

WIVELISCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on MONDAY 10th DECEMBER 2007 at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre.

1. PRESENT

D Luxton (Chairman), B Collingridge, R Matcham, P Parker, C Cridland, B Wilson, B Whitman, R Adams, A Somerfield, P Langdon, J Ollerenshaw, P Berman, R Kingsley-Hall, Mesdames M Whitmarsh, L Bedding, B Boyland, R N V Hewitt (Clerk), T Parker and one member of the public. The meeting was also attended by District Councillor Ross Henley, Leader of Taunton Deane Borough Council.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mesdame S Fairfax and Sir H Farrington.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th November 2007 had been circulated and Peter Parker mentioned that the access at Jones' Garage was said to be required in both directions as well as on to Croft Way, and apart from this the minutes were duly approved without amendment.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Payment for Litter Bins and Signage – The Clerk confirmed he had written to the Leader of Taunton Deane and to the Director of Highways at Somerset County Council to query why the Parish Council were expected to pay for replacement town signs and litter bins. An acknowledgement had been received from Steve Altridge at Somerset County Council confirming the matter had been passed to Mr Ioan Rees, the Head of Highways, and the Leader of Taunton Deane had agreed to attend the meeting to discuss the matter.

Croft Way Car Park – The Clerk mentioned that various Councillors had met at the Croft Way Car Park with John Pallett from Taunton Deane to discuss the layout of the car park with a view to increasing car parking capacity. It was agreed at that meeting that the Parish Council would formally request a Traffic Order prohibiting large HGV and PSV parking in order to create additional parking spaces for shoppers and residents. At the same time Councillors inspected the foot path from the car park to West Street and it was agreed that if Taunton Deane could find some funding for re-surfacing the path then the Parish Council would consider making a contribution along with the Community Centre.

South Street Congestion – The Clerk mentioned that Parish Councillors had had a site meeting in South Street with Ian Titcombe of County Council Highways to look at the difficulties when coach operators leave Kingsmead Community School and it was agreed that County Council Highways would look into the phasing of the traffic lights to see if this would help address the situation.

One Way Proposal for West Street – The Clerk read a letter from Dan Martin, Somerset Highways Local Transport Plan Officer, confirming that the proposal for a one way system had been scored against the 2006 – 2011 budget criteria and had failed to achieve the necessary points. It was now on a list of candidate schemes with 600 other similar requests and would be reviewed from time to time by the Highways Department. Following some discussion it was agreed the Clerk would respond asking if the proposed scheme could still be

assessed and the feasibility undertaken to ascertain whether it would be an attractive proposal or not, and if necessary a site meeting should be held to discuss matters.

Cycle Racks – The Clerk read an email from John Herrington at Taunton Deane confirming the new cycle racks would be installed within the next two weeks.

Allotments – The Clerk reported that he had recently completed a questionnaire from Taunton Deane asking for a copy of the Parish Council's allotment risk assessment and reminded Councillors this was an ongoing matter. The Clerk further explained that Councillor Bryn Wilson, with the assistance of others, had compiled a risk assessment policy and it was agreed this would be forwarded to Peter Berman and Adrian Somerfield for comment. Bryn Wilson explained that if the policy was accepted by the Parish Council a risk assessment would be undertaken in the New Year. It was also agreed that Bryn Wilson would email the draft document to the above Councillors.

Pipe Storage at Land Adjacent Emborough Sub-station – The Clerk read a letter from John Hardy, Planning Enforcement Officer at Taunton Deane, explaining that they were taking the matter of the pipe storage up with the owner of the land and would keep the Parish Council informed of the situation.

Jubilee Gardens – The Clerk read a letter from the headmaster at Kingsmead Community School apologising for the recent problems of litter at the gardens and confirming he would be raising this matter with the young people at Kingsmead.

Hillcommon Speed Review – The Clerk read a letter from Jeremy Browne MP confirming that he had written to Somerset County Council regarding the re-appraisal of the speed restrictions at Hillcommon following the County Council's speed review some years ago.

Parking Restrictions – The Clerk read an email from Ian Titcombe confirming that the restrictions at North Street (adjacent the primary school) would be put in place as soon as possible and the other proposals referred to in earlier minutes will be considered at a later date.

Litter Bins, The Square – The Clerk read an email from Brian Gibbs at Taunton Deane pointing out that the Parish Council's litter bin at The Square needed repair and it was agreed Bryn Wilson would look into this matter and if he could not get it repaired locally the Clerk would ask the DLO to undertake the necessary works.

