

WIVELISCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on MONDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2007 at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre.

1. PRESENT

D Luxton (Chairman), B Collingridge (Vice-Chairman), T Hill, P Parker, P Langdon, B Whitman, T Parker, R Matcham, B Wilson, C Cridland, Sir H Farrington, Mesdames B Boyland and L Bedding, and R N V Hewitt (Clerk). The meeting was also attended by County Councillor C Smeaton, Scott Weetch, Taunton Deane Borough Council, and Michelle Evans and Gerry Harrison from St Margaret's Hospice.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mesdame M Whitmarsh.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th January 2007 having been circulated, were discussed and Bryn Wilson asked if the minutes could be amended to show that he was on the allotment sub-committee and had attended the recent meeting, which had also been attended by John Hamilton as Chairman of the Allotments Association and several other members from the Allotments Association. Bryn Wilson clarified what he had said at the last meeting in connection with Policing over Christmas!

4. NO DRINKING ORDER

The Chairman invited Scott Weetch from Taunton Deane Borough Council to speak and he explained that he was the Council's Community Safety Officer responsible for the instigation of No Drinking Orders, more formally known as Alcohol Designation Orders. It was explained that this type of Order allows the police to stop consumption of alcohol in designated areas and to confiscate alcohol where they feel it is necessary. Designated areas had been introduced in Taunton and Wellington. The scheme is implemented by Taunton Deane, however local Councils have to identify that there is a problem relating to adults drinking alcohol, gain the support of the police and define the area to be covered. Taunton Deane then consult licensees and the public, and if the Order goes ahead they then erect signs and the police can start to enforce the designation. The whole process can take two to three months and there is a cost implication to the Parish Council for contribution towards the administration and erecting of signs, which might be £500 - £1,000 in total. Discussion followed and Councillors generally felt it was a good idea that such a scheme should be further explored for Wiveliscombe and the next stage would be to invite the police to a Parish Council meeting to see if they would support a scheme in the town. The Clerk was asked to invite Scott Weetch and a representative from the Avon & Somerset Constabulary to the next meeting in order to see if the scheme would be viable.

5. ST MARGARET'S HOSPICE

Michelle Evans and Gerry Harrison were invited to speak about the hospice's new building project. They explained that the hospice were about to construct a new 16 bed patient wing having outgrown their existing premises where facilities are under resourced. The new building would be mainly for day care and treatments and Michelle Evans gave a detailed

presentation on the background of St Margaret's and the work undertaken. The new building will cost in the region of £2,000,000 and the hospice have raised £1,000,000 so far. The Chairman advised Michelle Evans that the Parish Council make grants to organisations supporting parishes as part of the precept financial arrangements which are assessed in November and December of each year, with applications being submitted by the end of October.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Diary Dates – The Clerk confirmed that details for the Annual Parish Meeting and April Parish Council meeting had been circulated with the agenda, and that the Parish Council meeting on 10th April would be held at the Silver Street Centre, and the Annual Parish Meeting on 25th April 2007 would be held at the Primary School Hall.

North Street and Northgate Road Safety – The Chairman explained that several Parish Councillors had met with the Highways Authority to discuss the problem of traffic congestion outside the Primary School and into Northgate, which is primarily caused by parked cars. Ian Titcombe had attended the meeting on behalf of Somerset County Council Highways and was now proposing that double yellow lines should be installed adjacent the Primary School and into Northgate possibly with limited waiting restrictions as well. Ralph Matcham explained that the process could take as long as six months which caused concern. The Clerk explained that he had recently received an email from Ian Titcombe explaining that written detailed proposals would be submitted shortly and it was agreed these would be looked at during the next meeting and the Clerk would invite a police representative to attend the meeting to see if pressure could be put to bear on the Highways Authority to speed the matter up.

Speedwatch – Bryn Wilson reported that further to the last meeting he had ascertained that a speed gun would cost £70 - £80 and signage £30 - £40 in order that the Speedwatch campaign could be run more regularly in Wiveliscombe and Bill Whitman proposed that the Parish Council should go ahead and spend approximately £150 on the equipment. The proposal was seconded by Ralph Matcham and agreed unanimously.

Wivey Link – Bryn Wilson referred to discussions at the last Parish Council meeting and formally proposed that the Parish Council should make a grant of £500 to the Wiveliscombe Area Partnership so that they could acquire a new Wivey Link vehicle and the proposal was seconded by Bill Whitman and agreed unanimously.

Unitary Council – The Clerk explained to Parish Councillors that he had received details from Somerset County Council of their proposals for a Unitary Council and Councillors acknowledged this had been received with their agendas.

Local Elections – The Clerk referred to an information pack he had received from SALC regarding advertising and promoting local elections, and it was agreed these should be put on display in Wiveliscombe House.

Highway Matters – The Clerk reported he had received an email from Dennis Quick confirming he would be requesting the owners of properties in Golden Hill to cut back vegetation which is fouling the highway boundary, that an inspection would be made of Burges Lane and any necessary works will be arranged, concerns about the Nordens Meadow play area would be passed on to Taunton Deane, and a meeting would be arranged in order to discuss the traffic situation at the Primary School (see above).

St Andrew's Church – The Clerk read a letter from the Church Treasurer expressing gratitude for the Parish Council's agreement to make an increased annual contribution to the graveyard maintenance each year.

Allotments – The Clerk confirmed he had received an invitation from Taunton Deane for Councillors to attend a risk assessment training workshop and it was confirmed that Peter Parker, Colin Cridland and Bryn Wilson would attend along with members from the Allotments Association. The Clerk also reminded Councillors that the allotment invoices should now be issued and it was agreed these would be sent out in the usual manner notwithstanding recent proposals to let half allotments. It was acknowledged that one or two

allotment holders may wish to give up half an allotment but in the first instance the invoices would be sent out as previously undertaken.

