

WIVELISCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on MONDAY 10th APRIL 2006 at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre.

1. PRESENT

D Luxton (Chairman), B Collingridge (Vice-Chairman), C Bramall, P Parker, B Wilson, Sir H Farrington, P Berman, P Langdon, T Hill, and Mesdames M Whitmarsh, M Prior, L Bedding, Miss B Boyland, R N V Hewitt (Clerk), and John Hellier, Area Youth Worker (Somerset County Council). The meeting was also attended by five members of the public.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from T Parker, R Matcham, C Cridland and B Whitman.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th March 2006 having been circulated were agreed as a correct record save for two manuscript amendments.

4. JOHN HELLIER, SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL, AREA YOUTH WORKER

The Chairman invited John Hellier to speak and the Parish Council heard that despite a poor presence in the town the Youth Service was now trying to address matters and improve relationships with young people. Activities were re-starting at the Base every Thursday and Youth Workers were trying to make themselves known to young people through street sessions. The Youth Service is working with police and Wiveliscombe Area Partnership to build a stronger presence in the town and throughout the Ten Parishes, helping to encourage young people into town youth centres, including Wellington. A mapping exercise had been undertaken to establish where young people were congregating and sessions are now being run at Kingsmead. Most of the young people are between 15 and 18 years of age and whilst funding is uncertain for the longer term, plans are afoot to improve the Base in the short term.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Circular Walk Book – Brenda Boyland reported that the book was due back from the printers on Thursday and that the launch is taking place on 29th April at the Community Centre.

Email from Sharon Grant – The Mayor is to attend the book launch and this was noted by the Parish Council.

Caroline Smeaton – Confirmation that she will be attending the book launch and this was noted by the Parish Council.

Highways – The Clerk read an email from Dennis Quick confirming that the Wiveliscombe/Huish/Whitefield sign was on their list of works and that the sign will be replaced but the waiting period for new signs is approximately three months.

Grit Bins – The Clerk read an email from Dennis Quick confirming that the cost of a grit bin would be £150 - £200 and that the Highways Authority will replenish the grit as and when required. The Parish Council agreed in principle to purchase a bin and it was suggested that the Clerk would write back to Dennis Quick ascertaining where it would be best situated although the general feeling was that it should be located within easy reach of the Square and Town Hill (High Street).

Planning Enforcement – The clerk read an email from John Hardy confirming that the work being undertaken by the Neate family at Culverhay Barns would be reported to the Planning Committee on 29th March with a view to a Stop Notice being served. Peter Parker reported that he had been in touch with Taunton Deane in order to attend that meeting but understood the matter had been withdrawn from the Agenda due to a planning application being received by the Planning Authority on the same day. It was agreed that the matter would be held over in the hope that the planning application would be brought forward for consultation at the next Parish Council meeting.

Dog Fouling – The Clerk read a letter from Taunton Deane's Dog Warden confirming that they were unable to witness any instances of dog fouling but would continue to make regular patrols. The Chairman invited Mr & Mrs Thornton who reside at Jews Lane to speak and they stressed the need for a dog bin to be installed. Discussion followed and it was agreed the Clerk would report the Parish Council's concern about the amount of dog fouling in this area to Taunton Deane and ask if a bin could be installed at the District Authority's expense. At the same time the Clerk would ask what signage is available in order to deter this activity.

Jeremy Browne MP – The Clerk read a letter confirming that the two issues raised by Parish Councillors at Jeremy Browne's surgery had been referred to the relevant Government departments and a response is awaited.

Parish Table – The Clerk read a letter from John Bone confirming he no longer required the table. The Chairman said that he had discussed matters with John Bone and that the table could probably remain where it is until Christmas but after then a more appropriate venue would have to be found.

Jubilee Gardens – Brian Collingridge reported that Mary Whitmarsh had received a more competitive quote in the amount of approximately £250 and that the contractors had been instructed and attended the site. However, on that occasion ten objectors were present and so works could not proceed. Some discussion followed and it was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting and Brian Collingridge would make the persons concerned aware of this so that they could attend the meeting and make their views known.

6. PLANNING

The Clerk reported that no approved applications had been received from TDBC.

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

49/2006/020 48 Nordens Meadow, Wiveliscombe: Erection of timber balcony – *The Clerk reported this application had been received since the agenda had been circulated however it was agreed the Parish Council would support the proposal.*

49/2006/013 Stacey Construction Limited, Station Road, Wiveliscombe: Residential development comprising 35 dwellings, 38 parking spaces and access roads – *Much debate was forthcoming in respect of this application including concern over inadequate parking provision, a playground which will involve many local children crossing a busy road, noise and smells from the abattoir (which are reputed to be a problem at weekends in addition to during the week), poor outlook, and a general feeling that the site did not lend itself to residential development. Peter Parker felt that the site should be retained for industrial use, however he was reminded by several Councillors that the Parish Council already had an economic statement concerning this and Peter Berman supported the principle of new homes despite still having some concern about the practicalities of the site. Bryn Wilson stated that the development was outside the structure plan and that the Parish Council have made a statement saying they will not support piece meal residential development. Chris Bramall felt that the proposal involved too many houses and too few parking spaces, and the recreation ground should provide adequate and safe play facilities. A vote was taken in order to gauge support for the application and four Councillors confirmed they supported the principle despite practical concerns, however five Councillors objected to the principle of the application and it was therefore agreed that the Clerk would respond on the basis that the*

Parish Council objects listing the concerns so that Taunton Deane Borough Council can take these into account.

