

MINUTES

LEIGH ON MENDIP ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 19th May 2008 at 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall

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 7 parishioners, Phil Ham (District Councillor) and Gloria Cawood (County Councillor).

Chairman opened the meeting by explaining H&S procedures.

1.0 Apologies

1.1 Sue Vaughan.

2.0 Meeting

2.1 Chairman gave outline of the meeting.

2.2 Newsletter – Summary of the Newsletter issued was read to attendees.

2.3 Chairman thanked District & County Councillors for attending on a regular basis, stating that it was ‘good to know support was there’.

2.4 Chairman explained the democratic working of the Council to parishioners present, specifically with regards to Planning and Parishioners were reminded of their right to present their views during meetings in the case of planning applications, which help the council make informed decisions. Applications have to be discussed in the meeting and decisions must be made during a meeting.

2.5 Precept – It was explained why the precept was raised - to honour our commitments to the various groups in the village.

2.6 Cemetery – Still managed by MDC, except for mowing and hedge trimming for which the Parish Council award contracts to local contractors.

2.7 Planning – 12 applications were made during the year. Applications are considered in line with the village design statement and bearing in mind parking provisions, which is an issue in the village.

- 2.8 Grants – A grant for £1,800 was obtained to set up a Welcome pack for the village, to buy some bulbs and for youth club equipment, in accordance with Parish Plan actions
- 2.9 Parish Plan – Actions carried out and new activities have arisen from this. Thanks were extended to Graham and Caroline Harris for their hard work.
- 2.10 Calor competition – Thanks were once again extended to Graham Harris for his hard work, which won the competition. We are awaiting a response to the presentation made to regional level.
- 2.11 Highways – Issues such as speeding and parking around school have been looked at. A solution of white line marking has been found to stress the narrowing of the road at **Townsend** and make drivers slow down. The village will shortly have its own speed gun to monitor speeding. Will continue to look at solutions.
- 2.12 Street Cleaning – This has increased from 3 to 5 times a year.
- 2.13 PCSO – New PCSO has been appointed this year. Details on the notice boards and on the website.
- 2.14 Footpaths – A meeting was held during the year to involve the parishioners in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation. Thanks were extended to the Mendip Ramblers association for their good work on paths around the village in the past year.
- 2.15 Quarry – Liaison meeting held in February, actions were noted and acted promptly- which was pleasing and satisfying; and a visit for councillors organised for 4th June.
- 2.16 Website – Parishioners were reminded to send articles and photos to the webmaster (Chris Cudmore) if they wanted to advertise an event or just submit illustrations pertaining to the village life. Thanks were extended to David Turner for hosting the site.
- 2.17 Questions -
- Parking at the school – AS suggested that a mirror to see incoming traffic be erected on the bend. This would help people driving out of the village to see traffic coming. Issue to be discussed at next PC meeting.

3.0 Recreation Field

- 3.1 Vicky Higgins presented the Recreation Field Management Committee report, covering their activities in 2007/08. Copy in the correspondence file.

- 3.2 Thanks were extended to all Rec Field and CAP group volunteers for their efforts all year round; to Caroline Harris for her tremendous work and who will be terribly missed on the committee; and to Peter Westcombe and Matthew Bennett for the upkeep of the field.
- 3.3 The Village Fair, which is the main fund raising event for the year, will be held on 21st June 2008.
- 3.4 TS also reminded those present that the Rec Field had also planted some trees in the year, which was not mentioned in their report.

4.0 Memorial Hall

- 4.1 Keith Cockroft read the report for the Memorial Hall Committee, stating that their thoughts had focused on the plans for the extension and that funding had been obtained through a grant although fund raising events still need to be organised.
- 4.2 Thanks were extended to Marsha Read for her work on organising the mouse racing event, which sadly had to be postponed.
- 4.3 Memorial Hall offered one of the tennis tables currently in the hall to the Rec Field for use by the Youth Club.
- 4.4 It was confirmed that the work on the extension would be starting in the summer and should last 8-10 weeks.

5.0 County Councillor report (Gloria Cawood)

- 5.1 Gloria Cawood presented her report, which is included in correspondence file.
- 5.2 A query arose regarding any County plans to further develop fields around the village [for Affordable Housing]. Gloria stated that the Parish Council should identify uses for the remaining strip of land adjacent to the new houses to MDC.

6.0 District Councillors report (Phil Ham & Claire Fleming)

- 6.1 Phil Ham presented the Councillors report, which is included in correspondence file.
- 6.2 Clarification of 'food links' was sought. Phil Ham confirmed that this took the form of food festivals and farmers markets around the Somerset in view of '*getting local food to local people*'. See www.somersetfoodlink.co.uk.

7.0 Any other business.

7.1 Chairman asked District and County Councillors if they were aware of BT's intention to remove the phone box from the village. Phil Ham stated that Coleford had previously overturned a proposal to remove a phone box. It was pointed out by parishioners present that the phone had a meaningful use in that it was the first point of call in case of emergency in the Rec Field (as noted in the Rec Field Emergency Procedures), mobile phone coverage is poor and it is also a feature of the village. County Councillor suggested that we offer MDC to deal with the upkeep from now on.

There were no further questions raised and the Chairman closed the meeting.