

WIVELISCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on MONDAY 14TH MAY 2007 at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre.

1. PRESENT

D Luxton (Chairman), B Collingridge (Vice-Chairman), C Cridland, B Wilson, H Farrington, P Berman, R Matcham, P Parker, P Langdon, R Kingsley-Hall, R Adams, J Ollerenshaw, A Somerfield, Mesdames M Whitmarsh, B Boyland, L Bedding, S Fairfax, and R N V Hewitt (Clerk).

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ralph Matcham proposed Dixon Luxton for the post of Chairman which was seconded by Peter Parker and as there were no other nominations forthcoming a vote was taken and it was agreed unanimously that Dixon Luxton should be appointed as Chairman of the Parish Council. Bryn Wilson proposed Brian Collingridge as Vice-Chairman which was seconded by Sir Harry Farrington. There being no other nominations forthcoming this was agreed unanimously. It was also agreed that the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer should continue to be appointed and his employment was ratified.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs M Whitmarsh (who arrived at the meeting later in the evening).

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th April 2007 having been circulated were approved as a correct record.

5. ELECTION OF SUB-COMMITTEES

The Clerk reminded Councillors that he had incorporated a list of the various sub-committee members in a covering letter which had been circulated with the agenda and it was agreed that sub-committees would be re-elected at the next Parish Council meeting once Councillors had had a chance to consider whether they wished to make any nominations.

6. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

After some discussion Bill Whitman and Tim Parker were nominated for co-opting to the Parish Council and a vote was taken which confirmed Bill Whitman should be formally co-opted, however it was further agreed that in due course the Parish Council would explore the possibility of co-opting Tim Parker as well.

7. REGISTER OF INTERESTS AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

All Parish Councillors returned their Register of Interests and Declarations of Office forms to the Clerk at the meeting.

8. ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

Bryn Wilson proposed the Standing Orders should be adopted without amendment which was seconded by Peter Berman and agreed unanimously.

9. CODE OF CONDUCT

The appropriateness of Clause 12.2 was discussed following which Bryn Wilson proposed that the revised Code of Conduct should be adopted unaltered and this was seconded by Peter Berman and agreed unanimously.

10. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

The Clerk presented the accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2007 which were discussed and Peter Parker raised a query in respect of general admin which appeared to be higher than the previous year, following which the accounts were duly approved by the Parish Council.

11. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Clerk reminded Councillors that a copy of the Internal Auditor's Report had been circulated with the agenda and Councillors confirmed that the points raised had been noted. Bryn Wilson proposed that the Fidelity Guarantee should be increased to £30,000 and this was agreed. Discussion followed on the ability of the Parish Council to make grants by way of purchasing goods and it was agreed the Clerk would ask the Internal Auditor for a copy of the details referred to in his report.

The Clerk reminded Parish Councillors that he had enclosed a copy of the Annual Governance Statement with the agenda so that Parish Councillors could carefully consider their responses to the eight questions raised and after some discussion the Council unanimously agreed that the answer to each of these questions should be yes.

12. MATTERS ARISING

Wall at Gadds Lane – The Clerk reported that Taunton Deane Planning Services Enforcement had confirmed they would take up the matter of the collapsed wall at Gadds Lane which belongs to 16 North Street.

Website – The Clerk read an email from Maria Morgan of Tonedale requesting a free business entry in the website and after some discussion it was agreed this was not appropriate as she resided out of the area.

Frys Lane – The Clerk read an email from Dennis Quick confirming that Highways will check the condition of Frys Lane.

South Road – The Clerk read an email from Ian Titcombe confirming that Highways would not support a 20 miles per hour speed limit outside Kingsmead at the current time and it was agreed the Clerk would copy his email to the members of the public who raised this matter at the last meeting.

Golden Hill – The Clerk read an email from Ian Titcombe confirming he would be willing to meet with the Parish Council to look at ways of trying to restrict traffic at Golden Hill, particularly large vehicles, and it was agreed the Clerk would arrange a meeting which would be attended by Councillors Brenda Boyland, Bryn Wilson, Dixon Luxton and Brian Collingridge.

