

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20th December 2011 at Milborne Port Town Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Mr E Davis (in Chair), Mrs P Alexander, Mr R Biss, Mrs R Douglas, Mr J Edmonds,
Mr J Farley, Mrs W House, Mrs M Lock, Mr R Lockey, Mr R Ritchie, Mr E Watts

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

Public Question Time (2 members of public in attendance)

- Mr R Lockey reported an incident of a resident slipping on the paving outside the Fish & Chip shop and asked if steps could be taken to check the area and if required a request made for the area to be cleaned.
- Members reported blocked drains on the corner of East Street, Gainsborough and Station Road/Wheathill Road (the road had also “sunk” on this corner) – the clerk was asked to report these again to the Highways Authority; also to request details of their annual drain clearance programme.
- Mr A Elliot-Square drew the council’s attention to the problem in Lower Gunville of cars parking too close to the junction with the High Street. *Clerk to report problem to PCSO Forsey*

District Councillor Lucy Wallace

Cllr Wallace reported that the major project this year would be the new cricket pavilion / public toilets at the Memorial Playing Fields and she would be working with the clerk to seek funding from various sources for this.

County Councillor William Wallace

Cllr Wallace asked whether there had been any problems with theft of grit bins / grit as had been suffered elsewhere in the district; the Parish Council was pleased to report no problems to date.

Report from PCSO Mandy Forsey

- Crimes during the month totalled 8 – 2 domestic, 4 criminal damage (of which 2 had been detected and the culprits dealt with), 1 assault and 1 theft.
- All the burglaries which took place in November had been detected and arrests made.
- Jasper Conran had asked the Parish Council to be made aware that there had been ongoing problems at Ven House of alarms being set off deliberately – the culprits had not yet been found. The alarms had been checked and all new equipment now installed.
- The Sk8pipedream Christmas event at the village hall had been very successful, raising approximately £1,500.
- Reports had been received of anti-social behaviour in Manor Road, as a result of which extra patrols in that area were now being carried out.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs S Shingleton, Mr R Duckworth and PCSO Mandy Forsey

2. **Declarations of Interest :**

Mr E Davis : Personal interest - Item 6.2 - payment to Mr S Davis (*related*);

Mr E Watts : Personal interest – Item 6.2 - payment to Wheathill Garden Centre (*owner*)

3. **Minutes of the full council meeting** held on Tuesday 15th November 2011 were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising**

4.1 Parish Plan No further progress to report

4.2 Future of the Library

- Cllr William Wallace was pleased that the library would now be retained, following the Judicial Review decision. He reported that the County Council would now be employing a consultant to investigate why SCC failed on the issue of equality and would be looking to rationalise library provision, as savings still needed to be made, but without closing any of the threatened libraries or removing any mobile libraries. The Milborne Port group had already identified ways to reduce costs and it was likely that SCC would wish to discuss with the group ways in which these reductions could be achieved.
- In a reply to a question regarding the £25 million invested in an Iceland Bank, which it was understood SCC would now be able to recover, Cllr Wallace stated that SCC were likely to be able to recoup approx. 85-90%, some of which had already been received, but that SCC needed to prioritise where this money would go.
- Mr J Farley confirmed that the Friends of Milborne Port Library still remained in existence following the Judicial Review, and that a report from them would be going into the next Parish Magazine. The group continued to work closely with Friends of Somerset Libraries who hoped to set up a meeting with SCC to discuss their proposals.

4.3 Diamond Jubilee Mr R Lockey and Mrs M Lock reported on a recent meeting of the village jubilee event organising committee. Mrs Freeman confirmed that advice from the Parish Council's insurers had been received and passed onto the committee via Mr Lockey. Events planned in the short term included a sausage tasting event to be held in January, with a view to butcher Wayne Pullen producing a "Milborne Port Sausage".

4.4 Village Hall Refurbishment Following correspondence with Mr House, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, it was agreed that an order for the required roofing works should be confirmed with Abselon Roofing. It was further agreed that the Parish Council would be prepared to pay 50% of the contract price once scaffolding had been erected and the roofing materials delivered to site. As cheques can only be signed at Parish Council meetings it was agreed that, if required, a cheque for up to 50% of the contract price could be signed at a meeting prior to delivery and handed to the contractor on delivery.

5. **Planning**

5.1 Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2011 were received and noted.

5.2 The following **planning approvals** were noted :

11/03495/FUL Construction of a slurry lagoon *Coombe Hill Farm, Furlong Lane*

11/03498/FUL Erection of a milking parlour, dairy and handling facilities and use of existing storage building for livestock housing. (Revised Application)
Coombe Farm, Furlong Lane

11/03808/FUL } Replacement windows in rear elevation and new natural stone boundary
11/03809/LBC } wall to replace boarded fence as approved planning permission
11/00237/FUL Doctors Premises, The Cross, South Street

5.3 The **withdrawal** of the following planning application was noted:

11/02625/FUL Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian use together with the siting of a horse walker (Retrospective) *Wheathill Farm, Wheathill Lane*

6. **Finance**

6.1 **Precept 2012/13** – it was agreed to defer the final decision regarding the 2012/13 precept to the next full council meeting on 17th January 2012

