

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7th APRIL 2010[/heading]

The meeting commenced at 7.40pm.

PRESENT: Sid Bishop, David Lomax, Stephanie Penfold, Maurice Spillane, Gordon Wilson (Chair), Liz Carmichael (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Andrew Bennett (Ward Councillor).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

David Lomax declared an interest in agenda item 10.4 as he is a representative for the Parish Council on the Parish Plan committee. Stephanie Penfold declared an interest in agenda items 10.2 and 10.4 as she is the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall committee and on the Parish Plan committee.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Paragraph 4 was amended and 'The Street' was replaced with 'Purley road'. Subject to this change the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th March were approved and signed as a true record.

4. UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Stephanie Penfold advised the meeting that she had spoken with the Post Office about the missing collection plates. New plaques had been sent but these were too big. Replacements have been requested. Maurice Spillane had produced his own map showing paths. The entry form for the Best Kept Village Competition has been submitted. The letter has been sent to the solicitor. Sid Bishop advised the Council that the damage to the grass verge along Church road would be made good once construction was finished.

Actions carried forward from previous minutes

Arrange meeting with SBC to discuss parking issues Action: AB

Send letter of thanks/appreciate regarding parking Action: clerk

5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Ongoing Matters

(i) Traffic Calming – It was noted that some progress had been made. The gates have been put up. The VAS sign still needs to be moved from the pavement to the grass verge. SBC are stilling investigating the state of the signs outside Medbourne Farm.

(ii) Electricity Poles – One of the new poles has been set alongside

the old one in an old stream bed and consequently it is leaning. It was noted that the telephone cables still need to be transferred to the new poles.

(iii) Quality Parish Council status – It was agreed that the clerk should find out if the Parish Council could get a dispensation for not meeting the electoral mandate criteria.

(iv) Flooding on B4192/Blocked drains – It was noted that Sid Bishop, Maurice Spillane and Gordon Wilson had cleared away debris from the flood area in Purley. During this work 3 overgrown drains beside the road side were uncovered and cleared. A further check on the area following rainfall has shown that there was still a problem. A site meeting has been requested with Swindon Borough Council (SBC).

(v) Medbourne Lane road signs – It was proposed that a meeting be held with SBC to discuss reducing the speed limit.

(vi) Grit bins – SBC have stated that as part of their standard procedures all the bins will be inspected, cleared of leaves and refilled in the autumn. A replacement bin has been ordered for the corner of The Street. Additional bins can be provided but if they are required for the roadway they will not be provided along gritted routes. Grit to be requested for the top & bottom of Medbourne hill,

(vii) Postal Collection Plates – Discussed during agenda item 4.

(viii) Grass Verges – Caroline Wilson and Fiona Spillane will take shared responsibility for the Jubilee Gardens.

(ix) Vacancy for Parish Councillor – It was noted that there had been no letters of application or enquiries regarding the vacancy.

(x) Parking Issues – It was noted that a garage on Spinney Close was currently empty and may be available to rent from SBC.

(xi) Best Kept Village Competition – Discussed during agenda item 4.

5.2 Communicating with the public – It was agreed that Maurice Spillane and Gordon Wilson should put together a proposal, for consideration by the Council members, on ways in which the Parish Council could communicate with the public.

Produce proposal on communicating with the public Action:

GW/MS

5.3 Projects for 2010/2011 – It was noted that the Parish Plan group were looking for grant funding but were still hoping that the Parish Council make a contribution of approx 5% of the total cost. The Parish Plan group were advised that the Parish Council had already made a contribution to the project by funding the initial public meeting. Should it be necessary to make a further contribution towards the production of the Parish Plan, the Parish

Council will take the money out of reserves. A sign advertising the village website is required for the gates. It was agreed that there should be a project looking at a planting scheme for the village, including creating flower beds in front of the white village gates, planting elm trees and planting more bulbs.

Arrange walk around village and produce proposal/costings for planting scheme Action: All

Investigate requirement for a cultivation licence Action: clerk

Get costings for website sign Action: clerk

5.4 Village Clean-up – It was noted that the clean-up team usually spend a week in the village undertaking general work such as clearing kerb stones or removing overhanging branches. The Clerk advised the Council that it was best to give the team a prioritised list of jobs to do. It was agreed that Gordon Wilson would draw up the list of tasks. It was noted that it may be possible to obtain a seat for the grass triangle at the top of The Street from James Garrad.

Notify GW of any jobs for clean-up team Action: All

Send prioritised list of jobs to James Garrad Action: GW

Contact James Garrad regarding seat Action: clerk

5.5 Insurance Policy – The clerk advised the meeting that the policy was due on 1st June. Before adjusting the level of cover on the play equipment, clarification is required as to whether or not the policy is new for old.

Confirm policy cover details Action: clerk

5.6 Grass Cutting Contract – The clerk advised the Parish Council that Swindon Commercial Services price for 2010/11 was £78 + vat per cut and that this included a small increase of 2%. It was noted that the grass is normally cut twice a month during the growing season, April to September. The Parish Council resolved to engage SCS for another year and to request the same number of cuts as last year.

Confirm number of cuts required and engage SCS to cut grass

Action: clerk

5.7 West Waddy ADP – The Parish Council considered the letter from West Waddy ADP. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not be making use of their services.

Send response to West Waddy ADP Action: clerk

5.8 Emergency Plan – Deferred to the next meeting.

SUSPENSION OF THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was suspended to allow the public to address the

Parish Council.

6. PLANNING

6.1 A revised planning application has been received for The Lodge, 37 The Street. The Parish Council had no objections to the previous application that had been submitted and upon reviewing the modifications to the plans agreed that it still had no objections to the proposed development.

6.2 Application S/10/0139/ROBI has been granted permission for a single storey side extension.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Account Summary – The Parish Council reviewed the account summary.

7.2 Clerk's Salary – It was resolved that the clerk's salary for 2010/2011 would be £1500 and, as previously agreed, a separate payment of £100 would be made to cover administration costs.

7.3 Payments – The Parish Council agreed to pay invoice 779749 from Liddington Village Hall committee for £24.00

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Council noted the list of correspondence for information that had been received.

9. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

There was no report as Andrew Bennett was unable to attend the meeting.

10. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

10.1 Playing Field – It was noted that work had commenced on the far hedge.

10.2 Village Hall – Stephanie Penfold advised the Parish Council that there will be a Beetle Drive with fish and chip supper on 24 April and an ABBA evening is being arranged for October. It was noted that the Parish Council will need to send a letter on headed paper formally engaging the Monarch Roofing to replace the roof tiles.

Send letter to Monarch Roofing Action: clerk

10.3 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – No report as Jonathan Miller was not at the meeting.

10.4 Parish Plan – David Lomax advised the meeting that the sub-groups who were considering different headings were making good progress. The group is working towards getting questions for

the questionnaire that will go out to all parishioners.
10.5 Jeffries Land Trust – Nothing to report.

11. PARISH MAGAZINE

It was agreed that the following items be put in the Parish Council's report:

Vacancy for Parish Councillor

Care of the Jubilee gardens – Thanks to Linda Hughes for previous work and to Fiona Spillane/Caroline Wilson for taking over role.

Positive feedback on village signs and traffic calming

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A resident had queried who should be contacted regarding obtaining a dropped-kerb. Such requests are not handled by the Parish Council and should be direct to the Planning department & Highways. It was noted that a section of the village hall car park wall was in need of urgent care as it appears to have been damaged and made unstable by tree roots.

13. ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

No additional items were raised.

The meeting concluded at 9.45pm

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th May 2010