

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Also in attendance: Mrs J Freeman (clerk); PCSO Mandy Forsey (during public question time)

Public Question Time (3 members of the Friends of Milborne Port Library (FOMPL in attendance).

- On behalf of FOMPL Mrs C Partington thanked the Parish Council for their support so far and asked what information the Parish Council required in order to consider the library at the 2012/13 precept planning meeting in November. As the Judicial Review was still ongoing, the future of the library was still uncertain, however the group was asked to prepare potential scenarios detailing the costs involved, for consideration by the Finance Committee.
- Mr Edmonds reported that a bench at the cemetery still required refurbishment; also that seats at the East Hill seating area required repainting. It was confirmed that this work was due to be carried out by Mr S Davis shortly.
- Mr Davis confirmed that work had now been carried out by Wessex Water to reinstate the Clump to a satisfactory standard, following a complaint from the Parish Council.

Report from PCSO Mandy Forsey:

- 30 telephone calls were recorded during the month and 7 crimes – these included malicious communication, theft of a motor vehicle, theft of bicycles and disorder. Bicycles had been stolen from South Street and East Street and residents were being reminded that bikes should be kept out of sight and locked.
- There had been further reports of dog fouling on the playing fields – Mandy would be contacting the SSDC dog warden on this and also reporting the problem in her Parish Magazine report.
- A Community Consultation event for the Gainsborough Play Area Scheme had been organised for 12th November 2-5pm in the school hall.
- Sk8Pipedream would be holding a Craft & Food Market, Silent Auction and Santa event at the Village Hall on 3rd and 4th December, 10am-4pm both days – to raise further funds for the Gainsborough scheme.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs S Shingleton, Councillors William and Lucy Wallace; also Cheryl Goddard, Chairman of the Friends of Milborne Port Library
2. **Declarations of Interest :**
Mr E Davis : Personal interest - Item 6.1 – payment to Mr S Davis (*related*); also planning application 11/03742/FUL – Land at Higher Combe Farm (*owner of land adjacent*)
- 3 **Minutes of the full council meeting** held on Tuesday 20th September 2011 were agreed following a minor amendment and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - 4.1 Parish Plan A meeting of the Action Forum had taken place in the Town Hall on Monday 17th October – report to follow.
 - 4.2 Future of the Library This had been discussed during Public Question Time; no further news to report until the outcome of the Judicial Review was announced.
 - 4.3 Boundary Review The clerk gave an update on the initial proposals received :

4.3.1 **Somerset Electoral Review** The number of County Councillors to be reduced from 58 to 55; the Blackmoor Vale Division to remain as is but with the addition of Rimpleton, bringing the division to within the required 10% of the target average electorate of 8137 for each County Councillor in Somerset

4.3.2 **Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England** South West England to be reduced from 55 constituencies to 53. This area to become part of a new Glastonbury and Wincanton constituency. Full details and maps were available online at www.independent.gov.uk/boundarycommissionforengland; also at Yeovil and Wincanton SSDC offices. 36 public hearings would also be held, the nearest being in Bristol on 7th November.

4.4 **Town Hall Electrics** Three estimates for the required remedial work and replacement heaters were considered, following which it was proposed by Mrs House, seconded by Mrs Douglas and agreed unanimously to award the contract to Mr A Gawler. However the clerk was asked to request 2 additional smoke detectors for the office and the WI room, all alarms to be connected; also to check that 2kw heaters would be supplied.

4.5 **Diamond Jubilee** The clerk was asked to contact local clubs and societies regarding any plans for Diamond Jubilee celebrations; also to advertise in the next Parish Magazine for potential committee members. It was agreed that the council would also consider donating commemorative mugs to children of the village (clerk to obtain details and prices) and also consider lighting a beacon.

4.6 **Village Hall** The Chairman confirmed that Somerset Association of Local Councils had given their approval for the £30,000 loan application and had submitted details to the Department for Communities and Local Government in London for their approval. Once this was received, an application could then be made to the Public Works Loan Board for the required funds.

5. **Planning**

5.1 Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4th October 2011 were received and noted.

5.2 The following planning applications were considered:

11/03742/FUL Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian and the formation of a ménage for private use. *Land at Higher Combe Farm, Combe Hill*
No objection

11/03453/LBC Carrying out of internal alterations to dwelling
Manor Farm, Lower Kingsbury **No objection**

5.2 The following **planning approval** was noted:

11/03163/FUL Single storey extension to front elevation *13 Plover Road*

5.3 **SSDC Draft Core Strategy** – members were asked to note that the South Somerset District Council LDF Draft Core Strategy had been due to be considered by the Area East Committee in November, however this had now been postponed until the New Year due to the delayed completion of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan which needed to accompany the Core Strategy.