Litter Bins, South Street – The Clerk read a letter from Tony Turner, the Works Manager at Taunton Deane DLO, confirming he had received a request from a resident of Wiveliscombe for a litter bin to be installed in South Street. After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for a litter bin to be positioned half way down South Street, in the vicinity of Parricks Place, albeit at the Parish Council's cost.

Age Concern – The Clerk referred to a letter he had received from Age Concern requesting a donation and it was agreed the Clerk should respond on the basis that applications should be made as part of the precept grant round and it was unlikely that a grant will be made to Age Concern as priority is given to local organisations and charities.

Internal Auditor – The Clerk read a letter from Mr A J Bullen seeking re-appointment as the Parish Council's internal auditor and this was agreed.

Town Nameplate – The Clerk read an email from Ian Titcombe confirming the cost of renewing the town nameplate at Abbotsfield would be £260.00 and this was agreed by the Parish Council on condition that the old sign is retained in case it can be restored and used elsewhere in the locality.

Dog Wardens – The Clerk read a letter from the Dog Wardens requiring details of local byelaws and whilst it was agreed that the Parish Council did not have any such byelaws restrictions were in place at the Recreation Ground and Kingsmead.

Parking Sub-committee – Bill Whitman reported that the sub-committee had met to discuss various ideas for improving parking in the town and agreed he would circulate minutes of the meeting to all Parish Councillors shortly.

Alcohol Prohibition Order – Bryn Wilson reminded the Parish Council that an Alcohol Prohibition Order had been discussed on various occasions at the request of local beat officers who had since worked up draft boundaries for such an Order to cover most areas of Wiveliscombe. Brian Collingridge proposed that as this had been requested by the beat officer

the Parish Council should take the matter forward which was seconded by Bill Whitman and agreed. The Clerk agreed to refer the matter to Taunton Deane asking how it could be best taken forward.

Recreation Ground, Appointment of Councillor Committee Members – Bill Whitman reminded the Parish Council that the current committee comprised Bryn Wilson, Bill Whitman, Lisa Bedding, Colin Cridland, Ralph Matcham, Peter Parker, Brenda Boyland and Peter Langdon. Peter Berman proposed these Councillors be re-elected on block as Recreation Ground Management Committee representatives, however, after some discussion it was agreed that Richard Adams would replace Lisa Bedding and Robert Kingsley-Hall would replace Ralph Matcham, and subject to this the re-election was unanimously agreed.

5. COUNCILLOR ROSS HENLEY, LEADER OF TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Chairman invited Ross Henley to speak to the Parish Council and after a brief discussion the matter of paying for litter bins was raised by Bryn Wilson who asked what legislation dictated what is included and excluded from the Parish precept. Ross Henley agreed he would find this out and would write to the Clerk. John Ollerenshaw added that in recent years bins had been removed from South Street by the District Authority and that the bins were presumably the property of the Parish Council, and they should therefore be replaced elsewhere in the town. Peter Berman expressed the Parish Council's thanks to Taunton Deane for re-erecting the Christmas tree in The Square which had blown over in a storm and other matters raised included Taunton Deane's own precept collection, including a small fund which was unspent in the town area, the Croft Way Car Park and path to West Street, the vision for Taunton and other matters of interest. Ross Henley confirmed that he would look into all the points raised and that he was actively supporting an increase in the payment for the Community Office in the next Taunton Deane budget round.

6. PLANNING

The Clerk reported that TDBC had approved the following applications which were received after the agenda had been circulated:-

49/2007/033 Croford House, Croford, Wiveliscombe: Change of use of agricultural land to allow formation of tennis court with associated fencing.

49/2007/048LB 7 & 9 Silver Street, Wiveliscombe: Alterations to change two semi detached dwellings into one dwelling, erection of porch and erection of store.

