

MINUTES

LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 21st January 2008 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

Councillors Present

Chris Cudmore – Chairman (CC), Rose Martin (RM), Marsha Read (MR), Frank Higgins (FH), Ty Schlechter (TS), Alf Smith (AS), Vicki Taylor (VT),
Clerk – Sandrine Vaillant (SV).

The meeting was attended by 6 parishioners (of which 4 representatives of the Recreation Field Committee) and Philip Ham (PH), District Councillor.

	Action
1.0 Apologies	
1.1 PH presented apologies on behalf of Claire Fleming.	
2.0 Minutes of the last meeting & matters arising	
2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 th December 2007 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
2.2 (2.3 & 2.8) NS&I Savings Account and Nat West bank – New mandates and change of clerk details amended. Actions finished.	
2.3 (2.9) Payment of Auditors – Payment sent. Action finished.	
2.4 (2.11) Village Design Statement – Statement displayed in pub and review advertised on boards and in village magazine. Review next month.	
2.5 (2.14) Dog Fouling – Laminated posters tabled at meeting, to be displayed on stiles.	TS
2.6 (2.18) Quarry Liaison Meeting – See 15.7 Below.	
2.7 (2.19) Mendip Ctl & East Neighbourhood Forum – See 15.1 below.	
2.8 (3.2) Speed visors – Email sent to Claire Fleming. PH reported that County Councillors were aware of the PC's requirements and that a mobile unit to share with other villages would probably be put in service. Gloria Caywood (GC) to report further once more information is available.	
2.9 (3.3) East Mendip Partnership – Grant request of £200 to plant spring bulbs. Email sent to Claire Hudson. SV to pursue.	SV

- 2.10 (6.4) Contact MDC regarding Planning Applications – SV clarified position as to MDC’s preferred means of communication. Action finished.
- 2.11 (7.1) Village welcome pack – Caroline Harris currently manages a welcome back for incomers to the village. VH to develop further. VH
- 2.12 (12.1 & 12.1.1) Details of new PCSO displayed on notice boards and published in magazine. SV to draft letter of welcome and issue him with dates of future PC meetings. SV
- 2.13 (12.3.1) Salt/grit bags – FH confirmed that grit had been delivered to Tadhill and Knapp Hill.
- 2.14 (12.4) Letter to Recreation Field Committee - Issued at meeting. Action complete.

3.0 Recreation Field report

- 3.1 RM reported on last Rec Field meeting and handed over to Recreation Field representative for updates as follows (reports for each items included in correspondence file):
- 3.2 Access paths – Following problems with sourcing products, the Rec Field is looking into tarmac the paths for which they believe a new Planning Application is needed, and subject to grant of £4,280 being awarded. It was also requested that the PC submit the Planning Application on behalf of the Recreation Field Committee.
 - 3.2.1 Discussion over various options ensued and PC confirmed it had no objection in principle to the re-surfacing as planned. However the application would need to be agreed by the PC prior to submission.
- 3.3 Report on alternative building design options if we had won the lottery grant was tabled and discussed. As the bid was unsuccessful these options have been superseded by the proposed 2008 development.
- 3.4 Report and photos for the proposed 2008 development were tabled. The proposed extension works, planning and funding issues discussed.
- 3.5 Clarification over the use of the Memorial Hall and the Recreation Field building was sought, to ensure there is no conflict of interest over the activities held within each building.
- 3.6 Recreation Field Committee provided a draft article to be published with the parish magazine. Any comments to be returned to Mr Harris.
- 3.7 Tree planting – PC gave formal permission to Recreation Field to plant 4 trees as per layout included with letter dated 19th January 2008.

4.0 District & County Councillors Reports

4.1 Parish Lengthsman scheme – PC reiterated that it was not interested in the scheme, but queried whether it would be able to hire the ‘lengthsman’ on an ad-hoc basis. PH to confirm.

PH

5.0 Finance

5.1 Financial statements – Statement for 19th November – 16th December 2007 was reissued, agreed and signed. Statement 17th December – 20th January 2008 agreed and signed.

5.2 Subscription to Society of Local Council Clerks – Cheque No 521 agreed and signed for renewal of subscription

5.3 Leigh on Mendip 1st School (invoice I/094) – Cheque No 522 agreed and signed for payment of printing and binding.

5.4 B. Loten (invoice 31/12/07) – Report read and cheque No 523 agreed and signed for clearance of vegetation around stiles in the parish.

5.5 MDC (invoice 3003622) – Payment for election costs. This was not agreed. CC to query the invoice with MDC.

CC

5.6 Age Concern; Request for Grant – Motion passed for £50 to be awarded as Age Concern is present and works within the village, although more presence and advertising of their services would be welcome.

5.7 Grant Requests – To facilitate administration and decisions making processes, PH suggested that grants are awarded once a year upon receipt of standardised application forms from interested parties. PC expressed its interest and will look into adopting in the future.

6.0 Cemetery

6.1 Review of cemetery fees – SV to speak to ML and seek Church’s recommendations.

SV

6.2 Churchyard vandalism – Notice to be delivered from PC with the street cleaning leaflet.

CC

6.3 Yew trees – CC contacted MDC to undertake inspection and cut trees accordingly.

7.0 Planning update

7.1 Whitehole Springs Water Bottling Plant – Application withdrawn.

7.2 Application 102257/002 Examiner House – Motion agreed after discussion. The application was unanimously rejected due to the

apparent lack of control over the items to be stored within the containers and which could cause environmental hazards (to nearby stream and increased noise levels). It would also set a precedent for unsympathetic buildings being erected in gardens, that do not comply with the Village Design Statement.

