

# MINUTES

## LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Committee Room

### Councillors Present

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

The meeting was attended by 1 representative of Whitehole Farm.

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
1.1	No apologies were received.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>	
2.1	MR declared an interest in the planning applications pertaining to Whitehole Farm.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting &amp; matters arising</b>	
3.1	The minutes of the meeting held on 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2008 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
3.2	(3.6) Risk Assessment – MR confirmed that signs were in place with regard to the car park liability for the Hall. Action complete.	
3.3	(3.7) Declaration of Interest – One form still outstanding.	<b>FH</b>
3.4	(3.10) See item 8.0. Action Complete.	
3.5	(3.12) Invoice for Election – A response has been received from Matthew Hillier. Following discussion, TS proposed to pay a nominal sum of £50, which was seconded by FH. A vote followed with 4 votes for and 2 abstentions. TS to provide Clerk with a draft letter to send.	<b>TS/SV</b>
3.6	(4.1 15/09/08) Housing – CF to find out exact housing strategy from MDC as land surveys seem to have been undertaken without the PC's involvement. CF to report.	<b>CF</b>
3.7	(3.16) Permissive path identified on the SW side of Halecombe Quarry – Letter was sent to Tarmac. Awaiting response.	
3.8	(3.17) Barnes Close Quarry – Path has still not been made good and the matter has been taken up by the Enforcement Officer. Action finished.	
3.9	(4.2) Speed Activated Visors – Clerk advised GC of available locations in the village and asked to be kept informed of developments. Action finished.	
3.10	(5.2.2) Grant budget for Hall covered under item 5.3.1.	
3.11	(5.2.4) TS to ask B. Loten for a quote for the footpaths/stiles yearly report.	<b>TS</b>

- 3.12 (5.6) East Mendip Community Grant - £179.00 worth of bulbs has been bought. Welcome pack – to be pursued in January. VT
- 4.0 District/County Councillors' Reports**
- 4.1 GC December report was circulated.
- 4.2 Following an item in GC's report, FH asked that issue of Travellers be put on the agenda next month. SV
- 5.0 Finance**
- 5.1 Financial statements – Statement to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2008 was agreed and signed.
- 5.2 Transfer of Monies from Savings to Current A/c –£1,500 transfer agreed.
- 5.3.1 Budget & Precept 2009/10 – Chairman ran through proposed budget for 2009/10. In order to support modest projects by various groups in the village, it was agreed to use some of the savings held by the PC so that the precept is only increased by 2% in 09/10. TS proposed, VT seconded, unanimous vote.
- 5.3.2 Clerk to request a precept of £5,957.00. SV
- 5.4 Clerk Salary & Expenses – Invoice agreed and cheques #554 and #555 signed.
- 5.5 Footpaths Expenses – Expenses agreed and cheque #551 signed.
- 5.6 Spring Bulbs – Invoice from Avon Bulbs agreed and cheque #552 signed (monies from East Mendip Community Grant).
- 5.7 Age Concern Grant Request – The Grant Request form had been completed and was reviewed. FH proposed to grant £50, MR seconded. Unanimously agreed. Cheque #556 signed.
- 6.0 Cemetery**
- 6.1 Cemetery mowing & hedge trimming contracts for 2009 - Clerk to send letters requesting quotes for the next 3 years. SV
- 7.0 Planning update**
- 7.1 Application 067818/010, Cookswood Quarry Holiday Retreat – Chair reported on meeting held in Stoke St Michael following the issue of a Travel Plan. A detailed response to the Travel Plan was agreed. The previous objection to the application remains extant, however the Chair proposed to include a statement with the reply as follows 'Parish supports new development of holiday retreat in principle, but the current submission would need significant amendment with planning conditions to overcome the major concerns (e.g. transport and environmental impacts)'. AS seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- 7.2 Application 101802/009, Whitehole Farm (Conversion of barn to 3 holiday lets, in addition to the 4 already present, to provide income) – Unanimously agreed to leave it to the planners (but with a request to consideration the increased traffic in the lane and safety issues at junction).
- 7.3 Application 101802/008, Whitehole Farm (Construction of storage for water bottling plant) – to allow relocation of storage nearer to bottling plant to facilitate activities. Unanimously agreed to recommend approval.
- 7.4 Application 101802/007, Whitehole Farm (amendment to 101802/003) – Representative present explained the background to the amendment request. It was clarified that a S106

would be attached to the agreement, if granted. FH proposed to leave it to the planners (but with a request to ensure that the benefit to Whitehole Farm includes its woodlands). Voted, unanimously agreed.  
TS stressed that the woodland around the farm need to be maintained as part of the routine maintenance of the property.

- 7.5 Public consultation on Time to Plan – Chair explained background behind consultation and responses to be in by 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Copies of the Consultation paper were distributed to the councillors so that any responses can be agreed at the January meeting. VT to attend Parish Forum on 19<sup>th</sup> January when consultation will be discussed.

VT

## 8.0 Freedom of Information Model Publication Scheme

- 8.1 FH proposed, VT seconded. Unanimously agreed and adopted.

## 9.0 Councillors Reports

- 9.1 PCSO – Report received.

- 9.2 **Footpaths** – TS updated on footpaths matters.

- 9.2.1 TS confirmed that there was no obligation on the owner to make the gate in Stocks Lane accessible to dogs.

## 9.3 Highways

- 9.3.1 FH reported that although he had talked to Connaught last month about improving pavements, nothing has been actioned and it was proving impossible to talk to anyone.

- 9.3.2 It was noted that ‘slow’ markings and lateral yellow strips had been painted on the road at Townsend. However this was not the white lining on the sides of the road which had been agreed at the meeting with SCC Highways.

- 9.4 **Recreation Field** – RM reported that 50% of guttering had been put up. Committee exploring grants to look at insulation.

- 9.5 **Memorial Hall** – Nothing further to report.  
Hire rates will stay the same due to the current financial situation, review in June.

- 9.6 **School** – Nothing further to report. The Christmas play was held at the Hall, which was opened to the community and well attended.

- 9.7 **SALC** – AS reported on meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008 and the discussions held regarding the Code of Conduct. Next meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2008.

- 9.8 **Quarry** – Halecombe Quarry Liaison Meeting organised for 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009. TS and AS to attend.

## 10.0 Meetings Attended / To be attended

- 10.1 No meetings attended in the last month.

- 10.2 Meetings to be attended:-  
14<sup>th</sup> January – SCC Question Time event in Shepton.  
19<sup>th</sup> January – Parish Forum (VT)

## 11.0 Correspondence

- 11.1 The PC received an invitation to attend the launch of a book retracing the history of Leigh on Mendip. One copy to be purchased and kept.

- 11.2
- Sustainable Community Strategy & LDF Core Strategy papers
  - Proposals for the development of mental health services in Mendip and Bridgewater
  - Involving Young people in building stronger communities Conference
  - Update on new regulations for planning permissions
  - Playing Spaces forum
  - Homefinder update
  - Installation programme for Speed Indicator Devices
  - Copy of 'Leigh on Mendip A History' by Mary de Viggiani
  - December 08 newsletters from: Police; Parish Information Bulletin; Highways; News from Mendip Housing; Somerset Community Safety Newsletter; SALC; Somerset Rural Youth Project; The Playing Field; Your Mendip; Somerset Matters; Mendip Community Newsletter;

**12.0 Date & time of next meeting**

- 12.1 The next meeting will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2008, at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall (Committee Room).

DRAFT