

MINUTES of the Lydiard Millicent Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 6th February 2020; in the Parish Hall, Lydiard Millicent, commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Dean Cobb, Andre Kayani, Vernon Montgomery, Alan Pflieger (chairman), Richard Selwood, Mike Sharp, Phil Shepherd, Jim Stubbs. Mrs Deborah Bourne (clerk)

Also Clerk to Lydiard Tregoze (as minute clerk)
Present 40(+/-) members of the public,

Public Question Time

The majority of people attended to hear discussion about the area of Public Open Space between the Mews and Meadow Springs. The chairman read a statement explaining how Public Question Time would be managed; each person would be invited to speak in turn, any comments or questions be kept to three minutes. Responses would be given on behalf of the Council by the chairman, referring to the clerk if necessary. The Public Question Time ended at 8.30pm

009/20 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence; all Councillors were present at the meeting. It was noted there are currently three casual vacancies which the Council is able to fill by co-option.

010/20 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Sharp declared an interest in item 5, *Public Open Space between the Mews and Meadow Springs*, he had previously spoken to the resident involved in this issue. He remained in his seat throughout the item.

011/20 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the full council meeting held on Thursday 9th January 2020 were adopted by the Council and duly signed by the chairman as a true record of the decisions made.

012/20 Chairman's Update

The Annual Parish Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 28th March 2020; starting at 9.30am in The Sun car park. Free refreshments will be available at 11.00am in the Jubilee Club House for everyone who takes part.

013/20 Public Open Space between The Mews and Meadow Springs

Members discussed the clerk's written report. During the discussion several points were drawn out, the main arguments are listed below:

- Work with Wiltshire Council to identify ownership
- LMPC should be in control of land moving forwards
- Little or no cost to the Parish Council to resolve this issue

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chairman

- Are there other parcels of land around the parish in the same situation to this one?
- Review Neighbourhood Plan very soon after the referendum

RESOLVED to:

- seek adoption of this land, and other parcels of public land throughout the parish where no owner is currently known. This should be carried out professionally, with appropriate legal advice being taken. The clerk is instructed to work with the Councils solicitor to reach a satisfactory conclusion for the Council and for residents.
- Object to all Planning Applications that encroach upon public open space; this will apply to the whole parish not just the centre of Lydiard Millicent
- Once ownership has been established for the area between The Mews and Meadow Springs set a budget of £15,000 to £20,000 for new play equipment/landscaping at the site.

014/20 **Planning Matters**

- Decisions:* The Council noted the Wiltshire Council decisions that had been published since the last Parish Council meeting.
- Applications:* The Council considered the following applications received from Wiltshire Council for a Parish Council opinion.
 - 19/11679/VAR - 87 Chestnut Springs, Lydiard Millicent Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) on 18/10269/VAR to allow for repositioned entrance door and addition of 2 roof-lights in South elevation.

RESOLVED to send No Objections to this variation request. The Council wishes to take this opportunity of requesting the grass verge outside this property and its neighbours be re-instated as soon as possible as it is becoming a hazard to pedestrians in this area.

- 20/00528/FUL – Rose Hall, Washpool, Lydiard Millicent Proposed single storey porch to front elevation.

RESOLVED to send No Objections to this application.

015/20 **Finance**

It was noted that the regular payments have been made since the last Full Council meeting.

016/20 **Footway in Lydiard Green**

Cllr Stubbs requested consideration for extending the footway in Lydiard Green, to join the footway to the Greatfield cross roads. This had previously been discussed a number of years ago, when Wiltshire Council

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chairman

would only permit the footway to be extended to Bagbury Park Industrial Estate.

RESOLVED that Cllrs Phil Shepherd (Highways lead), Dean Cobb and Jim Stubbs investigate this, talking to residents and Steve Hind, Highways engineer, for their opinions. Options for moving forwards will be brought to a future Council meeting before any firm decisions are made.

017/20 **Climate Change**

There is currently a global campaign to highlight climate changes, and a movement towards zero carbon emissions. Nationally the Government's Environment Bill sets out changes in planning, transport and other sectors to help reduce damage to the planet.

Voluntary organisations (mainly Friends of the Earth) have promoted a 20-point action plan for Parish Councils to follow whilst declaring a Climate Emergency.

RESOLVED not to declare a Climate Emergency, as this may give the appearance of the Council aligning with radical groups. It will however, take practical steps to reduce its own carbon footprint and encourage residents to reduce waste and generally improve the local environment.

018/20 **Abandonment of Working Groups**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

019/20 **Highways Working Group Report**

The written report was noted.

020/20 **Speed Indicator Devices**

Cllr Montgomery gave an update on progress of the Speed Indicator Devices which are to be placed around the parish.

RESOLVED to set a budget of £7,500 (seven thousand, five hundred pounds) and instruct the clerk to bring this project to a successful conclusion.

021/20 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

RESOLVED to remove the press and public from the room for the next item; as it is considered the publicity would be prejudicial by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted.

022/20 **Employment Issues**

- a. *Clerks Extended Training:* The Clerk has achieved a CertHE in Community Governance, which is a National qualification recognised in Legislation; it also entitles the holder to an increase in salary of two spinal column points.

RESOLVED to accept the Clerks thanks and appreciation of the support shown in the first part of this extended training. 50% of the course cost for this qualification has previously been provided by Lydiard Millicent Parish Council. Further RESOLVED to increase clerk's salary by two spinal column points (SCP 15 to SCP 17) effective from 1st February 2020 and acknowledge the clerk's continuation of this extended training at her own financial cost, whilst supporting the need for the occasional development days.

- b. *Establishment:* The clerk first requested that the Council consider an increased establishment in August 2017; this was due to extra project work oversight and increase in legislation requirements. The last two budgets included an extra amount within the salary heading for extra hours.

The Clerk was asked to leave the room whilst this matter was discussed.

RESOLVED to increase the clerk's working week to 20 hours, and to give an ex-gratia payment (of £XXXXX – XXX xxx XXX pounds)ⁱ in recognition of previous extra hours worked in the last two years.

023/20 **Date of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Lydiard Millicent Parish Council will take place on Thursday 12th March 2020 in the Jubilee Club House, Meadow Springs commencing at 7.30pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday 5th March 2020 in the Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm. All residents of the parish will be entitled to take part in this meeting. Other members of press and public not residing within the parish are permitted to observe only.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

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Cllr Alan Pfleger
Chairman

ⁱ Confidential staff matter. Text in red will only appear in official signed minutes so that Auditor can see the Councils precise actions.