49/2006/014T Application to fell two Yew trees included in Taunton Deane Borough (Wiveliscombe No1) Tree Preservation Order (1998): Land adjacent to the main road, at the entrance to Abbotsfield, Wiveliscombe –*The Clerk read a letter from a resident at Abbotsfield who was objecting to the proposal and it was agreed that the Parish Council would object on the basis that the matter should be determined by the Tree Officer with reference to the danger of potential landslide.*

49/2006/016 Maundown Water Treatment Works, Langley Marsh: Erection of new water treatment works and associated facilities and demolition of part of existing water treatment works, regrading of ground and landscaping – *The application was discussed and it was generally felt that Wessex Water had made an impressive job of their community consultation and that the Parish Council should support the proposal.*

49/2006/019T Ford Lodge, Ford: Application to carry out tree work to one Horse Chestnut within Ford Conservation Area – *The Clerk indicated that he had an interest in this application which involved the removal of four branches from a Chestnut tree situated on the road in a Conservation Area and it was agreed that the Parish Council should support the application.*

49/2006/018 Land north of Plain Pond: Erection of 20 dwellings, widening of existing road, formation of new access and new field access with associated works – *Brian Collingridge explained that this application was an exception to local plan policy based on a housing need survey reported at previous meetings. It was generally felt this was a sensible way of broaching the needs of local housing and was in accordance with the structure plan. Accordingly the Parish Council agreed to support the proposal.*

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Farm Radio - The Clerk read an email which had been received since the agenda was circulated from Margery Hookings promoting the farm radio initiative and the need for volunteers, which was noted by the Parish Council.

Road Safety – The Clerk read an email from Mrs J Cooper of 3 Slape Moor Cottages, Croford, expressing concern about the speed vehicles are travelling past his home and it was agreed the Clerk would forward this email to Ian Titcombe for comment.

Website – The Clerk read an email from Dave Meehan (webmaster) indicating that one of the photographs which he had taken had been copied by the White Hart Hotel for their website and suggested that the Parish Council should make some form of representation. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the owners of the White Hart explaining that this had been noted and asking that a link to Wiveliscombe.com be put on their home page.

Advertisement consent – Parish Councillors raised concern about a new sign at The White Hart Hotel which is situated in the conservation area and a banner currently being displayed by the Chapel Gallery at the traffic lights. It was agreed that the Clerk would refer these matters to Planning Services at Taunton Deane for comment.

Somerset Community Council – The Clerk reported that he had received a request for an annual subscription to the Community Council for Somerset in the amount of £25.00, however after some debate Parish Councillors decided not to subscribe for the current year.

8. ACCOUNTS

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Brenda Boyland (Reimbursement)	£148.05
Wiveliscombe Community Centre	£45.00
Mr D Burton (Winding town clock)	£100.00
Replicated Solutions	£205.63

Somerset Association of Local Councils	£504.50
Allianz Cornhill	£685.12
Wiveliscombe Area Partnership (Grant)	£3,358.00

9. WIVELISCOMBE AREA PARTNERSHIP

Brian Collingridge reported that the consultation work was ongoing in respect of the Childrens' Centre and that the consultants would be making an initial report to Wiveliscombe Area Partnership on 12th April. The new bungalows would now not be ready until June due to a slight delay.

10. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mary Whitmarsh reported that Taunton Deane Borough Council are now starting to think about the possibilities for re-developing the market site, and that the housing review was in its final stages with some more consultation to take place before a final vote is taken. Mary Whitmarsh expressed concern about Taunton Deane's housing policy for allocating two bedroomed accommodation to single people in the town and felt that their refusal to do this in some situations was not fair. Peter Berman raised the issue of Taunton Deane charging for pre-planning advice having heard at a recent meeting that the authority was the only District Council in the south west to do so and that this is now contrary to current Government guidance. Bryn Wilson mentioned that he had heard that Brendon Powerwashers may have to consider re-locating outside the town due to some legal problems and some Councillors said that they were involved in discussions with the parties concerned and that the relevant solicitors were due to meet after Easter. Bryn Wilson asked that the matter be put on the agenda for an update at the next meeting.

11. MATTERS OF REPORT

No matters of report were received.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.58 pm.