

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th February 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 J Edmonds, Mrs W House, Mr A King, Mrs M Lock,

Also in attendance: District Councillor Lucy Wallace, PCSO Mandy Forsey, Mrs J Freeman (clerk)

Public Question Time (No members of public in attendance).

- Mr Edmonds reported that white lining on road junctions at Orchard Road / Bauntons Close was becoming very faint *Clerk to report to Somerset Highways*
- Mrs Douglas reported blocked drains outside Gainsborough House, outside the entrance to Field House, Newtown and also on Sherborne Road. *Clerk to report to Somerset Highways*
- The clerk announced that the annual village litter pick would be taking place on Saturday 19th March, 10am-12pm, starting from East Street car park. This was once again being organised by Robin Bawtree and was being supported by SSDC.

Report from District Councillor Lucy Wallace :

- County Councillor William Wallace had confirmed that the withdrawal of Somerset County Council funding for Milborne Port library had been delayed for a year and that discussions continued to identify ways in which the library could remain open.

Report from PCSO Mandy Forsey :

Mandy was congratulated on being named as PCSO of the year for this area – she in turn thanked the village for their support.

- There had been two crimes reported during the month –
 - theft of eggs from Silverthorne Farm. CCTV had now been installed at the farm and culprits identified
 - a burglary in Redwing Road (but only damage resulting)
- There were 21 calls to the police – of these 10 were Highways related, 2 were related to mud on roads and 2 were reports of anti-social behaviour.
- The application for a £50,000 grant for Gainsborough Play Area had unfortunately been unsuccessful. The group had now applied to The People's Millions for funding.
- Following complaints regarding mud on roads, particularly at Combe Hill, Mandy had spoken to the farmer concerned who had since cleaned the road. Mandy continued to monitor the situation and confirmed that the farmer was trying his best to co-operate.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from Mr R Duckworth, Mr R Lockey and Mr E Watts; also from County Councillor William Wallace.

2. **Declarations of Interest :**

Mr E Davis – Item 6.1 – payment to Mr S Davis (*related*) *It was agreed that in the absence of third cheque signatory Mr E Watts, Mr Davis should be authorised to sign the cheque.*

Mr J Farley – Item 6.1 – payment to Milborne Port Primary School (*school governor*)

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th January 2011** were signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters Arising**

4.1 Parish Plan

- **Communications Group** The Parish Council was asked to consider funding 50% of the cost of an additional village noticeboard at the Medical Centre to match the 50% grant being applied for out of the SSDC community budget. An estimate of £350 had been received from WH & J Henshaw, however the group had suggested adding a cover or doors to the noticeboard to overcome the problem of sourcing suitable weatherproof pinboard. ***PC agreed to fund 50% of the cost, including any reasonable additional cost.***

- **Social Groups and Events** A list of village activities had been completed and Mrs Lock and Mrs Freeman hoped to visit Remous shortly to discuss printing of the information and obtain an estimate. The group would also be applying for a grant of 50% of the cost of this project from the SSDC community budget
- The **Transition Village** group were collating a list of local suppliers (vegetable box schemes, farmers' markets, farm shops etc) for distribution in the village.
- There would be a Parish Plan display at the Motivate Day due to take place at the village hall on Saturday 19th March

4.2 Community Woodland

- The chairman reported that the first 50 trees had now been planted by a working party of councillors together with handyman Steve Davis, and the picnic bench installed.
- It was agreed that residents would now be invited to sponsor additional trees at a cost of £20 per tree. Mr Lockey would be asked to include this invitation in the next parish magazine newsletter.
- It was agreed that the tree whips offered by SSDC would be planted on the left side of the footpath
- The Parish Council thanked local resident Neil Spencer who had offered to keep an eye on the trees and to keep the area tidy
- A suggestion had been received for a litter bin to be installed – it was agreed this should be considered in the next financial year. Mrs Lock asked councillors to note that any profits from the WI's village cookbook, which was about to be published, were to be put towards village projects such as this.
- It was agreed that there should be a painted sign at the entrance to the woodland – details of wording to be discussed at the next full council meeting.
- An invoice from Wheathill Garden Centre for the supply of 50 trees at cost price (total £500 + VAT) had now been received –it was agreed to add payment of this invoice to this meeting's agenda
- The clerk read out a letter from Mr Robert Tizzard asking the Parish Council to reconsider its demand for pig wire to be fixed to the fence, as he felt this would pose a danger to his horses. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would accept Mr Tizzard's request on the understanding that if at any time sheep, pigs or the like were introduced to his field, or the land was resold, the Parish Council would expect stock proof wire to be added to the fence at that time.

