

WEST KNOYLE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Mrs. L. C. Wood

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 1st March 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in West Knoyle Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Mrs. Jinny Brockway (Chairman), A. Filleau (Vice-Chairman), Ruth Dresman, B. Wessely & P. Yates.

Wiltshire Councillor George Jeans and also Mr. Tony Davis.

Meeting convened at 7.30 with Public Session

The Chairman will re-convene the Parish Council meeting after the public session (please note that members of the public are no longer permitted to speak unless invited to do so by the Chairman).

Mr. Tony Davis raised the issue of breach of conditions relating to the trees on the site subject to the planning application at Copsford. The sentiments were echoed by Mr. Wessely, Mr. Yates & Mr. Filleau and all agreed that the trees that had been planted were not the correct size and that many of them had subsequently died. The Chairman confirmed that this matter was on the agenda for discussion during the meeting.

Apologies for absence received from PCSO Peter Tcherniawsky

120. To receive declarations of interest from members and to consider requests for new DPI dispensations.

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Mere Town Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

- Cllr. Ruth Dresman declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No. 123a) Planning Application 16/01463/FUL

121. Minutes – RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 24th November 2015 be approved as a correct record of proceedings and signed accordingly.

122. Matters Arising

a) Issues at Willoughby Hedge – (see Minute 113a) – The Clerk said that she had written to Julie Wharton, Wiltshire Council's Highways Engineer, explaining that the Parish Council was frustrated that as the work that has been carried out does not seem to have been sufficient and is not helping to address the problems at Willoughby Hedge and to ask if it would be possible for her to come out and have a site meeting with one or two parish councillors. As yet, a response has not been received.

b) Community Speedwatch Scheme (see Minute 113b) – The Chairman reported that Mrs. Janet Howard is still away but that there were two more volunteers who needed to do their training. The Clerk reminded members that back in November, PCSO Peter Tcherniawsky said he would see if it was possible to get someone out from Trowbridge or Devizes to do the necessary training locally. The Chairman said she hoped that things may get up and running once Mrs. Howard was back.

c) Speed Indicator Device Scheme (see Minute 113c) – Chairman reported that Cllr. Yates had very kindly erected the SID but it was not working. Cllr. Jeans said that the area now had 4 Speed Indicator Devices and the only one that was working was the one in Kilmington. Of the other 3 there is one that definitely doesn't work and two that need testing. Cllr. Jeans asked if the Parish Council would allow him two or three weeks in which to test the machines and see if he could find one that works.

***d) Superfast Broadband (see Minute 113e)** – see emails from Adrian Grant, Wiltshire Council of 6th January 2016 & 11th January 2016 (attached) – Members were given an update on the situation as far as Parish Council funding was concerned (attached). Cllr. Wessely confirmed that the Wessex Internet apparatus for superfast broadband had now been installed thanks to the funding raised by Mr. & Mrs. Wayman. If anyone in the village wanted to link up to the apparatus then they needed to subscribe. Cllr. Jeans confirmed that money had been set aside by the South West Wiltshire Area Board to improve communications in village i.e. village halls. The Chairman agreed to ask the Village Hall Committee if they wanted to consider making a grant application. It was agreed that an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting should be raised – 'support Village Hall in efforts to improve infrastructure & communications.'

123. Planning (All applications can be viewed on Wiltshire Council's website <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/planninganddevelopment/planningapplicationssearchonline/planningsearch.htm> – and type in the relevant application number)

a) Applications to consider at the meeting:

Application Ref: 16/01463/FUL
Application for: Full Planning
Proposal: Construction of a horse stable block with associated groundworks and hardstanding.
At: Land adjacent to The Meads. The Street, West Knoyle BA12 6AE

Cllr. Ruth Dresman, having declared a pecuniary interest in the above application, left the room whilst this matter was discussed and took no part in discussion or voting.

RESOLVED to recommend approval of the above application on proposal made by Cllr. Yates, seconded by Cllr. Filleau and carried with a vote of 3 for and 1 abstention.

