

WIVELISCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on MONDAY 12th DECEMBER 2005 at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre.

1. PRESENT

D Luxton (Chairman), B Collingridge (Vice-Chairman), R Matcham, P Berman, B Whitman, T Parker, T Hill, B Wilson and Mesdames M Whitmarsh, S Fairfax, L Bedding, Miss B Boyland, County Councillor C Smeaton, District Councillor J Bone and R N V Hewitt (Clerk). The meeting was also attended by CPSO J Morant and members of the public including Mr J Blackwell, Mrs M Nation and Mr N Nation.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Margaret Prior, Peter Parker, Colin Cridland and Peter Langdon.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th November having been circulated were agreed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Website – The Clerk reported to Councillors that the website sub-committee had met at Wiveliscombe House as detailed in the minutes of the last meeting and would be meeting with the webmaster during the next few days following which a full report would be made to the Parish Council. The Clerk was also able to report that Councillor Jenny Hoyle of Milverton Parish Council was exploring the best way of upgrading their website and had expressed an interest in having pages on the Parish Council's website, Wiveliscombe.com. Tim Parker felt that it was a good thing that other Parish Councils should join the website provided they pay their way and Mary Whitmarsh felt that it was important that running costs were taken into account. Bryn Wilson suggested that the annual contribution towards the running costs should reflect the population of any particular parish and Peter Berman expressed some concern about being able to search for local societies under 'Wiveliscombe' or 'Milverton'. It was also felt that it might be necessary to change the name from Wiveliscombe.com or provide links to the website which might need a more generic identity. It was agreed in principle that other parishes should be able to join the website on the basis that they would pay to have their own pages constructed and maintained, be represented on the website committee, and contribute to the annual running costs. It was agreed that the website sub-committee could look further at this and make recommendations back to the Parish Council in due course.

Allotments – The Clerk read two letters from Mrs A Brown in connection with the boundary at the rear of 35 Plain Pond which adjoins the allotments and was subject of a minor dispute some years ago. It was agreed that the original allotment sub-committee should hold a site meeting with Mrs Brown to discuss matters further and that this would take place on 7th January 2006 at 10.30 am and that the Clerk would send details to those Parish Councillors involved and write to Mrs Brown enclosing a set of the relevant minutes.

Town Notice Board – The Clerk reported that the notice board was now in position and that the total sum for grants and pledges had amounted to £1,000.00. The costs of construction and erection, excluding VAT, had amounted to £883.39, and it was agreed that the balance of monies in hand would be used to make some minor adjustments to the notice board which had

become necessary now that it was installed. It was also agreed that the Clerk would write a letter of thanks to Tony Hoyle. The Clerk raised the matter of the North Street notice board which is looking quite tatty and it was agreed that priority should be given for notices which were relevant to families and that a Wiveliscombe map might be placed in the notice board.

Highways Matters – The Clerk read an email from Dennis Quick replying to various minor works had been reported by Parish Councillors. The email also detailed works that would be undertaken to the gullies at Pyncombe Lane and confirmed that a jetting contractor had been organised to attend. At the Chairman's request Joe Blackwell spoke and confirmed that he had spoken to Dennis Quick and that the jetting was organised. In addition he thought that some drains/gullies may be tarmaced over and he understood that FWAG had now consulted the adjoining landowner. Councillors thought that gullies in West Street, Jews Lane, Sandy Lane and Grants Lane, and could also use jetting and it was agreed that the Clerk would report this to Dennis Quick.

Road Nameplates – The Clerk reported that the scaffolding was down at The Pharmacy and that he would inform John Herrington at Taunton Deane that access should now be available to install the new road nameplates.

Highways – The Clerk read a letter from David Peake, Highway Service Manager, confirming that the water ponding outside the Pharmacy would be investigated.

Community Centre – Bill Whitman mentioned that he had reported to the Clerk that some storm water was lying around the Community Centre.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Caroline Smeaton reported that she had been very pleased to make a grant to the Recreation Ground Committee in respect of improvements to the summer house and that despite applying some pressure she had not got very far with the County Council in respect of the speed review. This latter statement prompted some discussion and it was agreed that the Clerk would see if he could find any relevant correspondence which could be passed on to Caroline Smeaton. Caroline Smeaton referred to the Childrens' Centre and confirmed that all options were being considered including the possibility of using the new premises at the Congregational Church. Bryn Wilson added that it would be useful if a site meeting could be held at Old Brewery Road to discuss the road signage there and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Ian Titcombe.