4.3 Skate Park The new skate park equipment had now been successfully installed and had been inspected by Steve Barnes of SSDC. A couple of minor points needed attention, which Hags would be dealing with within the next week. It was noted that Sk8pipedream required a receipted invoice for the £15,000 grant received from the Youth Capital Fund as soon as possible. It was therefore agreed that a cheque for £15,000 should be paid to Hags Play immediately, with the balance, less a 5% retainer, being paid at the March full council meeting, assuming the outstanding points had been satisfactorily dealt with by that time.

4.4 Future of the Library As reported by District Councillor Mrs Wallace, it had been confirmed that the withdrawal of funding from Milborne Port Library had been delayed until 2012 to allow the community time to explore ways of keeping the library open. As part of a commitment to fundraising, a Friends of Milborne Port Library had now been established and a committee elected – Mr Farley had agreed to sit on this committee as Parish Council representative. The committee had agreed to set the joining fees at £5 per adult and £1 per child and would be publicising the Friends group at the Motivate day on 19th March.

5. **Planning**

5.1 Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1st February 2011 were received and noted.

5.2 The following **Planning Applications** were considered :

11/00238/LBC Conversion of Doctors' surgery into 2 dwellings (revised application)
11/00237/FUL *Former Doctors' surgery, South Street*
No objection

11/00292/R3C Section 73 application for the variation of condition 1 of permission no. 05/03176/R3C to allow retention of temporary classroom (E591) for a further 5 years *Milborne Port Primary School, Glovers Close*
No objection

6. Finance

6.1 Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1st February 2011 were received and noted and matters arising discussed as follows:

- **Insurance** Councillors were asked to consider insurance requirements for the new play equipment, following the installation of schemes costing £36,000 and £21,500 at Springfield Road and Gainsborough play areas respectively. The clerk confirmed that Public Liability insurance was covered automatically however if the value of the equipment itself was increased in line with the cost of the projects, the premium would increase by up to £300pa. It was noted that some parishes had made a decision not to insure their play equipment but instead to put money aside towards its eventual replacement. This matter was discussed at some length following which it was proposed by Mr Davis, seconded by Mrs Douglas and agreed unanimously that in the interest of the local community, all Parish Council owned assets should be properly insured. *Clerk to arrange additional insurance with Came & Co.*
- **Land Registry** It was confirmed that registration of all council owned land and buildings had now been completed by the Land Registry.
- **Risk Assessment** The clerk thanked Mr Richard Douglas for his expert help and advice in producing the risk assessment.

6.2 The following payments were approved:

Mr S Davis	General Maintenance	£ 129.40
K M Dike	Grounds maintenance – January 2011	£ 892.30
Lifestyle Landscapes	The Grove/Ball Court – monthly contract	£ 73.99
Southern Electric	Electricity charges – Town Hall	£ 240.92
W H & J Henshaw	Supply and fit - village noticeboard	£ 350.40
Shire Signs	Signwriting – village noticeboard	£ 24.00
GB Sport & Leisure	Replacement cradle seat and bushes	£ 142.80
Mrs J Freeman	Reimbursement for cost of stakes for woodland	£ 66.00
Wheathill Garden Centre	Supply of 50 trees for community woodland	£ 600.00