6.2	The following payments were approved:		
	S Davis	General maintenance	£ 126.40
	K M Dike	Grounds maintenance – November 2011	£ 892.30
	Lifestyle Landscapes	The Grove/Ball Court – monthly contract	£ 116.40
	Wayne Timmins	Decorating –Town Hall	£ 1950.00
	Bradfords Build. Supplies	Maintenance materials (public benches)	£ 52.31
	Glasdon Manufacturing Ltd	2 x grit bins (Wheathill Lane / Bathwell Lane)	£ 338.52
	BWBSL (Wessex Water)	Water charges (Allots £195.52, Town Hall £45.64)	£ 241.16
	K M Dike	Hedgecutting – village hall car park	£ 510.00*
	Viridor Waste Management	Third party contribution – Village Hall refurbishment	£ 1024.60
	Wheathill Garden Centre	Supply of 2 Christmas trees for Town Hall	£ 59.98
	A Clark	Window Cleaning – Town Hall	£ 12.00
	Mrs J Freeman	Petty Cash	£ 50.00

*Cost (ex VAT) split three ways with Playing Fields Committee and Village Hall Committee

7. **Footpaths**

- 7.1 Minutes of the Footpaths Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2011 were received and noted.

8 **Public Conveniences – London Road and Memorial Playing Fields**

Following the decision made at the November 2011 meeting, it was confirmed that a meeting had been arranged with Helen Rutter, Vega Sturgess and Garry Green of SSDC on Friday 6th January at 2.30pm to discuss the closure of the London Road toilets and the possibility of diverting earmarked funding towards building new toilets at the playing fields *E Davis, J Farley, J Freeman to attend*

9. **South Somerset Market Towns Investment Group meeting** – receipt of written report of the meeting held on 3rd November 2011 was noted.

10. **St. John’s Churchyard** The clerk reported on the following correspondence from Mr Robin Bawtree on behalf of St. John’s Church

- 10.1 *Subsidence* - following an incident of subsidence following works to the church, Mr Bawtree had enquired as to ownership of the footpaths. The clerk had taken advice and had confirmed that “whilst Parish Councils may become responsible for maintenance of a churchyard, the churchyard remains in the ownership of the church” and that the Parish Council could not accept any responsibility for the subsidence.

- 10.2. A request was received for the *painting of the churchyard railings and also cleaning of the war memorial*. The clerk confirmed that she was in correspondence with the Probation Service regarding the possibility of having the railings painted under a “Community Payback” scheme. It was agreed that advice and costings should be obtained for cleaning the war memorial.

11. **Milborne Port Conservation Area Review** Mr Mike Allen had requested a meeting with councillors to walk around the village to discuss possible changes to the conservation areas. However it was agreed that if the Parish Council were still of the opinion that no changes were necessary (ref Parish Council meeting March 2009), there would be no requirement for a meeting. However it was agreed that the current conservation area would be reviewed by the current council and discussed as a special item at a committee meeting on Tuesday 3rd January 2012.

12. **Town Hall** It was agreed that prices should be obtained for entrance matting between the main Town Hall door and the WI room door, plus vinyl flooring in the remainder of the kitchen area and the toilet area.

13. **Gainsborough Play Area Scheme** – an update was received from PCSO Mandy Forsey. It was confirmed that three companies had been invited to tender for the scheme; also that landscape

architect Julian Klein had been approached to become involved in the scheme, a requirement stipulated by funding providers. It was agreed that a special meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 31st January 2012 at 7pm in the Town Hall to discuss quotations received and to make a decision on the preferred supplier.

14. **Highways**

14.1 Guide to Winter Service in Somerset 2011/12 *Noted*

14.2 Complaints re car parking problems in South View Road were reported. *A reply from Somerset Highways was noted, confirming that this area formed part of the public highway; also that SCC could consider placing marker posts around the grass area to stop parking but that this would be expensive and could be regarded as an overreaction. It was agreed that no further action could be taken by the Parish Council.*

14.3 A SCC Consultation on a potential increase in the charge for renewing or applying for a Blue Disabled Parking Badge from £2 to £10 was noted – *details to be put on village noticeboard.*
www.somerset.gov.uk/bluebadge

14.4 Consultation on Somerset's Draft Countywide Parking Strategy – note consultation period ends 20th January 2011 <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/transportstrategy> *Noted*

15 **Correspondence:**

- **Cllr Henry Hobhouse, SSDC-** Invitation to send representative to Area East Community Safety Action Panel Meeting, 10am on Tuesday 17th January 2012 (to be attended by Deputy Chief Constable Rob Beckley to talk about the future of policing in the area and the local community safety structure) *Noted.*
- **K Wilcocks, Executive Producer, Things to Do – BBC Learning** Invitation to register with “Things to Do” to promote local activities and events *Details passed to the communications group.*
- **Julian Gale, SCC** – update re Somerset Electoral Review *Noted*
- **Sherborne Transport Action Group** – minutes of meeting held on 1st December 2011 *Noted – brief verbal report given by Mr J Edmonds*
- **SCC Transporting Somerset** – Consultation re proposed reduction in funding to bus services from 2012 *Noted*
- **Society of Local Council Clerks** - invitation for clerk to become member *Agreed that PC would pay fee of £116.00*
- **Avon & Somerset Police Authority** – Newsletter *Noted*
- **SSDC Area East Bulletin** – November 2011 *Noted*
- **Somerset Age UK** – request for donation *Declined*
- **South Somerset CAB** – acknowledgement of donation *Noted*

16. The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 17th January 2012