

# WIVELISCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## *MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2007 at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre.*

### 1. PRESENT

D Luxton (Chairman), R Matcham, J Ollerenshaw, A Somerfield, R Kingsley-Hall, B Whitman, P Parker, C Cridland, P Langdon, B Wilson, B Collingridge, R Adams, Mesdames M Whitmarsh, L Bedding, S Fairfax, County Councillor C Smeaton, District Councillor J Bone, R N V Hewitt (Clerk), and various members of the public.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ms B Boyland, Sir H Farrington, T Parker and P Berman.

### 3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007 having been circulated were approved as a correct record.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

**Highways Matters** – The Clerk had copied to all Councillors with their agenda various letters and representations in respect of proposed highways parking restrictions and the possibility of making West Street one way. A lengthy discussion followed before the following decisions were made:-

#### Parking Restrictions in West Street, Golden Hill, Croft Way and North Street

Brian Collingridge proposed that the parking restrictions in North Street by the Primary School should go ahead as soon as possible but all the other areas should be put on hold. This proposal was seconded by Bryn Wilson and was agreed by the majority of Councillors present. It was further agreed that the parking restrictions in Croft Way would be considered in tandem with the new pedestrian crossing to the Children's Centre, and that the parking restrictions in Golden Hill would be re-assessed and a new scheme submitted at a later date.

#### Traffic Congestion at Kingsmead

It was agreed that a site meeting would be held at the request of Ian Titcombe to look at traffic congestion and safety issues relating to the buses picking up and dropping off school children. The meeting will be attended by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Councillors P Parker, A Somerfield, B Whitman, R Kingsley-Hall, R Matcham, B Wilson and C Cridland.

#### West Street One Way Proposal

Mary Whitmarsh reported that since the last meeting she had collected a 250 signature petition taken in West Street representing a sample of residents in favour of such a scheme. More consultation would be required and would be best undertaken by Highways but generally Mary Whitmarsh felt that the scheme would reduce congestion and hold ups. Bill Whitman felt that the main problem was between Jones Garage and The Square and that a partial scheme might be appropriate. Peter Parker commented that not all the traders representations had been read out in full to the Parish Council despite being circulated with Councillors' agendas, and reminded the Council that Jones Garage needed access for petrol tankers. Bryn Wilson supported Peter Parker's comments and wanted to be sure that businesses were kept alive in the town, and also felt that a one way system would increase traffic flows in the High Street. John Ollerenshaw was concerned that as a 21<sup>st</sup> century town Wiveliscombe needed to avoid gridlock. District Councillor John Bone reminded the Parish Council that they needed

to look at wider parking provisions for the future. Brian Collingridge proposed that Highways be asked to undertake a feasibility study to look into the possibilities for making the street one way and to report back to the Parish Council and local community for further comments. This proposal was seconded by Mary Whitmarsh and 15 Councillors voted in favour and thus the motion was carried.

#### Parking Sub-Committee

Adrian Somerfield suggested that a small group be formed to consider alternative parking proposals and it was agreed that this sub-committee would comprise Lisa Bedding, Bryn Wilson, Ralph Matcham, Peter Parker, Colin Cridland, Peter Langdon and be coordinated by Bill Whitman.

**Allotments** – The Clerk read a letter from Adrian Somerfield on behalf of the Plain Pond Allotment Holders Association querying various matters including liability insurance, vacant plots, and asking the Parish Council’s permission to write to all tenants asking if they will be renewing their agreements for next year to ascertain whether any plots could be re-let early, and this was agreed. Peter Parker gave a brief allotments report confirming that there was now only one person on the waiting list.

**Civic Improvements, Bulb Planting and Footpaths** – John Ollerenshaw confirmed that twelve sacks of spring bulbs had been planted near the gateway sculpture and at other sites in the town but more help would have been appreciated. The style on footpath WG16/28 had recently been replaced with cooperation from The Ramblers and Somerset County Council.

**Speed Review** – Bill Whitman suggested that the Clerk should pursue the speed review and seek confirmation that funding will be available for this.

**Land Adjacent Emborough Sub-Station** – Bill Whitman referred to the previous correspondence from Taunton Deane Planning Enforcement and it was agreed that the Clerk would ascertain what progress was being made.

**Wiveliscombe Sign** – It was agreed that the Clerk would chase Highways regarding the costings for a new Wiveliscombe sign for the west side of town. Bryn Wilson proposed that a meeting should be held with Taunton Deane to query why the Parish Council has to pay for town signs etc., and this was agreed.

**Croft Way Car Park** – Mary Whitmarsh reported that she had had some discussions with Taunton Deane regarding rearranging the car park but understood this could only be done if HGVs were located elsewhere. It was agreed that the Clerk would pursue a meeting with Taunton Deane to discuss the re-painting of the car park lines.

## 5. PLANNING

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

49/2007/056LB Tanglewood, Langley Cross: Re-roof garage block, stone clad extension to east, new roof lights and renew windows and doors.

49/2007/057T The Old Quarry, Abbotsfield, Wiveliscombe: Application to fell 1 Sycamore tree and to coppice 2 Sycamores and 1 Lime tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Wiveliscombe No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1998.

49/2007/041LB Abbotsfield South, Abbotsfield: 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.