Application Ref: 16/01499/FUL
Application for: Full Planning
Proposal: Erection of two storey and single storey extensions, alterations to the bay window, replacement of the orangery and porch and erection of a detached garage with studio above.
At: The Old Rectory, The Street, West Knoyle, BA12 6AF

RESOLVED that the above application should be recommended for approval.

b) Applications considered/determined since last meeting:

Application Ref: 15/11404/FUL
Application for: Full Planning
Proposal: Construction of a horse stable block with associated groundworks and hardstanding.
At: The Meads. The Street, West Knoyle BA12 6AE

Application WITHDRAWN

Application Ref: 15/11633/FUL
Application for: Full Planning
Proposal: The erection of a two storey and single storey side extension, alterations to the bay window, replacement of the orangery and porch and erection of a detached garage with studio above.
At: The Old Rectory, The Street, West Knoyle BA12 6AF

Parish Council response: Support

Wiltshire Council decision: Approved with conditions

c) Enforcement issues relating to development at Copsford – With reference to the issues raised in the public session, it was agreed that the Parish Council should make representation to Mr. Mark Williams, Wiltshire Council's Enforcement Officer regarding the trees that had been planted to screen the development. Cllr. Jeans confirmed that the trees were subject to a S.106 agreement.

124. Reports

a) Wiltshire Councillors report – Cllr. Jeans confirmed that the South West Wiltshire Area Board had set aside funds to continue grant funding for the repair/replacement of fingerpost signs in towns and villages. It was agreed to apply for a grant to repair the fingerpost sign on the junction of Pimperleaze Lane/Barrow Street which had a broken finger.

Cllr. Jeans also reported that people in Wiltshire will see a 1.9% rise in council tax and another 2% on top as part of a social care levy. It will mean a band D council tax will increase to £1270. Wiltshire Council also announced it wants to make £25 million worth of savings in the next year.

b) Neighbourhood Police report – The Clerk reported that arrests had been made to offenders in respect of the armed robbery at Willoughby Hedge Service Station which took place in the early hours of the morning on 23rd January.

125. Footpaths, Highways, Traffic & Transport

a) Highway and footpath issues for My Wiltshire App – Cllr. Jeans reported that he had attended a meeting recently where it was revealed which roads would be resurfaced in the next financial year. There were 3 roads listed in or near West Knoyle and Cllr. Jeans and Cllr. Mrs. Wayman had asked for a fourth one to be added which is New Road from Willoughby Hedge down to the village. Cllr. Jeans is sending copies of the road maintenance list and it was agreed that the Parish Council should write in saying that our priority is for the resurfacing of the road from Willoughby Hedge into the village.

With regard to issues for My Wiltshire App, it was agreed to report that gulleys need emptying. One just below the junction near Bridget Wayman's house and one opposite Tony Davis's house. Both gulleys being full up and causing threat of flooding.

b) Wiltshire Council's Bus Service Consultation – please see: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/articles/bus-service-consultation>

Members confirmed that there were no buses that came through or stopped in the village and the only means of public transport available to parishioners was the Taxi bus service which was available during limited times. The Clerk was asked to forward the following submission to Wiltshire Council: 'Although there are no timetabled buses that travel to or from West Knoyle, the Parish Council would like to emphasise the value placed on the Taxibus service that can play a necessary part in meeting essential appointments or accessing essential services in rural and isolated areas such as West Knoyle.' The Clerk also agreed to find out when the taxi bus service is available.

c) Highways England – Plans for A303/A358 corridor – the Clerk said that she had inadvertently come across information about public engagement days to explain what Highways England were planning to do along the A303/A358 corridor to deliver the commitment to the Road Investment Strategy. The Clerk had become dismayed when she discovered that these plans did not include any proposed works in the West Knoyle/Mere area of the A303 but instead concentrated on three schemes:

- **A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down dualling** – construction of a twin-bored tunnel at least 1.8 miles long as the road passes Stonehenge and a bypass for Winterbourne Stoke to link the existing dual carriageway section around Amesbury with the dual carriageway at Berwick Down.
- **A303 Sparkford to Ilchester dualling** – dualling of the 3 mile single carriageway section of the A303 between Sparkford and Ilchester
- **A358 Taunton to Southfields dualling** – creating a dual carriageway link from the M5 at Taunton to the A303

The Clerk was asked to write to Highways England to state the Parish Council's disappointment that there was no work in the pipeline for Mere/West Knoyle and to point out that proposals for dualling in other areas will condense congestion in the Mere area. Also to state that the number of recent accidents on the A303 around Mere/West Knoyle is appalling and should justify proposed works.

d) Report on Community Area Transport Group Meeting (CATG) – Cllr. B. Wessely reported that he did not attend the last meeting as he did not get the agenda until the afternoon of the meeting. Cllr. Jeans said that he did not think that anything directly affecting West Knoyle was discussed.

