

WIVELISCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2006 at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre.

1. PRESENT

D Luxton (Chairman), B Collingridge (Vice-Chairman), T Hill, P Parker, T Parker, H Farrington, C Cridland, P Langdon, R Matcham, B Whitman, B Wilson, Mesdames M Whitmarsh, M Prior, S Fairfax, B Boyland, and R N V Hewitt (Clerk). The meeting was also attended by Emily Ruthven from Age Concern, PC Mark Jones, County Councillor C Smeaton, the Press and members of the public.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from C Bramall.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th August 2006 having been circulated were agreed as a correct record save for one manuscript amendment recording that Margaret Prior was present at the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Business Park – The Clerk read a letter from the Chairman of Somerset County Council acknowledging receipt of the Parish Council's letter dated 16th August 2006 as detailed in the last set of minutes, along with a similar letter from Jeremy Browne MP. Caroline Smeaton gave a brief update and confirmed that she too was frustrated by the situation, and understood that there was an agreement in principle to reduce the speed limit, and that moves were afoot within the County Council to call a meeting of all parties concerned as soon as possible.

Croft Way Speed Limit – The Clerk read an email from Bev Norman, Somerset County Council Traffic Team Manager, confirming that the consultation period for the 30 mph limit sign had formally ended but as an objection had been received there was a formal process to go through before the works could be ordered. Caroline Smeaton reported she was hopeful that this process would be concluded before the Parish Council's next meeting, however it was agreed that the Clerk would respond to Bev Norman suggesting that this should be the case.

Grit Bins – The Clerk reported to the Parish Council that two sizes of bin were available at a cost of £151.95 and £235.00 plus VAT and it was agreed that the smaller of the two bins would suffice and that the Clerk should refer the matter back to Dennis Quick before purchasing the grit bin.

Allotments – It was agreed that a meeting would be held at the allotments on Saturday, 23rd September 2006 at 9.30 am to discuss various matters reported in previous sets of minutes.

Police Attendance – The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Inspector Michael Ashwin at Avon & Somerset Police and had been advised that he was unable to attend this Parish Council meeting and his Sergeant would be attending in his absence. However, the Clerk had also received a message from Sergeant Nurse to say that he also could not attend and PC Mark Jones reported that both Officers were embarrassed by the situation and would be making every effort to attend a subsequent meeting. It was agreed the Clerk would contact Inspector Ashwin in order to stress that he should attend a meeting as soon as possible.

5. AGE CONCERN

Emily Ruthven, Project Officer for Age Concern, spoke about their new project for the over 50's in the county which is supported by the Department of Health to the tune of £1.2 million. The scheme is centred on health promotion with drop-in centres currently planned at Norton Fitzwarren and Oake. Emily Ruthven stressed that the project would not go ahead in the town unless there was demand from local people and volunteers were forthcoming.

6. PLANNING

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

49/2006/033LB Deepleigh, Wiveliscombe: Installation of rear exterior door and window and installation of downstairs wc.

49/2006/046 24 Silver Street, Wiveliscombe: Conversion of shop, store and part of garage to form additional dwelling area and replacement front window as amended by letter dated 30th June 2006.

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

49/2006/049 Kingsmead, Jews Lane, West Street, Wiveliscombe: Formation of Vehicular Access – *The Council had no objections to the proposal provided Taunton Deane consulted with the Tree Officer as there are a number of good specimen trees in Jews Lane.*

49/2006/025 Richmond Farm, Wiveliscombe: Conversion of barn to dwelling – *The Council had no comments to make on this application which had been considered before and was now slightly amended.*

49/2006/047 Culverhay, Wiveliscombe: Continued usage of agricultural building for housing cattle and sheep with amendments to the building to reduce the ridge level, pitch of roof and amend the appearance, and inclusion of a stable – *Councillors Bryn Wilson and Peter Parker declared that they had an interest in the application in that they had been involved with deliberations to date in order to clarify what was proposed. The Council had no further comments to make as they had supported this application when first submitted and it was noted that amendments had been made to comply with Taunton Deane's regulations.*

49/2006/050 Higher Grants, Ford, Wiveliscombe: Erection of Garage (Amendment to previous approval): *The Council had no further comments to make.*

7. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A number of residents had attended the meeting to complain about problems at the Recreation Ground where it is claimed young people were making noise until 4.30 am and this was still ongoing despite a slight improvement in the last month or so. Bad behaviour involved flashlights, fighting, bad language and inappropriate behaviour on the Recreation Ground. On some occasions football was being played until 2.30 am and any residents who complained were being intimidated by verbal abuse and items being thrown at their windows. PC Jones said that the police will act if formal complaints are made and Bryn Wilson pointed out that one of the events referred to at the swimming pool was a private hire. It seems also that the fire engine had been called to the site but there was no fire to extinguish so the fire service departed but then much noise continued on one occasion. Ralph Matcham emphasised the need for residents to report matters to the Police and Margaret Prior asked for clarification as to who should be called.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Plain Pond – The Clerk read a letter from Nicole Walker, an Estates Officer at Taunton Deane Borough Council confirming that a speed bump would be installed on the lane between 36 and 37 Plain Pond and this initiative was welcomed by the Parish Council.

9. POLICE REPORT

PC Jones referred to speeding problems in Church Street and confirmed that the Speedwatch campaign would be reactivated and that the Camera Safety Partnership were unable to assist at this time. Reference was also made to problems at the Recreation Ground and PC Jones confirmed that if a complaint is received the Police will attend although on occasions when late night calls are required the Taunton Police Station may not be able to give 100% coverage. Much discussion followed regarding sale of alcohol to young people and the bad behaviour referred to earlier in the meeting.

10. ACCOUNTS

The most recent bank statement was endorsed as a true copy.

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Character Graphics (Notelets)	£130.00
R M Taylor (Jubilee Gardens)	£199.75
Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£886.79

11. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Caroline Smeaton confirmed that she had already given several updates during the course of the meeting and therefore had nothing further to report. However, a discussion did follow about the speed limit review and Councillors asked Caroline Smeaton whether the County Council should be reminded that a review was required and whilst they had previously said no funding was available perhaps an early reminder might enable them to accommodate a review within their current budget round. Caroline Smeaton agreed to take this forward and it was agreed the Clerk would also write to the County Council making a suggestion and asking for some form of timetable for a future review.

12. WIVELISCOMBE AREA PARTNERSHIP

Brian Collingridge reported that the bungalows at the Primary School would be opened at 1.15pm on Wednesday, 13th September 2006 and that traffic calming measures in North Street were being considered and negotiations were ongoing with the County Council. The Clerk reported that he had raised this with Highways following the last Parish Council meeting and it was agreed that he would chase matters.

13. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mary Whitmarsh reported that meetings were being held regarding Council housing and the housing stock being transferred to a Housing Association, but the acid test would be a forthcoming tenants' vote on the matter. The gateway sculpture was also discussed and it was generally thought that it could do with some further maintenance and/or cleaning and the Clerk agreed to see what maintenance prescriptions were being held on file so this could be considered further at the next meeting. Bryn Wilson raised the issue of how the ice skating rink would be funded in Taunton this year and that he had heard on the radio that Taunton Deane were again being asked to cover a substantial operating loss by way of a grant. He went on to propose that the Parish Council should object to taxpayers' money being used in this manner and the proposal was seconded by Peter Parker and the motion was carried.

14. MATTERS OF REPORT

Councillor Tony Hill reported the following:-

- (1) The trafficlights need an electronic bleeper at the pedestrian crossing although it was felt this should not operate at night.
- (2) The hedge between the trafficlights and the Old Vicarage appears to be dangerous and is leaning over the pavement.
- (3) Between Langley Cross and Cruwys Cross brambles are overhanging the pavement.
- (4) Traffic congestion is bad in the town due to HGVs associated with Wessex Water's refurbishment of the Maundown Treatment Works, and parked cars would appear to be causing some difficulties in this respect. It was agreed the Clerk would query with Highways whether it was still safe to have cars parked in the High Street given the significant increase in traffic at this time.

Ralph Matcham confirmed that 10 Radio would be up and running from 10th September to 16th October and asked for support from various Councillors and local organisations.

Brian Collingridge reported that he had received a letter from a resident in South Street complaining about the faded road markings and suggesting this was increasing speeding in the area. It was agreed that the Clerk would refer the correspondence to Highways.

Peter Langdon reported that he had recently heard that the Wiveliscombe Responders were renowned to be the 'best in the west'.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.