Replacement Bins – The Clerk read an email from John Helps at Taunton Deane confirming that the replacement of rubbish bins in the town was the responsibility of the Parish Council and in addition to the bin at Golden Hill which was reported at the last meeting, Councillors

reminded the Clerk that the bin at the bottom of the High Street also needed replacing. It was agreed the Clerk would ask John Helps to tell us who paid for the replacement bins in Taunton and whether this was 'special expenditure' for Taunton residents.

Highways Matters – Councillors asked the Clerk to remind Highways about the road and pavement outside the chemist shop, the Community Centre drain and the possibility of a raised kerb, and the condition of Burges Lane (which is uneven and has pot holes).

West Road Speed Limit – The Clerk read a letter from Richard Newby asking for the Council's continued support for his campaign to extend the 30 miles per hour speed limit, particularly as Government guidance notes had changed in this respect. It was agreed the Clerk would confirm that the Parish Council agreed to the principle of the 30 miles per hour speed limit being extended towards Abbotsfield but clearly was not in a position to comment on Government guidance in this matter which should be interpreted by Somerset County Council Highways.

Town Hall Clock – The Clerk read a letter from the Co-operative Group confirming that they had referred the matter of damage to the town hall clock cables to their managing agent. The Chairman further advised that he had had a meeting with King Sturge and an engineer and it had been agreed that they would correct and renew the cables.

Allotments – The Clerk reported that the rent for allotment no. 7 had still not been paid despite various reminders and it was agreed the Clerk would advise the allotment holder that if the rent is not paid within seven days the allotment will be re-let to someone on the waiting list.

Wiveliscombe Community Centre – The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Community Centre secretary asking for a representative from the Parish Council to be appointed to the Community Centre Management Committee. It was agreed this would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

County Council Unitary Authority Proposals – Peter Berman reminded Councillors that there would be a meeting on 21st May 2007 at Kingsmead Community School and it was agreed the Clerk would reserve 12 places for Councillors to attend. The Clerk reported that Somerset Association of Local Councils was a statutory undertaker in the process and had written to the Parish Council asking them to complete a questionnaire expressing their views. It was agreed that if any Councillors had specific comments to make they would forward these to the Clerk in writing by 28th May. A sub-committee was agreed comprising Bryn Wilson, Peter Berman, Dixon Luxton, Ralph Matcham, Mary Whitmarsh and Peter Parker, and it was agreed they would meet on 9th June at 10.30 am at Wiveliscombe House to review the Parish Council's comments and complete the SALC questionnaire.

13. PLANNING

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

49/2007/010 Ford Gate Cottage, Wiveliscombe: Replacement of conservatory with single storey extension, utility room and terrace to rear.

49/2007/012 1 Market Place, Wiveliscombe: Erection of conservatory.

49/2007/014 The Farmhouse, Challick Farm, Wiveliscombe: Erection of two storey extension and conversion of barn to living accommodation.

49/2007/015 Land at Wiveliscombe Motors, West Road, Wiveliscombe: Erection of two detached dwellings, demolition of garage buildings.

49/2007/016CA Demolition of garage buildings at Wiveliscombe Motors, West Road, Wiveliscombe

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

49/2007/017 Marsh Cottage, Langley Marsh, Wiveliscombe: Erection of conservatory to side
– *The Parish Council had no comments to make.*

49/2007/018LB Myrtle Cottage, 17 Golden Hill, Wiveliscombe: Installation of satellite dish on west elevation and removal of existing terrestrial antenna – *The Council had no comments to make.*

49/2007/019 4 Southgate, Wiveliscombe: Erection of two storey extension to south west elevation – *The Parish Council objected to the application as they were concerned about the size of the extension and the impact on the streetscape and the site lines.*

49/2007/020LB 9 The Square, Wiveliscombe: Alterations to roof and internal alterations – *The Parish Council had no comments to make.*

49/2007/021 Nunnington Park Farm, Wiveliscombe: Erection of extension to existing portal frame agricultural building for dry storage and livestock – *The Parish Council had no comments to make.*

49/2007/023 North Rodden Farm, Maundown, Wiveliscombe: Erection of single storey extension to side and conservatory to rear – *The Parish Council had no comments to make.*