6. **Finance**

6.1 The following payments were approved:

Mr S Davis	General maintenance	£ 130.60
K M Dike	Grounds maintenance – September 2011	£ 892.30
Lifestyle Landscapes	The Grove/Ball Court – monthly contract	£ 116.40
Hags Play Ltd	5% retainer - Springfield Play Area	£1,800.00

SSDC	½ yearly rates (Town Hall £199.00, Cemetery £304.00)	£ 503.00
Playing Fields Committee	½ yearly grant	£1,366.00
Mid West Office Equipt.	Office stationery/ computer consumables	£ 94.73
RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy Wreath	£ 20.00
HM Revenue & Customs	Employment Tax/National Insurance July-Sep 2011	£ 764.51
Crackmore Garage	Fuel for churchyard mowers / strimmer	£ 7.01
Mrs J Freeman	Burial fees 01.03.11 to 30.09.11	£ 52.00

Also the following payment by Direct Debit was noted:

BT	Telephone charges – Town Hall	£ 97.87
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- 6.2 The clerk asked the Council to consider setting up a standing order for Employment Tax and National Insurance payments to HMRC, details of which had already been distributed to members.
Agreed
7. **Open Spaces** Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4th October 2011 were received and noted.
- 7.1 New signs for the play areas and the woodland had now been completed and would be erected shortly.
- 7.2 Mr Lockey, Mr Davis, Mr Farley, Mrs Freeman and PCSO Mandy Forsey had recently met with Adrian Moore of SSDC on site at Gainsborough play area to discuss the planned scheme. Mr Moore was particularly keen to see improvements to the access, which he felt may need to be moved to improve visibility; the hedge may also need to be reduced for this same purpose although checks would need to be made as to whether permission would be required.
- 7.3 It was noted that dead trees in the road hedge next to the adjacent field were becoming dangerous – the clerk was asked to contact the owner to request action.
- 7.4 Memorial Plaque in Ball Court : Mr Lockey reported that the village stonemason was no longer working in this field; the clerk was therefore asked to obtain estimates from other local stonemasons.
- 8 **Footpaths** Minutes of the Footpaths Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2011 were received and noted.
9. **Highways**
- 9.1 **Update on Reported Problems** - the blocked drain outside Gainsborough House was due to be cleared and checked early December; weeds on the path from Coldharbour to Bullens would be cleared; the clerk continued to chase Highways re the planned white lining at Station Road/Coldharbour; Piece Road and Lower Gunville. The clerk was asked to report that the road sign outside The Old Vicarage was once again obscured; also that the roadside along this stretch of the A30 needed to be cleared of mud and debris. The clerk was also asked to take action regarding overgrown hedges blocking the pavement in East Street.
- 9.2 **SIDs** Details were received of the planned installation dates for the County Council funded speed indicator device at Crackmore.
- 9.3 **Winter Weather Precautions** Somerset Highways had once again invited parishes to collect up to 10 x 25Kg bags of de-icing material from their Yeovil Depot (Saturday 29th October between 9am and 1pm); members were also invited to attend a Depot Open Evening on Thursday 10th November to gain an insight into winter service provision.

10. **South Somerset Together Renewable Energy Conference and tour** Mr Ritchie gave a verbal report of the conference and tour (also attended by Mr Farley)
11. **Correspondence:**
- **Land Registry, Birkenhead** – Notification of application to register longstanding rights in connection with electricity distribution network operated by Southern Electric Power Distribution over The Clump, Bathwell Lane. **Noted and accepted**
 - **Robin Bawtree** – Reminder of Village Litter Pick Saturday 29th October at 10am **Noted**
 - **Area East Bulletin** – September 2011 **Noted**
 - **Kevin Waterfall, Sherborne Douzelage** – Volunteer Leadership conference and workshop in Church Hall, Digby Road Sherborne, 4th and 5th November, 10am-3pm. **Noted**
 - **Clare Simpson, Met Office** – Public Weather Service Community Resilience Consultation **Noted**
 - **Community Council for Somerset** – Somerset Community Oil Scheme **Noted – details to be published in the Parish Magazine and on village noticeboards**
12. The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 15th November 2011