126. Play Area

a) Improvements/facilities for the Play Area – Quotations for grant application – Cllr. B. Wessely produced some quotations. The Parish Council agreed to seek remaining funds to provide 2 X 1.8m benches which members agreed to install and a 2 bay swing with 1 cradle seat and 1 flat seat + installation, delivery etc. The Clerk agreed to seek a quotation from Alvian Ltd and to look at the provision of sleeves for the swing legs. Cllr. Wessely agreed to come and meet the Clerk on Tuesday, 8th March in order to provide the relevant paperwork to complete the grant application form

b) Hedge cutting – The Chairman reported that she had asked Mr. Curtis to cut the hedge but that it had been too wet to get inside the play area. It may be that Mr. Curtis will cut the outside and the inside will need to wait until it has dried out or another option may need to be considered.

c) Actions and work schedule arising from Annual RoSPA Play Area Inspection. Also issues relating to dogs in play area.– Cllr. A. Filleau stated that all the issues arising from the RoSPA Play Area Inspection report relating to the Village Hall Play Area were low risk and that the Play Area had been categorised as Medium Risk with the following issues (1) splintered bin edge, (2) no lock on 5-bar gate, (3) loose post by wooden road barrier, (4) algae growth on wooden equipment (5) splintering at bottom of posts caused by strimming/rotting. Cllr. Yates said that he would look at the post by the wooden road barrier. The Clerk had said that she would try and get some rubber stoppers for the gates. The Chairman confirmed that she had received complaints about people walking dogs in the play area despite the fact that there were ‘No Dog’ signs around the field. She said that as it was a children’s play area, dogs should not be taken into the field.

127. Finance

a) Payments – To approve payments as shown in payment schedule.

L. Wood	Clerks salary	137.60
HMRC	PAYE Q4	34.40
C. Cumberlege	Website administration	200.00

b) Pension – Automatic Enrolment – the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council’s Automatic Enrolment staging date was 1st January 2016 and that the Declaration of Compliance deadline was 31.5.16. On 21st January the Clerk had completed the declaration of compliance with the Pensions Regulator for West Knoyle Parish Council and had received an acknowledgement from The Pensions Regulator (there being no eligible jobholders that the Parish Council automatically enrolled into a pension scheme).

c) Transparency Fund – the Clerk confirmed that she had made contact with Mr. Cumberlege regarding adding pages and information to the website in order to comply with the new government regulations relating to the Transparency Code. Mr. Cumberlege had suggested a fee of £200 for past maintenance, adding the new pages and maintenance for the next 12 months. The Clerk confirmed that she had also applied, via WALC, for funding of £208 from the governments Transparency Fund which made funds available to help comply with the code.

d) To review and assess the effectiveness of internal controls - the Clerk presented members with an assessment of risks facing the council, a review of insurance provision and an assessment of internal controls. Members agreed with all assessments.

128. General Items

a) Invitation to Parish & Town Council Involvement Evening – Local Highways – The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllr. B. Wessely agreed to attend the event.

b) Community Litter Picking Initiative – the Chairman said that a Community Litter Picking Initiative was being considered and the Clerk said that she had received equipment from the South West Wiltshire Area Board which would be available for use.

c) Assessment of Flood Risks – as mentioned in Minute 125a) above, the Clerk was asked to point out that two gulleys needed clearing out.

d) Do you think child poverty in the Mere, Tisbury and Wilton community areas should be addressed? – members noted the information supplied and made no comment.

e) The Queens 90th Birthday celebrations (21st April) – the Chairman said that she would discuss the idea of a beacon with other parishioners and the village hall committee. It was agreed to submit an order of 50 medals from Tower Mint to distribute to parishioners.

f) To set date for Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council meeting – it was agreed that the meetings would be held on Tuesday, 17th May.

Meeting closed at 10.17 p.m.

Members are reminded that the Parish Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.