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

49/2007/033 Croford House, Croford, Wiveliscombe: Change of use of agricultural land to allow formation of tennis court with associated fencing – *The Parish Council had no comments to make.*

49/2007/058T Oak Court, Wiveliscombe: Application to carry out management work to several Leyland Cypress trees forming a hedge within Wiveliscombe Conservation Area – *The Parish Council supported the application.*

49/2007/060 The Old Coach House, Culverhay Farm, Wiveliscombe: Erection of porch extension – *The Parish Council supported the application.*

49/2007/061LB The Old Coach House, Culverhay Farm, Wiveliscombe: Erection of porch extension – *The Parish Council supported the above application.*

49/2007/065 5 Richard Beadon Close, Wiveliscombe: Erection of single storey extension – *The Parish Council supported the application.*

4/49/07/029 Children’s Centre, Croft Way, Wiveliscombe: Application to vary condition 10 to allow details of the zebra crossing to be submitted and approved following commencement of development (rather than prior to commencement) – *The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk would write to Somerset County Council stating they agreed in principle that the details for the zebra crossing could be submitted and approved following commencement of the development but that an undertaking should be sought from the developer to complete the crossing prior to occupation of the Children’s Centre.*

The following applications were received after the agenda had been circulated:-

49/2007/059 Maundown Water Treatment Works, Langley Marsh, Wiveliscombe: Alterations to planning consent 49/2006/016, extension to sludge building, additional kiosks, hard standing for emergency equipment, vents, and main treatment building – *The Parish Council had no comments to make.*

49/2007/066 25A North Street, Wiveliscombe: Change of use of office to retail shop and office – *After much discussion Councillor Brian Collingridge proposed that the Parish Council support the application and this was seconded by John Ollerenshaw. A vote was taken with seven Councillors in favour and five against.*

49/2007/067 Hillsmoor Sewage Treatment Works, Wiveliscombe: Deviation of 33KV overhead line on wooden poles to serve expansion of sewage treatment works – *The Parish Council objected to the proposal as the owner of the land is applying for change of use as a business park.*

49/2007/069 1 Croft Cottage, West Street, Wiveliscombe: Change of use from dwelling to office use (radio studio) – *The Parish Council supported the application.*

The Clerk reported that the following application had been refused by TDBC:-

Fleed Farm, Wiveliscombe: Conversion of Unit 5 to form dwelling, together with erection of conservatory and free standing garage.

For Information:-

49/2007/058T Oak Court, Wiveliscombe: Application to carry out management work to several Leyland Cypress trees forming a hedge within Wiveliscombe Conservation Area – Permission to carry out above work – Granted.

## **6. PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Several members of the public voiced concern about the ongoing parking restriction proposals.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

Taunton Deane Area Working Panel – It was agreed that Bill Whitman would be the main contact for agendas and correspondence relating to the panel’s activities and the Clerk will inform the TDBC administrator accordingly.

Taunton Town Centre Area Action Plan – The Chairman agreed to respond to the Taunton Deane consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

SCC Consultation on Waste Management – The Clerk reported the details of the preliminary consultation and meetings to the Parish Council and it was noted with interest.

TDBC Allotment Consultation – The Clerk passed the details to Bill Whitman and Peter Parker.

Citizens Advice Bureau – The Clerk confirmed he had received a letter requesting funding and it was agreed that the Clerk should respond reminding the Citizens Advice Bureau of the precept grant procedure.

Somerset Arts Week – The Clerk confirmed that he had received a letter requesting funding and it was agreed that the Clerk would respond reminding Somerset Arts Week of the precept grant procedure.

Website – The Clerk read an email from Dave Meehan suggesting that further updating should be undertaken to the website database at a cost of approximately £500. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the email to those Councillors on the website sub-committee.

## **8. POLICE REPORT**

Regrettably there was no police presence at the meeting.

## **9. ACCOUNTS**

The most recent bank statements were endorsed as originals.

Mr J Ollerenshaw )Reimbursement for bulbs & bulb planter) £206.89

Mr D Bailey (Wreaths for Armistice memorials) £30.00

It was agreed by the Parish Council that as two wreaths had been provided the Parish Council would pay £30.00 (£15.00 per wreath)

## **10. PRECEPT**

The Clerk explained the process for awarding Precept Grants and Brian Collingridge spoke about the applications from 10 Radio and the Rainbow Playgroup.

### Sifting Grant Application Sub-Committee

It was agreed that the sub-committee would comprise the Clerk, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Councillor Bryn Wilson and Councillor Lisa Bedding, and they would meet on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30 am in Wiveliscombe House.

## **11. JUBILEE GARDENS**

Mary Whitmarsh commented that an account had not been received from Colin Heard and the Clerk agreed to look into this, however the Parish Council agreed that as long as the invoice was within the normal parameters it could be paid.

## **12. WIVELISCOMBE AREA PARTNERSHIP REPORT**

Brian Collingridge reported that the Business Park planning application was being finalised and would be submitted shortly by the developer, the rented housing at Allenslade was now fully let with 25 people on the waiting list and 97 applications had been received for the shared housing which were currently being processed. Peter Parker queried whether any public parking, particularly for HGVs, could be made available at the Business Park and after some discussion it was agreed the Clerk would write to Steve Kendall, Economic Development Officer at Taunton Deane, to ascertain whether this may be possible.

## **13. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Mary Whitmarsh reported one complaint had been received regarding MAGNA's workforce at Allenslade where the pavement was being obstructed but this was in hand, and that she would be obtaining an impact assessment on the Somerset Arts Week for Councillors' interest,

and that works at Jubilee Gardens had recently included removing rubbish and installing a section of fencing. Discussion followed regarding problems with litter and trampling of the flower beds at Jubilee Gardens and it was agreed the Clerk would write to the Headmaster at Kingsmead in order to promote environmental awareness of pupils.

#### **14. MATTERS OF REPORT**

Councillor Sara Fairfax reported that the vandalism was still a problem at the lower end of the High Street. Adrian Somerfield referred to the recent accident on the footpath near the Community Centre and that this was still ongoing, and discussion followed about the possibility of the Parish Council erecting a hand rail. Bryn Wilson requested that the possible alcohol ban be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Bill Whitman requested at the next meeting eight Councillors are due to be appointed to the Recreation Ground Management Committee.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.