6.3 The following payment by Direct Debit was noted :

PWLB	Loan Repayment (1 st repayment of new loan)	£ 1,243.99
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6.4 The following receipts were noted:

Playing Fields Committee	Funding for skate park	£ 3,000.00
Sk8pipedream	Funding for skate park	£ 18,000.00

7. Open Spaces

7.1 **Gainsborough Play Area** Notes on a meeting with PCSO Mandy Forsey and Youth Worker Lewis Diffey re plans for refurbishment of Gainsborough Play Area were received and noted (meeting attended by Mr E Davis, Mr J Farley, Mr E Watts and clerk Mrs J Freeman)

7.2 Allotments

- The chairman asked councillors to note that the Finance Committee had agreed to raise the allotment rental charge to £30 for all allotments for the year 2012 in an effort to make them self-financing.
- Requests for the erection of sheds on new allotment nos. 40 and 45 were considered and agreed

- K M Dike had quoted a price of £360 to move the tap in the extension area further into the hedge to allow a better turning space for cars, to cut back the top hedge and to remove a section of fence between the existing and new allotments. As the work needed to be carried out as quickly as possible further quotes had not been obtained. ***Proposed by Mrs R Douglas and agreed unanimously to accept this quote*** Mr Dike had also agreed to carry out further work on the fence between the skate park and new allotment area at the same time, as requested.
- 7.3 **Playground inspection training** Details of training events being organised by SSDC would be passed to Mr Lockey (absent from this meeting)
8. **South Somerset Together (LSP) Event for Parishes – 3rd February 2011** Mr Farley gave a verbal report of this event.
9. **Highways Matters**
- Councillors noted the temporary closure of a section of road from entrance to Station House to Milborne Port Station Railway Bridge to enable Somerset Highways to carry out drainage works – effective for 5 days starting from 21st February 2011.
 - A request from Somerset County Council for information on flooding within the parish was noted – although no serious flooding had taken place this year, there had been flash floods mainly due to blocked drains in Sherborne Road, Wheathill Lane, Rosemary Street and Charlton Horethorne Road
 - Replies from Somerset Highways regarding various reported problems were noted .
 - Correspondence from Mrs C Hunt to South Somerset Highways re the state of the road at Combe Hill was noted.
10. **SSDC**
- The clerk gave a verbal report of the **Area East Annual Meeting with Town & Parish Councils** held on Tuesday 25th January 2011 (attended by Mr J Farley, Mr E Watts and Mrs J Freeman) – written notes available at the Town Hall
 - **Royal Wedding Celebrations** The clerk asked councillors to note receipt of advice from the SSDC Licensing Department for anyone organising street parties or other celebrations – these details had been posted on the Town Hall noticeboard for the information of local residents.
 - **Update re Sort It Plus** – it had been confirmed that the collection of cardboard and plastic bottles would begin for most of the village on Friday 25st March 2011, with new boxes being delivered to households during the weeks preceding. The scheme had already been introduced in some areas of the village, where smaller lorries were used due to access restrictions.
11. **Local Elections 2011** Councillors were reminded that Parish Council and District Council elections were due to take place on Thursday 5th May 2011. It was agreed that a piece should be put in the Parish Magazine asking residents to consider standing for election onto the Parish Council.
12. **Correspondence:**
- **Mrs S Calvert** – complaint re wooden/plastic netting fence being installed on the Cavanna Homes site – Mrs Calvert felt this fencing to be unsightly, particularly as black iron fencing had been installed on the majority of the site. The clerk reported that she had already forwarded this complaint to Cavanna Homes and was awaiting their reply.
 - **Sherborne Transport Action Group** The Council was asked to consider the suggestion of a “Bus Community Partnership” to promote villages and business along the route of the no.58 bus, similar to the initiatives carried out by various Rail Partnerships. This was welcomed in principle – and it was agreed details of the proposal would be passed to the Parish Plan Transport working group for their views.
 - **Yeovil Christian Support Trust** – request for funds in support of food bank. *Declined*
13. The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 15th March 2011.