

LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
4 July 2024
held at the Jubilee Club House, Lydiard Millicent
at 19:00 hrs

Councillors Present:

S Westwood, Chairman S Hill-Wheeler R Selwood
M Allsop, Vice Chairman M Suleman

Others in Attendance: 4 members of the public, Parish Handyman C Tydeman and Wiltshire Councillor S Bucknell

Meeting Clerk: Tina Jones

Public Question Time:

- A resident asked if the Council knew what was happening at Toomers Garden Centre in Stone Lane (original planning application was for a garden centre and post office, the post office closed after a short while). Recently the field behind the Garden Centre has become hard standing with new businesses operating from there with 42-ton trucks coming and going. Wiltshire Councillor Bucknell responded that he would contact a Wiltshire Council Enforcement Officer and ask if this was in line with the planning application.
- A resident raised concerns regarding one of the houses on the mini roundabout in Common Platt opposite The Pry. Sometime ago the verge ditch was filled in and a hedge planted, the hedge has not been maintained and it is now overgrown forcing vehicles into the middle of the road which is dangerous. Wiltshire Councillor Bucknell said that Wiltshire Council verge cannot be taken in a boundary, and that he would contact the Highways Officer. Councillor Westwood added that this area floods badly, and there is are Drainage Engineers visiting later in the month, they would also be made aware of the situation.

MINUTES

24.46 Appointment of Clerk to the Meeting

Members APPOINTED Tina Jones to clerk the meeting.

24.47 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were RECEIVED from Councillors Chalker, Coffey, Hacker and the Clerk, Hayley Graham.

24.48 Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

No declarations of interest were made or dispensations requested.

24.49 Chairman's Announcements:

- There are three Councillor vacancies, Members would like to see some residents come forward to join the team.
- The 6 June D-Day80 commemoration and pop up museum event was a great event, thanks were given to all those who attended. The Council is hoping to hold a similar event to celebrate VE80 in May 2025.
- Wiltshire Council Drainage Engineers are coming to the Parish on 16th July, to look at the areas of flooding and offer advice.

24.50 Minutes

Members considered the minutes of the Parish meeting held on 5 June 2024. The minutes of the meeting were ADOPTED as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

24.51 Wiltshire Councillor Report

- Restrop Update – Highways and Drainage submitted reports in May, however there are no consultation responses. Wiltshire Councillor Bucknell does not know what the Officer will say, he has tried to contact but he is not available at the moment. Wiltshire Councillor Bucknell apologised to the Parish Council on behalf of Wiltshire Council that the situation with the application has not changed.

- He suggested the Council consider looking at a software package called Parish Online, which might streamline some of the procedures for the Clerk

24.52 Financial Accounts

Members NOTED and APPROVED the Income & Expenditure Reports and Payments List. Members APPROVED the transfer (if required) of £10,000 from the saving account to the current account

24.53 Planning Applications

Members considered the Notification of the Planning Appeal for PL/2023/02473 – Ski's Trees Compound and Yard, Greenhill, SN4 8EH. Members RESOLVED to SUPPORT the Planning Officers decision

Members RECEIVED a report from Planning Group A, and after discussions:

Application: PL/2024/05448 - Full Planning permission	Applicant: Mr & Mrs Badhan
Address: Badhan Manor, Wood Lane, Braydon, SN5 0AH	
Proposal: Erection of new stables and formation of access, together with use of associated land for equestrian purposes and extension to garden as defined by application 19/09880/F (resubmission)	
Members RESOLVED to make a comment of NO OBJECTION	
Application: PL/2024/05742 – Householder Planning permission.	Applicant: Mr & Mrs Barrousel
Address: 8 Downs View, Park Lane, LM, SN5 3LZ	
Proposal: Proposed rear extension.	
Members RESOLVED to make a comment of NO OBJECTION	

Members NOTED the following Wiltshire Council decisions:

Application: PL/2024/03007– Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed Use	
Applicant: Mr Mark Gilbert	
Address: Balinrait Farm House, Stone Lane, SN5 3LD	
Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for proposed erection of an outbuilding to accommodate a hobby workshop, together with alterations and extension of a retained building for uses ancillary to the enjoyment of the dwelling house.	WC Refused
Application: PL/2024/03413 – Householder Application	Applicant Name: Mrs Baker
Address: 18 Stone Lane, Lydiard Millicent, SN5 3LD	
Proposal: Proposed annex to replace existing garage	WC Approved with Conditions

