

**LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER 2002
IN THE SCHOOL**

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

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

MATTERS ARISING – Hall trees trimmed.

G Jeanes was thanked for clearing the brambles. Cllr Cawood will be contacted again to arrange a meeting with WS Atkins. **CLERK**

Whitehole Farm – two Councillors had visited the farm in the company of conservation and environment officers. The owners are trying to maintain the ecological diversity of the area. A large garage area has been built, it would appear without plans being submitted to the PC. This will be followed up. **CLERK**

Rec Field Lease – JW will contact D Pattison. **JW**

HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

Phil Miller, MDC Housing Project Officer, and Jonathan Layzell, Senior Rural Housing Enabler, spoke to the meeting about conducting a survey to see if there was a need for some form of low cost housing to enable young people to stay in the village. JL explained that the survey would be done with the co-operation of the PC who would conduct it but the results would go directly to him for analysis. It would be for residents of Leigh parish but they would be asked if anyone connected with the recipient in an adjacent parish was in housing need and a form would be sent to them. It was felt that if this were the case the result ought to be broken down into village and non-village responses.

The last Housing Needs Survey was conducted in 1993 and showed a need for low cost starter homes which the PC had repeatedly asked Mendip planners to take into account when planning applications for large, expensive houses were submitted. The response of the planners had always been that they could not dictate the type of housing a developer could build. The PC had been told that as Somerset had a duty to maximise income and ensure 'good value' they had decided to retain the land from Grove Shute Farm that was adjacent to Leigh Street when they were selling the farm because of its development potential.

A sample survey form was left with the Council and discussion will take place as to the contents. When the results of the survey are known Mendip District Council will call a public meeting.

FINANCE - ML


JW proposed accepting the Financial Statement for October, PK seconded and all agreed.

CURRENT A/C: AUDIT BILL – Moore Stephens fee £50 + £8.75 VAT = £58.75

ML proposed payment, GJ seconded, all agreed. Cheque 371 made out and signed.

CLERK'S SALARY – July to Sept £310.99 claimed. ML pointed out that the new scale figures had not arrived yet. ML proposed payment, AG seconded and all agreed. Cheque 372 made out and signed.

A transfer of £500 was agreed from the Investment to the Current account, forms were signed.


31/10/02

CEMETERY ACCOUNT: MOWING BILL for 6/09 and 20/09 - £75. ML proposed payment, GJ seconded and all agreed. Cheque 32 was made out and signed.

ROADS & FOOTPATHS

AG declared interest and took no part in the first item.
GJ had met Mr Doyle from Hobbs Holdings and discussed the stiles and footpaths near Great House Farm. He was seeking tenders to put in the kissing gates.
AG returned to the meeting.

JW will contact Cllr Cawood about the promised meeting with Jeff Bunting from WS Atkins. JW

It was agreed to enlist the Parish Wardens in reporting road problems. PK
J Davis said he still had the sign for the crossroads to Downhead in his garage. He enquired about putting a bus request stop on the Old Wells Road. CLERK

PLANNING - EBENEZER CHAPEL – modified plans submitted – no objections but PC will ask that a special condition that the new building not be allowed to become a separate residence be included. CLERK

REC FIELD - Sign dedicating 'Elsie's Walk' is being sponsored by K McLeod. Minutes of the last meeting added to circulation.

QUARRY MATTERS - JW had approached I Dutson of Hanson about them giving or selling Sparks Farm Field to the parish for use as a green. Unfortunately the suggestion did not meet with a successful response.
SCC will be asked what plans have been submitted for the reinstatement of Barns Close as Hanson have given up the IDO on the area. CLERK

HALL REPORT

AGM on 4 Nov, ML reported that a booking clerk was desperately needed.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

J Phillips had gone to a presentation on the Quarry Sustainability Fund. Report awaited.

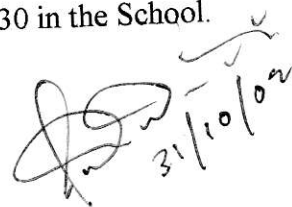
SALC AGM 28/09/02 attended by JW – training for clerks, chairman and councillors only mandatory for Quality PCs. Standards Board has received 1200 complaints of which half were adjudged to be frivolous. All the new rules and legislation that are bombarding clerks and councils will be discussed by the County Secretary who will try to condense them for smaller councils.

CORRESPONDENCE

CIRCULATED: SLCC papers; SCC Local Transport Plan 2001-06 and Bus Strategy info; MDC Standards Committee; SCC Minerals Plan Inquiry findings; Somerset Waste Plan; Campaign for Racial Equality ethnic monitoring; Clerks & Councils Direct; Thatch; Time for More; Freedom of Info Act 2000; Rec Field Minutes 7/08 & 18/09; Youth in Mendip; Right to Roam.

CO -OPTION – Michelle Taylor agreed to be co-opted onto the PC.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 31 October 2002 at 7.30 in the School.


31/10/02