Recreation Ground – Bryn Wilson confirmed that the Management Committee had received the sum of £400.00 from County Councillor Caroline Smeaton towards improving the summer house for young people and passed on the Recreation Ground's gratitude for this grant.

6. PLANNING

The Paddocks, Wiveliscombe - The Chairman invited Brian Collingridge to speak in connection with matters raised at the last meeting. Brian Collingridge reviewed the background and reminded Councillors that he had approached Taunton Deane enquiring whether it was appropriate for their employees to submit plans on behalf of private clients. As a result of these queries applications prepared by Council employees will now have to go to the full Council. Discussion then followed on how effectively Parish Councils were represented when matters were referred to the planning committee and the importance of a Parish Council's involvement in terms of holding site meetings and providing local information and an objective view.

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

49/2005/064 1 Plain Pond, Wiveliscombe: Erection of dwelling.

49/2005/048 Land adjacent to sewage treatment plant with access from Sandys Moor, Land at Hillsmoor, Wiveliscombe: (As amended by additional information – Wildlife survey: Erection

of industrial units for the production and assembly of powerwashers including office and staff accommodation

49/2005/057 The Paddocks, Ford Road, Wiveliscombe: (As amended by drawing no. 6705:05): Erection of two extensions to dwelling and construction of garage/studio to replace existing garage

49/2005/061 Blackwater Lane, Langley Marsh, Wiveliscombe: (Amended scheme): Demolition of existing building and erection of 2 holiday lets

Applications Received:-

49/2005/068LB The Old Reading Rooms, 10 Silver Street, Wiveliscombe: Replacement of fireplace in first floor reception room – The Chairman commented on the importance of The Old Reading Rooms and the inappropriateness of a modern fireplace. It was also noted that the Conservation Officer was yet to be consulted. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the Conservation Officer's view with the suggestion that the existing fireplace which is presumed to be original to the property, if removed, should be retained in storage for possible future restoration.

49/2005/069T The Vicarage, South Street, Wiveliscombe: Application to fell one Lawson Cypress included in Taunton Deane Borough (Wiveliscombe No.3) Tree Preservation Order 1976 – The Parish Council had no comments to make.

49/2005/071 Flat over the Community Office, The Square, Wiveliscombe: Conversion of first and second floors from a flat to 1 No.2 bedroom Flat, 1 No.1 bedroom flat and 1 No.1 bedroom bedsit – The Parish Council had no comments to make.

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

Rear of The Old Bakery, Ford Road, Wiveliscombe: Erection of 4.no light industry buildings to be used as storage, office and garage (servicing and painting).

For information:-

Erection of new dwelling and garage to rear of 16 Style Road, Wiveliscombe – Withdrawn – Noted by the Parish Council.

Application to fell trees within Ford Conservation area at Hoyells, Ford, Wiveliscombe – Letter giving consent to proceed with the work – Noted by the Parish Council.

Hurstone Farm, Waterrow, Wiveliscombe – Application for a Certificate of Lawful Use – John Bone declared an interest in this matter and reminded Parish Councillors that it was under the jurisdiction of Bathealton Parish Council.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk read a letter from a Mrs B Humphrey, a resident at Huish Champflower, in connection with the current gritting policy and in particular that minor roads in the area were not being gritted which posed a safety hazard. Some discussion followed and County Councillor Caroline Smeaton was able to confirm that the B3227 was gritted to the Devon border as a priority. Brian Collingridge reported that he had been in correspondence with Highways and explained that they had relied on a weather forecast for planning the most recent road gritting during bad weather and that the forecast had proved inaccurate.

Crime Prevention – The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Community Safety Coordinator at Taunton Deane advising that a re-locatable CCTV system had now been acquired and was available in the fight against anti-social behaviour. A discussion followed and it was agreed that the Clerk should suggest that the camera be used in the Croft Way Car Park, the Recreation Ground and the Jubilee Gardens, and that Taunton Deane should liaise with the CPSO.

