

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th July 2011 at Milborne Port Town Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Mrs P Alexander, Mr R Biss, Mr E Davis, Mrs R Douglas, Mr R Duckworth,
Mr J Farley, Mrs W House, Mr R Lockey, Mrs M Lock, Mrs S Shingleton, Mr E Watts
Also in attendance: District Coucncillor Lucy Wallace, Mrs J Freeman (clerk)

Public Question Time (1 member of public in attendance).
No questions raised.

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

- 18 telephone calls were received during the last month
- 4 crimes were recorded – 1 burglary, 1 malicious communication, 1 assault and 1 indecency images

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mr J Edmonds (on holiday)

2. **Declarations of Interest :**

Mr E Davis – Item 7.1 – payment to Mr S Davis (*related*);

Mr E Watts – Item 5.3 – Commonalty Charity Lands (*spouse of trustee*)

Mr Biss, Mr Lockey, Mr Duckworth and Mr Davis – Item 5.3 – Commonalty Charity Lands (*Trustees*)

3. **Parish Council Vacancy**

3.1 Mr Martin Ritchie was proposed by Mrs W House, seconded by Mrs P Alexander and duly co-opted onto the council to replace Mr A King who had recently resigned due to ill health (9 members in favour, with one abstention)

3.2 Mr E Watts was elected as Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee, replacing Mr A King.

4. **Minutes of the full council meeting** held on Tuesday 21st June 2011

- it was noted that Mrs W House had attended the meeting but had not been listed

- following a request from Mr E Watts, wording relating to item 5.3 (Commonalty Charity Lands) was amended.

Subject to the above amendments, it was agreed that the minutes could then be signed as an accurate record of the meeting and reissued.

5. **Matters Arising**

5.1 Parish Plan

- Mrs Alexander asked for the council's approval to set up a beekeeping group as part of the Transition group's activities – she confirmed that this would be set up with the help and guidance of local beekeeper Alan Blundell and that Tim Cook of SSDC had confirmed that some funding would be available to help with set-up costs. The group intended to approach local landowners to obtain permissions for suitable sites for hives. *Approved.*
- Mr Lockey confirmed that the Communications group were in the process of putting together a new welcome pack
- The clerk expressed concern that little progress was being made on several issues identified in the parish plan. It was agreed that the guidance of SSDC regeneration officers should be sought, in particular in relation to the proposed new supermarket. The clerk agreed to contact Mr Mike Allen/Mr Tim Cook of SSDC to set up a meeting.

- 5.2 Future of the Library Mr Farley reported that matters were still in limbo until the completion of the Judicial Review. In the meantime, Friends of Milborne Port Library had asked their members and other residents to consider pledging money towards the campaign to show the level of local feeling behind the campaign. Considerable interest had been shown at stalls at Ven House and the School Fete.
- 5.3 Commonalty Charity Lands – Election of Parish Council Nominated Trustee to replace Mrs M Russell Mr Watts’ suggestion that a trustee to replace Mrs Russell should be a member of the present council was agreed. Mr J Edmonds had agreed to be considered; Mrs P Alexander also agreed to stand for election. A secret ballot resulted in Mrs Pam Alexander being elected as Parish Council nominated trustee to replace Mrs Russell, having secured the majority vote (term of office to run until May 2013).
- 5.4 Public Conveniences, London Road Mr Davis and Mr Farley reported on a meeting with Helen Rutter and Vega Sturgess of SSDC, who had produced details of present costs associated with providing the public conveniences. SSDC had offered to give the Parish Council a dowry of £16,000 to take on a lease and to keep the toilets open for 3 years. After 3 years the Parish Council would have the option of continuing to keep open the toilets at its own expense, or closing them. Mr Farley also reported on a discussion with Councillor Henry Hobhouse, SSDC portfolio holder for Property Services. He had reported the possibility of offering an appropriate sum of money to local pubs to offer toilet facilities. After discussion it was agreed that further information was required before a decision could be made by the Parish Council - firstly whether any local publicans been approached regarding the possibility of providing toilet facilities, and if so what response had been received, secondly details of the terms/length of the lease and lastly details of responsibility for disposal of the building if the toilets were closed?
- 5.5 Car Parking Area, Piece Road The clerk reported that an acknowledgement of the parish council’s request had been received from SSDC and that an “in principle” decision was expected in the week commencing 8th August 2011

6. **Planning**

- 6.1 Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5th July 2011 were received and noted.