24.54 Clerks Report

23.179 Jubilee Club House Trees
Members approved the recommendation to have the trees behind the Jubilee Club House professionally assessed. Quotes Requested.
23.181 Play Area Inspection
Members noted the inspection and the issues raised. Members approved £400 for surface work and time adjustable gate closers. Concerns were raised regarding the Play Tower Decision was deferred until the Handyman could consider the options available. Quotes for replacement of two fence posts – CLOSED, See Minute Reference 24.61.
23.184 Holborn Footpath
There are two specific places along the footpath where the holes are very deep and currently filled with water. After discussions, Members AGREED for contractors to be approached for quotes to fill in the holes and to redress the whole length. Quotes Requested.
23.204 Footpath Working Group
The hedging that denotes Lydiard Green and the neighbouring farmland has gaps in places. There is no right of access onto this private land at any of these points. There are three pillboxes on/surrounding the Green, only one of which is on the Village Green itself. Once the information boards have been put in situ, it is possible that members of the public may try and access the private land area. Members RESOLVED to spend up to £1000 to plant new hedging and replacement trees, met from Ear Marked Reserves set aside for Footpaths/Lydiard Green. MEETING UPDATE: Councillor Allsop thanked the Parish Handyman for his assistance in identifying suitable hedging, purchase to be actioned.
24.37 Pedestrians in Road – The Street

Members considered the request for a “pedestrians on the road sign” to warn cars of the risk to life in this area 46a to approx. 58 The Street. Members AGREED more information was required. Clerk to contact resident. CLOSED, see Minute Reference 24.60

PQT – 2 May – Updates

A resident raised concerned for the safety of users on footpath LMIL60. For at least the last ten years the metal gate blocking LMIL60 has been locked shut. This means that those wishing to use the footpath have to clamber over the gate or the adjoining metal bars. The Clerk asked the resident to email her the details and she would contact Wiltshire Council. UPDATE: The Clerk is in communication with WC regarding this issue.

PQT – 5 June – Updates

- A resident raised concerns that a resident in Stone Lane who previously had a retrospective planning application and associated appeal refused, has started to develop again, and has also not reinstated the boundary as was instructed to do as a result of the application refusal. The resident was asked to email the Clerk with the detail to pass to Wiltshire Council Enforcement. UPDATE – Clerk awaiting contact from the resident.
- A resident highlighted that some notices displayed on the Common Platt noticeboard are not visible due to the noticeboard frame. The Clerk to raise with the Parish Administrator. UPDATE – brought to the attention of the Parish Administrator for future consideration. CLOSED.
- A resident raised concerns around the layby across Common Platt at the bottom of Stone Lane being driven across by vehicles. The road markings are being eroded and are not being maintained and as a result, cars are being driven over utilities and causing damage. The resident was advised to report this to Wiltshire Council using the MyWilts app, as would the Clerk. Clerk has reported to Wiltshire Council. MEETING UPDATE: Resident was present and Members asked him to report via the MyWilts app – Clerk waiting response from Wiltshire Council
- A resident raised concerns that the T-junction at the bottom of Stone Lane is being used as a bend as the road markings have largely disappeared. Members agreed to discuss adding this issue to the LHFIF list at the next meeting although the priorities for this year have already been agreed. Suggested the resident reports every incident / near miss to Wiltshire Council and keeps a log to accompany the photos they have been taking. Clerk awaiting contact from the resident.

24.55 Policies

Members considered the revised procedure policy for Public Participation at Council Meetings and RESOLVED to ADOPT the policy.

24.56 Correspondence

Members NOTED the correspondence received.

- a. Members RECEIVED the Good Councillors Guide 2024 and retained for future use
- b. WC Briefing Note Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- c. WC Wiltshire and Swindon Local Nature Recovery Strategy Longlisting Methodology
- d. WC Wiltshire and Swindon Local Nature Recovery Strategy Report of Usability Testing
- e. WC Briefing Note Housing Land Supply and Housing Delivery Test
- f. WC Briefing Note Solar Together Scheme

24.57 Hearing Loop System – Jubilee Club House

Members NOTED the report received. It had been suggested by a Contractor that a hearing loop system on its own may not improve the sound quality in the room unless acoustic ceiling boards were also installed. As Members were unsure if this would affect the costing of the quotes received, Members AGREED not to accept any of the quotes until further investigations could be taken.