Police Beat Arrangements – The Clerk read an email he had received from Inspector Michael Ashwin confirming he was not aware of an incident at the Recreation Ground over the Christmas period and that he would be leaving his post at the end of February. It was agreed the Clerk would not pursue the matter and would ask Inspector Mike Ashwin to attend the next Parish Council meeting following his new post working with Somerset County Council delivering alcohol reduction across the County, given that the Parish Council would be discussing the possibility of an alcohol restriction in the town.

Dog Fouling – Councillor Tim Parker reported he had received many complaints about dog fouling at Wiveliscombe House and had received some details of the various instances, it was agreed these would be passed on to the Clerk so that they could be forwarded to the Dog Warden.

7. PLANNING

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

49/2006/063 Higher Grants Farm, Ford, Wiveliscombe: Erection of replacement dwelling (Revised scheme to 49/2006/006)

49/2006/066 Kingsmead, Jews lane, West Street, Wiveliscombe: Conversion of outbuildings to dwelling (Amended scheme to 49/2006/015)

49/2006/069 24 Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe: Construction of dormer roofs with windows on the northwest and southeast elevations

49/2006/070 Mill Barn, Jews Lane, Maundown, Wiveliscombe: Erection of single storey extension to front with timber balustrade to steps

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

49/2007/002 Storeys Close, Jews Lane, West Street, Wiveliscombe: Extension to porch – *The Parish Council agreed to support the application.*

49/2007/003T Oak Court, 9 Silver Street, Wiveliscombe: Application to fell 3 Cypress trees and carry out work to 2 Yew trees included in Taunton Deane Borough (Wiveliscombe No.3) Tree Preservation Order 1976 – *The Parish Council agreed to support the application.*

49/2007/004T Oak Court, 9 Silver Street, Wiveliscombe: Application to fell 1 Cypress and 2 Thujas, and to carry out work on 6 Yew trees within Wiveliscombe Conservation Area (as amended by agent's letter dated 22 January 2007) – *The Parish Council agreed to support the application.*

49/2007/004T Oak Court, 9 Silver Street, Wiveliscombe: Application to fell 1 Cypress and 2 Thujas, and to carry out work on 3 Yew trees within Wiveliscombe Conservation Area – *The Parish Council agreed to support the application.*

49/2007/005 48 Plain Pond, Wiveliscombe: Erection of shed to side – *The Parish Council agreed to support the application.*

49/2007/001AGN Agricultural Notification: Flead Farm, Wiveliscombe: Erection of agricultural storage building to be used to store machinery/materials, and housing stock and fodder – *The Parish Council had no comment to make.*

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

49/2006/069 Construction of dormer roofs with windows on the northwest and southeast elevations of 24 Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Environment Agency – The Clerk reported that he had received a request for a Parish Council contact for the Environment Agency.

10 Parishes Centre – The Clerk read a letter from John Harris setting out further details of the proposals for a Parishes Centre at Croft Way and asking any Parish Councillors who were keen to be involved in the project to attend the steering group meeting. Brian Collingridge explained there would be a meeting on 14th February for consultation with clubs and local societies and that any Parish Council members who are interested could attend, but a special meeting would be held for Parish Councils in due course. It was agreed the Clerk would respond to John Harris asking him to keep the Parish Council informed of progress and meetings which Parish Councillors could attend.

Parish Paths Liaison Officers – The Clerk read a letter from John Ollerenshaw offering his services with rights of way and it was agreed the Clerk would respond that the offer was noted with thanks.

Grandthistle Properties – The Clerk read a letter from Elizabeth Fielding, the Company Secretary of the Malthouse, requesting information about the installation of a dog waste bin and emptying facilities. It was agreed the Clerk would respond that the Parish Council have to prioritise the funding they have for dog bins and these were particularly expensive to empty, and that in the meantime free dog waste bags were available from Wiveliscombe House.

Farmers Market and Country Fair – The Clerk read an email from Pauline Homeshaw on behalf of the 10 Parishes Festival requesting permission to use Jubilee Gardens for a farmers market and country fair on 15th September 2007. This was agreed by the Parish Council with the proviso that the flower beds etc. should not be damaged.

9. PCSO'S REPORT

Regrettably no Police Officers were able to attend the meeting.

10. ACCOUNTS

Copies of the most recent book-keeping and bank statement were endorsed as originals.

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

R M Taylor (Jubilee Gardens)	£176.75
N M Hendy (2006/07)	£364.00
Wiveliscombe Area Partnership	£500.00
P Parker (Reimbursement)	£58.16

11. WIVELISCOMBE AREA PARTNERSHIP

Brian Collingridge raised the matter of the name for the new housing to be built by MAGNA at Allenslade. After some discussion the name Allenslade Close was suggested and this was unanimously agreed. It was further agreed that Brian Collingridge would write to MAGNA confirming that the Parish Council's unanimous suggestion of the name for the new development was Allenslade Close.

12. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Caroline Smeaton spoke about the proposals for a unitary authority and local consultation groups known as area working panels which was an initiative by Somerset County Council, and might in due course involve more funding being directed to local organisations through the working panels.

13. MATTERS OF REPORT

Tony Hill reported that the storm drain in Jews Lane was blocked again and that there was a problem with various gratings in the town, including one outside the Community Centre which were also blocked with debris. It was agreed the Clerk would refer these matters to Dennis Quick.

Bryn Wilson also reported that there might be a dead tree in the Croft Way Car Park and Bill Whitman agreed to look at this.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.