

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th January 2011 at Milborne Port Town Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Mr E Davis (Chairman), Mr J Farley, Mr R Biss, Mr T Copper, Mrs R Douglas,
Mr R Duckworth, Mr J Edmonds, Mrs W House, Mrs M Lock, Mr R Lockey,
Mr E Watts

Also in attendance: County Councillor William Wallace, District Councillor Lucy Wallace,
Mrs J Freeman (clerk)

Public Question Time (8 members of public in attendance).

Members of the library group gave an update on their campaign to retain the village library and thanked the Parish Council for their support. Mrs Partington announced that a small group had met to discuss setting up a Friends of the Library organisation, with the first event already planned for 24th March (guitar concert by Michael Partington – proceeds to be shared with the church). The group had identified some saving which could be made but stressed the importance of retaining the link with the County service. Councillors were questioned about the timing of the precept setting – it was confirmed that SSDC had this year extended the deadline from 1st January to 31st January, however the Parish Council precept meeting was held at the beginning of November each year and the precept had already been set at £44,000 for 2011/12. The Chairman and Vice Chairman were due to meet Kay Allen of Somerset County Council shortly to discuss options.

County Councillor William Wallace confirmed that he had attended a recent meeting of the library group and had continued to lobby County Hall, the problem being the need to make 25% savings over 3 years. However an Admin group meeting was due to take place later that week and it was understood a rethink was on the cards at County Hall following public consultation and local campaigning such as Milborne Port's. It was hoped that Milborne Port would be given another year for consultation to try and work out ways in which the library could be retained. The lease on Milborne Port library premises had a break clause in December 2011 – it was hoped this could be renegotiated. The group were also looking at alternate locations.

Report from PCSO Mandy Forsey (via e-mail):

- 32 calls recorded – of these 14 related to highway disruption due to the ice and snow and 4 related to anti-social behaviour
- Just one crime recorded during the month – this was for criminal damage to a motor vehicle in Weighbridge car park
- Mandy would be attending the planned Motivate Day in the village hall on 19th February, hopefully with some of the children from the skate park group.
- Latest PACT priorities were : 1. Anti-social behaviour in Wheathill Way; 2. Excessive noise in North Street and 3. Parking on the junction of Station Road and Coldharbour
- Mandy asked the Parish Council to let her know of any other issues and any other PACT priorities.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from Mr A King

2. **Declarations of Interest :**

Mr E Davis – Item 6.1 – payment to Mr S Davis (*related*)

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st December** were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising**

4.1 Parish Plan

Social Groups and Events Mrs Lock had collated information for the Village Activities list and was now working with Mrs Freeman to produce a booklet for general distribution and also publication on the village website. Forms for an SSDC community grant to fund 50% of the cost had been obtained. Details of costings would be obtained from Remous and brought to the Parish Council for consideration

Communication Mr Lockey reported that funding would also be required for the planned new noticeboard at the Medical Centre. The Medical Centre had requested that the noticeboard should be placed on an outside wall and should be of an approved style in keeping with the building. Costings would be obtained and again a 50% grant would be available from SSDC for this project. The clerk confirmed that the first Village Noticeboard was due to be erected on the Guildhall wall on Thursday 20th January.

4.2 Community Woodland

- Mr Davis confirmed that fencing had now been installed, however it had not been fitted with pig wire, as specified. The clerk was asked to write to Mr Tizzard expressing the council's disappointment at the absence of pig wire on the fence as it was understood that this was stipulated in the conditions given by Somerset County Council.
- The first 50 trees were due to be delivered the following week – posts and sleeves would be needed for these. It was understood that Mr Phil Poulton SSDC tree officer had offered to supply these – the clerk offered to contact Mr Poulton on this. Mr Copper confirmed that Gardening Club members were happy to carry out the purchase and planting of trees with their £200 prize money won at a Castle Garden Centre competition.

4.3 Skate Park The clerk confirmed that the installation of the new equipment was due to start on Tuesday 8th February. Hags had requested a pre-installation site meeting – this would be arranged for the afternoon of Friday 21st January (Mr Lockey / PCSO Mandy / Mrs Freeman to attend)

4.4 Future of the Library This item had been discussed during Public Question Time. It was confirmed that Mr Lockey and Mr Farley would represent the Parish Council at the library group meeting.