Electoral Arrangements in Taunton Deane – Mary Whitmarsh explained the draft proposals by the Boundary Committee of England on the future electoral arrangements for Taunton Deane

district. Some discussion followed and it was agreed that Mary Whitmarsh would make a further report at the next meeting on an appropriate response by the Parish Council.

8. PCSO'S REPORT

Julian Morant confirmed that he had now been relieved from undertaking the beat at Bishops Lydeard and would be concentrating on working in the 10 Parishes area. In recent weeks vehicles at Croft Way Car Park had their tanks dipped and the theft of tools from outbuildings continued to be a problem locally.

9. PRECEPT GRANTS

The Clerk reminded Councillors that at the last meeting it was agreed that the precept would be set in the amount of £17,600.00 and the relevant paperwork was completed by the Chairman and two members of the Parish Council. The Clerk circulated an analysis of the various suggestions made by Parish Councillors for the award of grants, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Discussion followed and it was felt that the current policy for grant awards should be reviewed and the Clerk should include this on a future agenda. Bryn Wilson proposed that the grants be based on the mathematical averages as detailed in the Clerk's figures, and Peter Berman proposed that in order to make more funds available the grants should be based on the Clerk's suggestions for discussion plus a further 10%. Further debate was held and a vote was taken on Peter Berman's proposal which was seconded by Mary Whitmarsh which resulted in five Councillors in favour and six Councillors against the proposal. A vote was then taken on Bryn Wilson's proposal which was seconded by Brenda Boyland resulting in six Councillors in favour and three Councillors against. Sara Fairfax mentioned that she had been confused by the first vote and would have voted in favour, however the Chairman confirmed that had he voted he would have been against the motion which would have resulted in the same outcome. Accordingly it was agreed that the grants would be awarded following Bryn Wilson's proposal and would be based on the mathematical averages in the Clerk's figures as follows:-

Community Office	£3,358.00
Community Centre	£1,234.00
Busy Bees	£172.00
Town Hall	£1,666.00
Rainbows	£258.00
Wiveliscombe Scouts	£743.00
10 Parishes Youth Team	£716.00
Wiveliscombe Congregational Church	£1,280.00
TOTAL	<u>£9,428.00</u>

The Clerk further reported that the sifting committee had met and confirmed that all the grant applications were in order, and had suggested that funds awarded as grants should only be held for a maximum of two years after which they are automatically cancelled. This was agreed by the Parish Council and the Clerk confirmed that a statement to this effect would be included in the standard letter setting out the terms of the award of grants.

10. SUNDRY PARISH MATTERS

Brian Collingridge reported that he had been in contact with Ian Titcombe at Highways who had confirmed that the Croft Way speed limits required a Traffic Order and that this would delay the work on site until April (the start of the financial year). The Wiveliscombe history book had been completed and the launch of the book was being held at the Primary School

hall on 17th December at 3.30 pm and all Parish Councillors were invited to attend. Brian Collingridge then turned to the County Council land at Croft Way and confirmed that the working group had now secured funding and appointed a consultant to undertake a feasibility study in order to ascertain the best community use for this land. It had been suggested by the consultant that were the Parish Council to commission the report that they would be able to reclaim a substantial sum of VAT. It was agreed that the Clerk would look into this but in principle the idea was supported by the Parish Council, and that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

11. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mary Whitmarsh reported on various outcomes of the Taunton Deane review which included the cricket ground staying at their current site, the livestock market re-location discussions were ongoing, the cultural quarter proving quite challenging as financial backing was difficult, re-organisation of the parks, and housing stock reform likely to go ahead. Mary Whitmarsh also reported that she was aware that there was still a problem with refuse being left outside the Community Centre, and that the MAGNA assisted housing scheme in Wiveliscombe was going well and the bungalows were likely to be completed in May 2006. Mary Whitmarsh also mentioned that she was awaiting further quotes regarding the tree at Jubilee Gardens which was reported at the last meeting.

12. ACCOUNTS

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

The following account was approved for payment:-
Clerk's salary and expenses £836.38

13. MATTERS OF REPORT

No matters of report were raised.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.