from a local resident suggesting the Parish Council might be able to help facilitate a permanent police office when the new 10 Parishes Community building opens in the town, which was noted by the Parish Council.

Wivey Link – The Clerk read a letter from Wivey Link Limited expressing their thanks for the grant of £500 towards the purchase of a new vehicle.

Highways Survey – The Clerk reported he had received an annual highways survey from the County Council which was passed to Bill Whitman for completion.

## **9. POLICE REPORT**

The meeting was not attended by a police representative, however Bryn Wilson was able to report to the Parish Council that several windows had been broken or damaged at Kingsmead School and the primary school had had problems with minor vandalism.

## **10. ACCOUNTS**

The most recent bank statements were endorsed as originals.

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Wiveliscombe Congregational Church (Hire of hall)	£22.50
Wiveliscombe Community Centre (Hire of hall)	£45.00
Replicated Solutions (Website)	£205.63
Allianz Cornhill (Insurance)	£693.68
D B Wilson (Reimbursement speedgun)	£78.00
D Burton (Town clock)	£100.00
Somerset Community Centre (Subscription)	£25.00
D B Wilson (Reimbursement batteries)	£2.50

The Clerk reported he had received several requests for payments of precept grants which he would undertake once the annual precept had been received from Taunton Deane Borough Council. Discussion followed and the following grant payments were approved:-

Wiveliscombe Community Office	£2785.00
Rainbow Playgroup	£324.00
Wiveliscombe Tennis Club	£1229.00

## **11. WIVELISCOMBE AREA PARTNERSHIP**

Brian Collingridge reported that construction of the new houses at Allenslade was ongoing and the foundations and groundworks should be completed by mid June and the houses occupied by Christmas. If any local people are interested in applying for the houses they should see the article in this month's Messenger or go to Wiveliscombe House where they would find application forms and details of the properties being built. Brian Collingridge went on to say that excavations were being undertaken in Ford Road and apparently Wessex Water may be installing a new sewer, and with reference to the Wiveliscombe Business Park, the developers are trying to agree an alternative access route with Grampian Foods.

## **12. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

No District Councillors were present at the meeting.

## **13. MATTERS OF REPORT**

Bryn Wilson expressed his thanks to those Councillors standing down and it was agreed the Clerk would write to the retiring Councillors expressing the Parish Council's gratitude for their services to the community. Ralph Matcham expressed his personal thanks to the Chairman and Clerk for their work during the last three years. Peter Berman suggested it would be a good idea if a photograph was taken of the current Parish Council and it was agreed the Clerk would write to all Parish Councillors confirming this would be undertaken at the Community Office in approximately three weeks time. Sara Fairfax referred to the 30 miles per hour speed limit along Croft Way and towards Abbotsfield and it was explained by various Parish Councillors that the speed limit could not be extended up the hill. Tony Hill referred to the Town Hall Trust and asked what progress was being made. The Chairman was able to confirm that discussions are ongoing with the Co-op.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.