5. **Planning**

5.1 The following **Planning Application** was considered :

10/05129/S73

Application to remove condition 5 of planning permission 850652 dated 29th July 1985 *Henwood Cottage, Wheathill Lane*

Mr Farley explained that the Planning Committee had looked at a previous application to vary a Section 52 agreement and effectively remove the agricultural tie on this dwelling. The Planning Committee had been unhappy with the principle of agricultural ties being removed and had voted by a majority to recommend that the Section 52 agreement should remain in place.

The council was now being asked to consider this new application, which included detailed information not previously available. **The full council, whilst acknowledging the previous decision made by the Planning Committee agreed after detailed discussion, and taking into account quoted case law, that it would raise no objection to this application on the basis that by moving the tie to another cottage in the vicinity, the number of agricultural dwellings in the locality would be maintained. However the Council asked for steps to be taken to ensure that this new tie was not subsequently removed; also that no other agricultural dwelling should be built on the land marked in blue on the plan.**

6. **Finance**

6.1 The following payments were approved:

Mr S Davis

General Maintenance

£ 151.80

K M Dike	Grounds maintenance – December 2010	£ 873.71
Lifestyle Landscapes	The Grove/Ball Court – monthly contract	£ 72.46
M.Port Primary School	Swimming Transport Grant – Spring Term	£ 100.00
Mid West Office Equipment	Printer cartridge	£ 16.12
Mr A Clark	Window cleaning – Town Hall	£ 12.00
Mrs J Freeman	Reimbursement for purchase of printer	£ 34.99
BWBSL (Wessex Water)	Water services – allotments May-Nov 2010	£ 263.23*

It was noted that this bill was much larger than usual. Although it had been a dry summer, there had also been a problem with excessive use of hosepipes and also sprinklers. The new allotment rules made it clear that sprinklers were not allowed and also that the use of hosepipes was restricted, however usage would need to be monitored. There had been a couple of problems with leaking taps following the freezing temperatures in December – these had now been repaired. Mr Hingston was thanked for carrying out this task at a time when Mr Steve Davis was not available.

7. **Open Spaces**

7.1 Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4th January 2011 were received and noted.

- The Council was asked to authorise the purchase of a replacement cradle seat at Gainsborough Play area at a cost of £86.00 plus VAT and £15 carriage charge *Agreed*
- A meeting to discuss plans for Gainsborough Play Area was arranged for Wednesday 26th January at 7.30pm in the Town Hall (members of the Open Spaces Committee to attend with PCSO Mandy Forsey and Youth Worker Lewis Diffey)

8. **Localism Bill** Councillors noted information received from Somerset Association of Local Councils re The Localism Bill published on 13th December 2010

9. **Highways Matters**

- It was noted that vegetation clearance work to trees at Crackmore, as requested by the Parish Council, had begun on Monday 17th January.

10. **Milborne Port Village Hall**

- A request from the Village Hall Committee for the Parish Council to consider a “third party” donation of £1,000 in support of an application to Viridor was considered and agreed unanimously.
- A further request for a letter from the Parish Council to confirm parish support for the planned upgrading of the insulation., heating and lighting at the village hall was also discussed and agreed unanimously.

11. **Correspondence:**

- **Mr T Cadisch** – a complaint re the standard of workmanship on the new fencing between allotment extension/skate park was acknowledged. *It was agreed that the complaint should be forwarded to the contractor, K M Dike, for action.*
- **Saveria Moss, Local Strategic Partnership Coordinator, South Somerset Together** – invitation to attend event to consider changes to public service provision on Thursday 3rd February 2011 at 6.30pm at the Council Chamber, SSDC, Brympton Way, Yeovil. *Mr J Farley and Mr R Lockey to attend*
- **Royal British Legion** – details of “Great Poppy Party Weekend” June 2011 to celebrate RBL’s 90th birthday *Noted – details to be passed to local branch if not already received*
- **Avon & Somerset Police Authority** – notice of on-line survey on budget decisions facing Avon & Somerset Police Authority – www.consultation.avonandsomersetl.police.uk *Noted*

12. The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 15th February 2011. Councillors were also reminded of the SSDC Annual Meeting with Area East Town & Parish

Councils 2011 due to take place on Tuesday 25th January at the Council Offices, Wincanton starting at 7pm.