

**LYDIARD MILLICENT
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
6 May 2022
held in the Parish Hall, Lydiard Millicent
at 7:00 pm**

Councillors Present:

Cllr M Allsop	Cllr P Cole	Cllr L Curtis	Cllr B Gregory
Cllr C Hacker	Cllr S Hill – Wheeler	Cllr M Sharp	Cllr S Westwood

Others in Attendance: 16 members of the public.

MINUTES

1. **Chairman's Welcome**
The outgoing Chairman Derek Harden welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Appointment of Clerk**
Tina Jones was appointed as Clerk for the meeting.
3. **Apologies for Absence**
Members RECEIVED apologies from Councillor Selwood and Wiltshire Councillor Bucknell.
4. **Minutes**
The minutes of the last meeting held on 7 March 2019 were approved and signed.
5. **Parish Council Review 2019/2021 - Mr Derek Harden**
Six new Councillors were elected in 2021- and none of us knew what we were stepping into. Since then, a number of previous Councillors have re-joined. The previous Clerk, resigned in September, and the Council employed temporary staff. We had a number of gaps in the records and the last year has been a massive learning curve to us all. I would like to thank all of the Councillors for their support. I am stepping down from the Council for personal reasons, I would like to thank all who have supported me.
6. **Parish Council Vision 2022 /2023 – Councillor Allsop**
We held a Meet the Councillors event in November 2021, the main issue were the footpaths, so this is our major priority. The Council is looking at options for the Community Field (some would like to see more car parking, others a footpath). Mr Wright placed an article in the Lydiards Magazine recently, the Council were not aware of this but are happy to hear resident's views. The Mews play area has been decommissioned, and ideas have been received for a wildlife area and benches, this is to be investigated further. The Council would like to see more involvement from residents in Stone Lane, Linden Way, The Elms and Common Platt. Another Meet the Councillor event will be held later in the year, with improvements to be made to the Council website, feedback is always welcome. The Council would like to raise the profile of the Jubilee Club House Building, by improving the facilities offered.
7. **Formation of a Footpath Working Group – Councillor Cole**
Most important issue raised at the Meet the Councillors event was the state of the local footpaths. There are 15 miles of footpaths in and around the Parish. To address the issues and for advice a meeting took place with the Senior Rights of Way Officer for Wiltshire Council, Steve Leonard. The Parish Council is looking to copy the Purton footprint they have 150 footpaths, they manage their own workload, aliasing with Steve Leonard for materials. The Parish Council formed a Footpaths working Party in March 2022 to progress the project. Information has been provided by the Purton Parish Clerk and details obtained for applying for grant assistance from the Area Board. There are books which were printed earlier in the millennium, showing walks of between 3 – 7 miles around the Parish, and to Royal Wootton Bassett and Purton. The Council is making enquires to see if the books reprinted.
The Parish Council made an appeal a few weeks ago for volunteers and there has been some interest, and an article is in the May edition of the Lydiards Magazine. At the end of May a meeting will be arranged for all those who expressed an interest and a volunteer for the Purton Footpaths

Group will attend to give advice and answer any questions. The Ramblers Association has been contacted for information. The Council will have a page on the website devoted to the Footpaths, listed the achievements and what is still to be done.

8. Jubilee Celebrations – Councillor Hacker

The Jubilee celebration are 2nd – 5th June. On Thursday 2nd June, there will be an event at the Jubilee Clubhouse, a beacon will be lit and light refreshments will be served. The Lyneham Military Wives Choir will be signing the new Commonwealth song specially written for the occasion.

On Friday 3rd June, a family event will be held on the Recreation Field at the Jubilee Clubhouse. We are still trying to get more of the Community involved in this event. A local dance group will give a display, the Lydiard Millicent Junior Football Club will be running a football tournament, and various bouncy castles and games will be available, light refreshments will be available.

The Parish Council will be issuing a Jubilee coin to every household. Another leaflet will be produced and delivered to every household with the timings and programme for the weekend.

9. Wiltshire Councillor's Report

Since becoming Wiltshire Councillor for Lydiard Millicent last May, I have enjoyed working with LMPC and local residents, helping out with the many and varied issues raised. The majority of those issues have involved either planning applications or highways problems, and I hope I have been able to help in a practical way with both.

The adoption of the LM Neighbourhood Plan is a major step forward and those who worked so hard to achieve are to be congratulated and thanked. It has already played its part in the determination of several planning applications and I am sure it will be used again over the coming years. The newly reformed LM Parish Council is also getting to grips with planning consultation and has made some valuable consultation responses to recent applications. These representations are valuable both to officers and to members of the planning committee.

The Parish Council is also getting to grips with the CATG (Community Area Transport Group) process to identify potential minor highways improvements throughout the parish. These are necessarily relatively small in nature, as the Area Board funding for CATG projects is limited, but sometimes a simple change in signage can have a material effect.