24.58 Parish Newsletter

Members RECEIVED a verbal report from Councillor Westwood. A draft newsletter is being compiled, with a planned end of July delivery date with the August Lydiards magazine. Councillor Suleman to facilitate delivery. The newsletter will also include information on the Neighbourhood Plan review.

24.59 **All Saints Church Nave Appeal**
Members CONSIDERED the grant application received, taking into account the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (The 2023 Act) section 82. The 2023 Act amends the Local Government Act of 1894 by inserting 19a. 19a clarifies that the discretionary powers of the Parish Council are not affected by the 1894 Act, in respect of helping to fund church repairs. Members AGREED that they were satisfied that the grant request would be of direct benefit to the parish, or to some or all of the inhabitants. Members APPROVED the grant under s137 of the Local Government Act and RESOLVED to award a grant of £335.00 (three hundred and thirty-five pounds) being the balance left in the budget.

24.60 **Pedestrians in Road Signage – The Street**
Members considered the request for a “pedestrians on the road sign” to warn cars of the risk to life in this area 46a to approx. 58 The Street. The suggested location for the signs would be on existing poles. After discussions, Members AGREED for the Clerk to approach the Engineer for the Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) and ask if the request could be considered and costed outside of the LHFIG, as all funds have been allocated until 2025-2026.

24.61 **Repairs to Play Area Fence Posts**
Members NOTED the report: as the installation of the two new fence posts, is not as involved as first thought, Contractors are not required. A budget of £60 (sixty pounds) was allocated from the Play Area Maintenance budget for the Parish Handyman to do the work.

24.62 **JCH Improvements – Mats**
Members NOTED the report and considered the recommendation to purchase branded floor mats for the new entrance to the building. After discussions, Member RESOLVED to APPROVE a contract for 3 years at an annual cost of £256.40 (two hundred and fifty-six pounds, 40p) ex VAT. Costs to be met from General Reserves, with a budget line added in the 2025-2026 precept.

24.63 **Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)**
Members NOTED the report and APPROVED the purchase of four additional mounting bars at £190.00 (one hundred and ninety pounds) ex VAT to be met from Community Infrastructure Funding.

24.64 **Council and Community Representatives**
Members RECEIVED the following update from Councillors Allsop and Westwood:

Area Board held on 26 June
• Main topic of the evening was that work is to start on the Lyneham Banks Road, which has been closed to traffic since 2022 due to a major land slip, work is due to be completed in early 2025. Concerns raised as to the possible increase in gravel lorries through Lydiard Millicent. • Crime figures for Cricklade and Royal Wootton Bassett (RWB) area: 249 crimes were recorded in the previous three months, excluding domestic violence, 3 people have been sentenced following the discovery of a cannabis factory in RWB, 3 suspects have been charged following a stabbing in RWB (the victim was taken to hospital with minor injuries).
Community Carers Group
Councillor Allsop did not receive the invitation to the June meeting. The next meet is to be held in September.

24.65 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**
Members RESOLVED – That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the items in Part 2 of the Agenda, this is due to the confidential nature of the items being considered, under the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960.

4 members of the public, Parish Handyman C Tydeman and Wiltshire Councillor Bucknell left the meeting.

24.66 **Land Issues**
Members NOTED and considered the report on land issues.
a. Members APPROVED expenditure of £550 (five hundred and fifty pounds) to cover the fees and disbursements to split the titles of the Mews and the Recreation Field. The

Recreation Field title would be updated, removing the accessway, but noting the right of way over it.

- b. Members NOTED the letter from the Parish Hall Committee regarding the Community Field. Members AGREED that more information was required and delegated Councillors Allsop and Selwood to meet with the Chairman of the Parish Hall, and to submit a written report to a Parish Council meeting for further discussion.
- c. Letter sent regarding legal proceedings. Some of the requested obstructions have been removed, but not all. Further letters to be sent.

24.67 **Staff Issues**

Members Approved the Rialtas training for the Clerk at a cost of £280.00 (two hundred and eighty pounds) ex. VAT, met from the training budget.

Members NOTED and APPROVED the recommendation from the Personnel Committee for Tina Jones to commence work on the burial records from August 2024, not July as previously agreed due to leave and other commitments.

Meeting Closed at 20.19 hrs