

**MINUTES OF  
LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 9 JULY 2002  
IN THE HALL.**

Councillors present: Chairman J Wright, A Gould, G Jeanes, P Knowles, M Loten and P Moore.

The Chairman opened the meeting and asked M Loten to Chair it while he returned home to collect a letter.

The **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** were accepted as a true record and signed by ML.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**MILLENNIUM SEAT** – no response to letter to SCC about ownership of the land at Park Hayes. PK reported that he had sent 24 questionnaires to residents who would be immediately affected by putting the seat in this area and had received 14 replies of which 9 were in favour.

**PLANNING – IVY COTTAGE** – passed.

**MENDIP LOCAL PLAN** - returned by PK, he felt that no action was needed.

**CODE OF CONDUCT** – forms sent to MDC and, following a request from the Clerk a copy of the advert announcing the adoption of the code had been received.

**ROADS & FOOTPATHS** – an email from Jeff Bunting received 8/07/02 said that the work at Townsend Crossroads would be “treated as a priority.”

Schedule of work for **FOOTPATHS** to be completed. The Clerk and GJ had been asking various contractors in the area about their availability to undertake this work and had been discouraged by the fact that those asked were too busy to tender. The Clerk had asked advice from SALC about whether a Councillor could tender for the work and been told that providing no tools were provided, and a tender was received for the whole job a contract could be entered into with a serving councillor. GJ/CLERK

**REC FIELD** - track cleared for the fete, work on the car park is progressing.

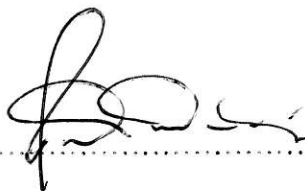
[JW returned and assumed the Chair].

Discussion took place on the exact route of the footpath and whether a sign acknowledging the gift of land ought to be erected. JW/GJ/CLERK

**MEETINGS ATTENDED** – PM reported that the OFSTED report had been published and copies were available from the school. It had been very favourable. Discussion took place as to the whether the PC ought to donate some equipment for the school in recognition of this, a sum of £50 was discussed. PM/CLERK

**FINANCE** – the Audit will take place on 19 August and adverts have been put on the noticeboards.

The Clerk reported that Somerset Computing Ltd had lost the bill for £19.60 agreed for payment on 5 March 2002 with cheque 359 on the current a/c, and sent for receipting. The Clerk had been advised by D Turner that she did not need it to be receipted but had explained that for audit purposes she did. It was agreed to contact DT and try to produce



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a duplicate bill or a letter acknowledging receipt of the cheque. ML explained that until this was done she could not 'sign off' the accounts as the Internal Auditor. **ML/CLERK**

All cheques had been sent.

There being a parishioner present he was asked if he would like to speak to the meeting. He explained that he was very disturbed by rumours that the land in front of his house was to be designated as a site for low cost houses, the building of which would obstruct his view and was thus contrary to the Village Design Statement.

JW said that he and the Clerk had been surprised to hear from County Councillor Cawood and SCC that plans were being drawn up by Knightstone for 3x2 bedroom and 3x3 bedroom homes as, to their knowledge no Housing Need Survey had been done. Information from Charles Cox, SCC, conveyed to the Clerk had been to the effect that an informal survey had been undertaken by MDC and JW was trying to find out the details. It was pointed out that the VDS was only supplementary planning guidance and could be ignored or adhered to at the whim of MDC Planning Department. A rumour to the effect that 150 houses were to be built on land owned by the late F Vining was, as far as JW could ascertain just that, a rumour, without foundation as the land had outline permission for 2 dwellings only and it was contrary to current government planning policy to build what amounted to a new town attached to a village. The current policy was to limit sizeable development to existing towns.

G Cawood had invited a representative of the PC to a meeting to discuss the low cost housing initiative and it was agreed that JW would attend.

#### FINANCE

Audit advertised and the auditor had been emailed by the Clerk to say that the Notice of Audit will be sent after the consultation period. The Clerk explained that anyone wanting to inspect the accounts would be given an appointment and she would ask a Councillor to be present with her. **CLERK**

ML reported that Nat West had changed the addressee for the bank statements to Mrs J A Longley, 6, Old Sawmills. She will write to them again to get it corrected. **ML**

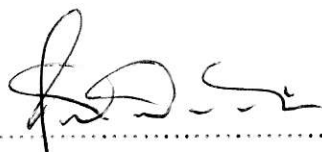
Nat West Bank Statement Sheet 78 on the Current a/c and Sheet 18 on the Cemetery a/c were checked and signed by JW.