49/2007/024 Construction of new access off B3187 (near B3227) to serve proposed fishing lake between Milverton and Wiveliscombe – *The Parish Council had no comments to make.*

49/2007/027 Harwood Farm, Wiveliscombe: Conversion of existing log store to utility room, erection of new porch and installation of new dormer window – *After some discussion the Parish Council agreed not to object to the application..*

49/2007/025 Co-op Store, The Square, Wiveliscombe: Retention of canopy to rear – *The Parish Council agreed to support the application.*

49/2006/061 Higher Whitefield, Wiveliscombe: Change of use of kennel block to residential accommodation – *After some discussion the Parish Council agreed not to object to the application.*

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

Retention of pigeon loft at White Cottage, Staplehay, Taunton – Application withdrawn.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

Somerset Waste Action Programme – The Clerk reported he had received a newsletter from the Somerset Wildlife Trust's Waste Action Programme and this mentioned they were willing to give talks to Parish Councils. It was agreed the Clerk should invite a representative to speak to the Parish Council at a forthcoming meeting.

The Malthouse – The Clerk read a letter from Elizabeth Fielding on behalf of Grandthistle Properties Limited requesting that the Police Community Support Officers include two car park areas at the Malthouse on their beat. Councillors mentioned this would be difficult as the gates on to Golden Hill were kept locked and the car park is not a public area. However, it was agreed that the Clerk would refer the matter to Wellington Police.

Taunton Deane petitions – The Clerk reported he had received a bundle of petitions for completion from Taunton Deane as part of their 'Keep Somerset Local' campaign against the Unitary Authority proposals. It was generally felt that the Parish Council should not take sides at this time and it was agreed the paperwork would be forwarded to the Community Office.

TDBC Development Management Consultation – It was agreed that Peter Berman would review the consultation documents and complete the attached questionnaire.

15. POLICE REPORT

There were no Police Officers or Community Support Officers at the meeting.

16. ACCOUNTS

The most recent bank statements were endorsed as originals.

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Arboricare Limited	£340.75
St Andrew's Church (burial ground maintenance grant)	£1,000.00
A J Bullen (Internal audit)	£157.38
C Heard (Jubilee Gardens)	£96.00
Wiveliscombe Primary School (Hall)	£25.50
Wiveliscombe Civic Society (Grant)	£732.00
Air Ambulance (Grant)	£94.00

17. WIVELISCOMBE AREA PARTNERSHIP

Brian Collingridge reported that the Twinning Association would be hosting French visitors this year. The Children's Centre proposals for the Croft Way site have now been submitted for planning permission and an exhibition would be held at Wiveliscombe House on Saturday, 2nd June. The Messenger will be featuring an article about the Allenslade development which would include prices for the various types of houses which would start at £157,000. Finally, Brian Collingridge mentioned that at the Annual Parish meeting comments were made about poor telephone reception in the town which was effecting a number of the emergency services. It was agreed a small sub-committee would be formed at the next Parish Council meeting to look at the possibility of installing a new telephone mast.

18. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mary Whitmarsh reported that the Jubilee Gardens were in need of further maintenance following Mr Taylor's ill health and she had asked Colin Heard to take over and he had since been very busy in the gardens. The District Council elections had resulted in a hung Council; 25 – 26 votes for Conservative and Liberal, and that a Leader was due to be appointed despite the Conservatives refusing to form a coalition.

19. MATTERS OF REPORT

Peter Langdon mentioned problems were being experienced with HGV's trying to find the Plain Pond houses tucked away at the rear of Northgate and also in recent months a Musgrove medical specialist could not find one of the homes and had to return without attending his patient! The Clerk reported this had already been raised between meetings and he had referred the matter to Highways for comment with a suggestion that the road names should be improved. Bryn Wilson suggested that perhaps new Councillors might appreciate help and assistance from more experienced Councillors and it was agreed the Clerk would give out names and telephone numbers as and when a request was forthcoming. Ralph Matcham expressed thanks on behalf of Wivey Link for the donation towards the new vehicle which he had recently driven and was very pleased with. John Ollerenshaw asked if the post for Paths Liaison Officer was still open and the Chairman confirmed this would be dealt with at the next meeting, and whether the Parish Council had a policy for acquiring more land for allotment gardens.

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