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

49/2007/062 Dene View, West Road, Wiveliscombe: Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden – *The Parish Council supported the application.*

49/2007/068 Unit 5, Fleed Farm, Wiveliscombe: Erection of detached double garage – *The Parish Council had no comment to make.*

49/2007/070 1 Plain Pond, Wiveliscombe: Erection of dwelling to rear – *The Parish Council had no comment to make.*

49/2007/071 White Hart Hotel, Wiveliscombe: Re-configuration of vehicle entrance, provision of beer garden and smoking shelter, alterations to store building forming an external servery – *The Parish Council supported the application and would support any improvement to the access.*

49/2007/073 16 North Street, Wiveliscombe: Erection of 2 dwellings – *Councillor Peter Parker expressed an interest in the application and left the room whilst the matter was discussed. The Clerk reported he had received seven letters making representations against the proposed development primarily flagging up issues relating to parking and access and it was agreed these letters would be forwarded to Taunton Deane with the Parish Council's own comments. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the Parish Council would respond to*

Taunton Deane that it was sympathetic to the problems identified in the residents' letters of objection and that the Parish Council had concerns regarding inadequate parking on site, traffic congestion, and traffic safety relating particularly to poor visibility and that on referral to Highways a full assessment should be undertaken.

49/2007/072AGN Emborough Bungalow, Wiveliscombe: Agricultural Notification: Erection of dry storage building – *This was noted by the Parish Chouncil..*

The following items were noted:-

E230/49/2007 Candlesrees, Maundown, Wiveliscombe: Enforcement Item.

WAS/R58/PD25/1447 Unit 5, Flead Farm, Wiveliscombe: Appeal against refusal of planning permission.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Development of land at Style Road – The Clerk read an email from a consultancy appointed by Gadd Homes Limited to undertake public consultation in respect of the above land prior to a planning application being submitted to Taunton Deane and it was agreed that Mark Crosby of Consensus Stakeholder Consultation would be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to start the consultation process.

Area Youth Worker's Scheme – The Clerk read an email from County Councillor Caroline Smeaton confirming that funding had been found to employ a Youth Worker in the area for twelve months and requesting a volunteer from the Parish Council to sit on the scheme committee. It was agreed the Clerk would forward a copy of Caroline Smeaton's email to all Parish Councillors and confirm that Ralph Matcham would represent the Parish Council.

Croft Way trees – The Clerk read an email from Taunton Deane's Tree Officer confirming that a Red Chestnut would have to be felled in the south side of the Croft Way Car Park and the tree would be replaced in due course. Following discussion it was agreed the Clerk would respond that whilst the Parish Council were happy for the tree to be taken down they questioned the need for its replacement given the canopy and future growth of trees immediately adjoining.

8. ACCOUNTS

Clerk's salary & expenses	£936.02
Mr C Heard (Jubilee Gardens)	£142.00

It was agreed by the Parish Council that the Taunton Deane DLO invoice in the amount of £352.50 would not be paid until the Parish Council had received a response from Councillor Ross Henley.

9. PRECEPT GRANTS 2008/09

The Parish Council considered four grant applications and agreed grants would be awarded as follows:-

Wiveliscombe Swimming Pool	£3,637.00
Wiveliscombe Scouts	£154.00
10 Radio	£545.00
Rainbow Playgroup	£2,485.00

It was further agreed that the balance of the precept monies would be ring fenced for new bins and improvements/re-surfacing at Croft Way Car Park. The above grants were proposed by Peter Parker and seconded by Bryn Wilson and agreed unanimously.

10. WIVELISCOMBE AREA PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Brian Collingridge reported that the Childrens' Centre would be erected and the structure waterproof by late January, and the development was on course for completion and handover in April 2008. Staff appointments were currently ongoing and consultation was being undertaken with local parents.

11. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Mr Tony Hill highlighted the importance of parking and suggested that land adjoining the North Street Car Park could be purchased to increase parking in the town. Discussion followed and the ongoing parking initiatives were highlighted.

12. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Mary Whitmarsh had no further comments to make having discussed various matters throughout the meeting.

13. MATTERS OF REPORT

Lisa Bedding pointed out that now the Reading Rooms had been sold in Silver Street the floodlight was not in use creating a dark patch and she felt that the street lighting in this area was inadequate. The Clerk agreed to pass the matter on to the relevant authority for consideration.

Colin Cridland reported that a resident at 17 Plain Pond was having ongoing problems with a large tree growing in the verge outside her property which was now starting to get caught up in the overhead cables and was causing a lack of light in the house. It was agreed the Clerk would raise this matter with Taunton Deane Housing Department.

Bill Whitman reported that the gullies on the main road at Abbotsfield needed cleaning and it was agreed the Clerk would refer this to Taunton Deane.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm with the Chairman wishing all Parish Councillors a Happy Christmas.