The last year has seen an unprecedented number of road closures within and around the parish, as the roll out of broadband has required GigaClear to lay cables. In addition, we have seen a significant increase in the amount of work being carried out by Thames Water to upgrade and maintain its infrastructure. Whilst these works can cause inconvenience, and are outside the control of Wiltshire Council, I think we are all grateful that there is investment in our infrastructure. During the year, Wiltshire Council prepared, consulted on and adopted its Climate Strategy in response to the climate emergency. WC is now in the process of developing action plans to deliver the strategy, and the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board has formed an Environmental Forum to act as a focal point for identifying local projects that parish councils and volunteers can promote and implement. It is hoped that LMPC and parish residents who are keen to help tackle climate change will use this forum to put forward ideas for local projects to reduce the area's carbon footprint, improve biodiversity and help rewilding.

The Area Board also gives out grants to a wide range of local groups. If you belong to a group that is in need of some money to help fund a capital project then please do contact me – if you don't ask, you don't get!

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on our lives over the last couple of years. The various lockdowns and restrictions on meetings have had significant knock on effects to the services offered by Wiltshire Council. This has been especially noticeable in the time it is taking to determine planning applications for instance. We are slowly recovering and by this time next year I hope that we will be back to normal.

One of the positive outcomes of Covid-19 seems to be that more people are spending time discovering the area within which they live, using the local footpaths and even helping to keep our environment more litter-free. I hope this will continue.

If anyone has any questions or needs help with any of the services offered by Wiltshire Council then please do feel free to email me or call me. My contact details are: steve.bucknell@wiltshire.gov.uk and 07919 286911.

10. **Luncheon Club – Mr Julian Wright**

It has been a difficult year for the club with the Covid shut down and many members being ill. In September 2021 we tentatively started back twice a month instead of weekly but then it was felt necessary to protect ourselves, with many being classed as vulnerable and we last shared a lunch on 3rd November.

There have been several deaths, one of the saddest being that of Peter Jinks who missed celebrating his 100th birthday by a mere two months, thereby mirroring the Duke of Edinburgh.

The club is now facing several unprecedented challenges – Joan is unable to continue as the organizer having given 34 years of dedicated service to the club, Ken is unable to keep producing his wonderful pies and puddings, Ruth cannot continue as treasurer and our secretary Maggie moved up north. We are only now realizing how much work Joan does behind the scenes and Peta Guest before her.

Nevertheless, we have been uplifted by the response to our emergency meeting and coffee morning held on 20th April when 37 people attended to encourage the club to continue, many offering practical support. From this the committee is now exploring dividing Joan's workload into two teams and adjusting the menu to the current situation. Surprising to me, a 'pudding club' was not at all popular but there have been many other helpful suggestions.

We are particularly grateful to Jackie Kinnea, and her husband David, who on two occasions have delivered leaflets to all members informing them of the changing situations and emergency meeting. They also continue to personally deliver birthday cards to our members.

We are also grateful to the Parish Hall Trustees who have been very accommodating and patient with us over these last difficult 12 months.

Luncheon Club is one of the few regular social gatherings in the village and after 34 years it would be a shame to see it come to an end. But all things must change and, like Dr Who, we realize a transition going to happen. They just don't make the Joan, Ken and Jackie's of this world anymore.

On a really positive note, Joan and the committee are organizing a Platinum Jubilee Celebration on 1st June but only for current members of the Luncheon Club. It will be a party to remember! What happens after that we do not yet know but watch this space.

11. **Bell Ringing Annual Report 2021-2022 provided by Ann Hutchinson**

A return to regular bellringing from 3 or 4 ringers allowed early in 2021 to a full complement of 6 or more allowed from Easter '21 onwards was welcomed by all. With a robust risk assessment in place - focused on ventilation, hand sanitiser, masks and LFT testing before ringing we have been able to recruit and train several new ringers and allow those who had been isolating to return to the tower. We now have 12 ringers registered and ringing regularly at ASLM (including our 3 new recruits), enjoyable practices on Tuesday evenings and usually a full complement of all 6 bells rung weekly for services on Sunday mornings.

Last year saw one wedding, ringing to support the NHS and a special Sunday morning ring on 6th February 2022 to commemorate 70 years since the death of King George and Elizabeth's accession to the throne. Further ringing planned for Jubilee celebrations in May 2022. A recent tower 'tidy-up' saw a thorough safety inspection of the bells, renewed safety hand-rail rope and full first aid kit updated to 2022 standards. Both tower Captains have completed Leadership Safeguarding training and DBS checks with all others having completed the Basic Safeguarding course as a minimum.

12. **Community Field – Mr Julian Wright**

An article was placed in the May edition of the Lydiards Magazine. It was with good foresight that the Council purchases the land. For future use as a possible car park, village green an extension to the Cemetery. A great deal of work went into the exploration of making a green car park, but costs and circumstances prevented this from happening.

I would like to encourage the new Parish Council to relook at it, not knowing that you were already looking into it. Perhaps not on the scale as first thought, where the ground is soft and marshy, (there was once a village pond here), maybe this could be reinstated into a wildlife pond, taking the in the rainwater from the field, and a few more car spaces provided, (to alleviate the parking problems for the Church and School who could contribute as will benefit) along with a Cemetery extension. I am not just asking the Councillors to do all the work, I would help, being a Councillor is not easy especially with what you have been through.

13. **Public Question Time**

A resident asked when the pothole in front of his drive was going to be filled. Wiltshire Council came and looked at it, but have not been back to fill it. Clerk to progress request with Wiltshire Councillor Bucknell.

Meeting Closed at 7.19pm