7.3 Application 120246/000 Rookery Farmhouse, Lime Kiln Lane – Request extension to decision; to be discussed at February meeting. **SV**

7.4 MDC Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – CC read a letter regarding a study asking for possible sites and stated that there was a perceived need within the Parish for more affordable housing, although it was stressed that the PC would want more control over future developments to serve local parishioners and to keep in line with the Village Design Statement. It is acknowledged that future developments will arise at some time in the future.

SV to write to MDC to identify who is responsible for the letter and to ask that PC is kept informed of future developments. **SV**

8.0 Grants to Restore Mendip's Landscape

8.1 Grants to be advertised on notice boards and parish magazine. **SV**

9.0 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

9.1 Several areas within the parish were identified as prone to flooding, as follows:-

- Townsend (water running off the hill from reservoir);
- Blackers Lane, Tower View (dip in the road in which water collects);
- Pitten Street (overflowing of pond area near to sink);
- Pitten Street towards Whitehole Lane (bends in the roads, road floods completely);
- Road outside Great House Farm (water collecting + stream);
- Outside entrance to Barns Close Quarry.

10.0 Assignment of Official Street Names

10.1 No feedback received from notices published. No action.

11.0 Recreation Field Request for Grant(s) for precept 2008/09

11.1 Nothing further to report.

12.0 Parish Plan Action Review

12.1 Nothing to report. Review at February meeting.

13.0 Precept 2008/09

13.1 CC ran through details of 2008/09 proposed budget, which was discussed.

13.2 It was proposed to increase the precept by 4% to £5840 in line with the likely Council Tax increase. A motion was passed and proposal was unanimously agreed.

13.3 SV to request precept of £5,840 from MDC.

SV

FH leaves meeting after updating the PC on issues regarding Highways, reported under 15.3 below.

14.0 Mendip Area Working Panel – Invitation for Bids

14.1 Nothing to report.

15.0 Councillors’ Reports

15.1 PCSO – Nothing to report.

15.2 **Footpaths** – TS provided update on upkeep of stiles, following report from B. Loten. There were two damaged stiles. One was disused and the other (at junction of Blackers Lane and Old Frome Road) is to be repaired.

15.3 **Highways** – FH + GC met with MDC Highway Department on 18/12/07. The following were investigated:

15.3.1 Parking outside school: not much can be done as there is no funding. Only option is to involve the police to prevent dangerous parking.

15.3.2 Speed of traffic along Leigh Street: no funding available and reluctant to put up signage. A shared speed visor is being pursued (see 2.8)

15.3.3 Narrowing of road at Townsend: widening road is not an option and there is little money for other measures. It was however proposed to exaggerate the narrowing of the road with white lines to encourage traffic to slow down. To be implemented later in the year when weather permits.

15.4 **Recreation Field** – Main issues dealt with under 3.0 above. RM also queried whether the Rec Field could request 500 snow drop bulbs, through the same grant as PC is requesting spring bulbs (2.9 above).

SV

15.5 **Memorial Hall** – MR updated on Hall’s fundraising activities with the Big Band concert on 16th February.

15.5.1 An application has been sent to Somerset Aggregate Levy Funds regarding shortfall of funding for the extension. Also requested/queried if any scalplings were available to fill holes in car park: RM to check if Rec Field had any left. Also advised to approach Tarmac for this.

15.5.2 New hiring rates for the hall handed to PC; to be published on website.

SV/CC

15.6 **School** – nothing to report.

15.7 **Quarry** – Tarmac have proposed dates for PC to visit the quarry and offered bi-annual Quarry Liaison Meetings. SV to contact quarry to confirm chosen date of Wednesday 4th June 2008 at 7pm and request a preliminary meeting with TS and CC. SV

16.0 Meeting Attended / To be attended

16.1 14th January – Parish forum. Meeting cancelled.

16.2 Clerk and new councillors training need. Individuals still to meet to discuss. RM/MR/SV

16.3 East Mendip Community Partnership (22 January 2008) – No PC representation this time. This meeting is usually about Frome & Local area. Next meeting on 5th February 2008; RM to attend. RM

16.4 Mendip Area Working Panel (23 January 2008) – No attendance. VH interested to attend in future.

16.5 Mendip Central & East Neighbourhood Forum (12 February 2008) – details to be circulated in the correspondence file

16.6 Freedom of Information Act; Clerk's Training (27 February 2008) – SV requested PC's consent to attend training course at cost of £15.00. PC agreed.

17.0 Correspondence

- Planning Application 120246/000 Rookery Farmhouse (Roof);
- Withdrawal of Planning App. 101802/006 Whitehole Springs;
- Planning Approval 071386/002 Highlands, Tadhill;
- Copy of emails between SV and Quarry;
- Report on stiles in the parish (B. Loten);
- Rec Field; tree plantation request, Access, New built report 2007, photos of 2008 propose development and minutes of January mtg;
- Copy of thank you letter issued to Rec Field;
- Communities and Local Government – Consultation on orders and regulations relating to the conduct of LA members in England;
- Leaflet www.storeisthecore.co.uk;
- Various publications: Your Mendip Winter 2007, Clerks & Councils Direct January 2008; the Clerk January 2008; Thatch Winter 2007, Your Somerset January 2008.

18.0 Date & time of next meeting

18.1 The next meeting will be held on 18th February 2008, at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.