Receipt proof will be requested from Somerset Computing Ltd for the Audit. **CLERK**  
July Financial Statement was accepted and signed by JW, Chairman, and ML, RFO.

The Clerk had contacted SALC as the PC's annual accounts are on an Income/expenditure basis and she was led to believe at a training session that for our size Council it had to be done on a Receipts/payments basis. She had passed on the response to ML who reported that Section 2.6 – Statement of Accounts in the new accounting manual states that Councils may "choose to report on an I/E basis".

The new accounting procedure was discussed – the Councillors have to sign the Statement of Assurances. It was agreed that the Clerk as RFO last year and ML as new RFO would both sign the finished document with the dates when they were in place.

K Cockroft will be approached to be the internal auditor. **CLERK**



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CEMETERY A/C – Mowing bill for cuts on 31/05, 14/06 and 28/06 amounting to £112.50p had been presented. ML proposed payment, PM seconded, all agreed. Cheque 29 made out and signed.

The question of tendering for footpath clearing work (see Matters Arising) was explained to JW. It was agreed that B Loten and others would be asked to tender.

#### ROADS & FOOTPATHS

A Parishioner had complained to the Clerk about motorcyclists in BARNCLOSE QUARRY. It was agreed to contact ARC estates. **CLERK**

The state of Stocks Lane and the footpath to the quarry offices will be reported. **CLERK**

A meeting will be arranged with Cllr Cawood to look at the state of the roads. **CLERK**

#### RISK ASSESSMENT

ML and the Clerk explained that under the new accounting procedure the PC had to show that they had carried out a regular risk assessment. The Council's insurance had been reviewed to ensure that the cover was adequate, it had already been agreed that the Clerk would have another person present when visited by a parishioner on council business. The Clerk was concerned about the Deeds held by her to land owned by the Council not being in a fireproof container – it was agreed to investigate the purchase of a fireproof document box and to deposit copies with the Chairman, the Rec Field and Hall Chairmen will be contacted to make sure they have copies. **CLERK**

PLANNING – Conversion of integral garage to bedroom, The Dovecote – no objections.

#### VILLAGE COMMITTEE – PK

Following a suggestion PK made at the APM he had talked to a number of people about a committee to raise money for the whole village and then apportion it out to village projects. A number of sources of future finance were discussed. He will continue to investigate the matter and report back to the PC. **CLERK/PK**

#### REC FIELD - AG

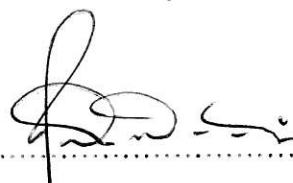
Minutes of 12 June put in Circulation. AG reported that Elsie's Walk had been cleared and the stone already in the car park leveled. The matter of gates from the house gardens onto the new car park needs to be addressed.

#### QUARRY MATTERS

PM offered to get copies of the Halecombe permission and circulate them to Councillors. LIAISON MEETING had been held. Grants were available for schemes put forward by parishes in quarrying areas. The purchase of a village green will be explored. **CLERK**  
The County Council will be asked for the date of the surrender of the IDO on Barns Close and what restoration programme has been agreed. **CLERK**

#### HALL REPORT - June Minutes circulated.

PM asked Councillors to go outside and look at the roots of trees adjacent to the Hall which looked as if they were becoming a hazard to the foundations of the building. S



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Vaughan the Hall Committee Chairman had been in contact with Steve Scriven of SCC who had promised action but nothing had been done. The PC will write. **CLERK**

**PARISH WARDENS – PK**

Recruiting for the new warden had begun and future funding applied for. At present there was now only one beat officer for 12 parishes due to the promotion of the Beckington beat officer. Circulated – “Security products order form”.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

An email from Cllr Cawood asking for help delivering “Your Somerset” was discussed – the PC did not feel it was their place to ask the deliverers of the parish mag to undertake this extra task. It was suggested that one of the youths in the village might be willing to do this. **CLERK**

Circulated – PC Info Bulletin from MDC; Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998; Voluntary Organisation Directory; SCC Corporate Plan 2002-2005; Vital Villages Update; emails concerning communication with Cllr Cawood.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 2002**  
**TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2002 (to be confirmed)**

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