7. **Finance**

- 7.1 The following payments were approved:

Mr S Davis	General maintenance	£ 221.60
K M Dike	Grounds maintenance – April 2011	£ 892.30
Lifestyle Landscapes	The Grove/Ball Court – monthly contract	£ 116.40
Crackmore Garage	Fuel for churchyard mowers	£ 27.24
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax/National Insurance 1 st quarter 2011/12	£ 412.11
Mr A Gawler	Emergency call-out – Town Hall	£ 25.00

- 7.2 The following payment by Direct Debit was noted:

BT	Telephone charges – Town Hall	£ 87.75
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8. **Town Hall**

- 8.1 **Internal Decoration.** It was noted that only one quote had been received to date. It was therefore agree to defer a decision until the August meeting
- 8.2 **Electrical Testing** Two estimates for electrical testing at the Town Hall were received. It was proposed by Mr R Lockey, seconded by Mr Watts and agreed unanimously to accept the estimate from Mr A Gawler. Mr Gawler was also thanked for attending a power cut at the Town Hall – Mr Davis reported that on this occasion a step ladder had had to be borrowed locally as none was

available in the town hall, and asked for the council's permission to purchase a step ladder for use in the town hall – *agreed by a majority.*

9. **Open Spaces**

9.1 Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5th July 2011 were received and noted. Matters arising :

- The clerk was asked to include “no golf” on the proposed sign for Springfield Play Area; the wording for the Station Copse sign was also amended.
- The clerk was asked to contact the Probation Service re the possibility of the church railings being painted by offenders carrying out community service.

10. **Village Hall Project** Mr Davis gave details of estimates received and funding obtained to date. An application for lottery funding had been amended and re-submitted but turned down again, leaving a shortfall of between £30-35,000. The possibility of and costs involved in obtaining a loan of £25,000 to £30,000 from PWLB were discussed. Advice had also been sought on VAT rules and confirmation received from SALC that the Parish Council would, subject to approval, be able to take out a loan with PWLB and use that money to fund part of the village hall project and that VAT would be recoverable on that part which was fully funded by the parish council, subject to the Parish Council placing the order, a tax invoice being addressed to the PC, the PC using its own funds only (i.e. not funds from any beneficiary group) and records being kept by the PC. It was agreed in principle that the Parish Council should fund the roofing element of the project by taking out a loan of £30,000 payable over 10 years – the clerk was asked to obtain the necessary approval forms *Proposed E Watts, Seconded R Duckworth, agreed unanimously.*

11. **Review of County Council members/divisions and South Somerset Polling District and Polling Place Review** Mr Farley explained that a review of county council divisions had been requested as there was at present a considerable variance in the number of electors per division. Details of proposals were being prepared by Peter Lacy, SALC and would be e-mailed to parishes shortly for their views. It was hoped that more information would be available for discussion at the next full council meeting.

12. **Emergency Planning** The clerk reported the requirement for a new emergency plan to be put in place, for which detailed guidance had been supplied by the Somerset Local Authorities Civil Contingencies Unit. An offer from Mr Richard Douglas to prepare the relevant documents was gratefully received.

13. **Charity Cricket Event, 24th July 2011** Details for the raffle of the police bike at the Charity Cricket event on 24th July were agreed.

14. **Parish Youth Worker** It was noted that a Parish Youth Worker Evaluation Meeting was due to take place at SSDC's offices in Wincanton on Tuesday 26th July at 6pm (Mr J Farley and Mrs J Freeman agreed to attend)

15. **Highways Matters**

15.1 **Reported Problems** Mr Colin Fletcher had confirmed that white lining and improved signage discussed on site were programmed for completion during the Summer.

15.2 **Road Surface at Higher Gunville** Mrs Wallace confirmed that County Councillor William Wallace had been in discussion with Somerset Highways regarding the resurfacing of Higher Gunville and hoped to be able to report progress at the end of the following week.

15.3 **Retaining wall at Sansomes Hill** The clerk read out an update from Somerset County Council regarding repairs to the bridge wall; it was confirmed that this was scheduled for completion by September 2011

15.4 The clerk was asked to enquire re obtaining a wayleave for water board works across land at the Clump.

16. **Correspondence:**

- **Mrs S Calvert** – complaint re state of river bank between Old Stable House, Paddock Walk and Cavanna Development *Noted – letter supporting Mrs Calvert’s complaints to be sent to Cavanna Homes.*
- **Mr M Keating, Sherborne Transport Action Group** - notification of meeting to discuss creating a Bus Community Partnership for the 58/158 service – to be held in Wincanton Town Hall on Thursday 21st July 2011 at 2.30pm. *Noted*
- **SSDC Area East Bulletin June 2011** *Noted*

17 The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 16th August 2011