

Minutes of a meeting of the Fivehead Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Stowey Road Fivehead on Monday 2nd June 2008 at 8pm.

Present Mr M Cavill (Chairman) Mrs H Clarke Mrs K Beacham Mrs N Cameron Mr R Fielding
Mr K Male Dist. Cllr. S Steele Mrs M Knox Clerk) and five members of the public

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Stillbrook Woodyard. A member of the public wished to have it recorded that at the Area North Planning Meeting a planning officer said that “the views of the indigenous population are irrelevant”. This makes a nonsense of members of the public being previously advised to write in individually. SS advised that although the application has been turned down the Planning Office will wait to see if there is an Appeal before Enforcement is actioned. The matter could take years to finalise.
2. Noise at Sedgmoor Game Farm. The owner expressed his concern that this issue had been raised, gave a brief history of the use of the farm and accounted for the escalation of the noise. He is unable to control the timings of lorries or their reversing alarm.
3. Tree felling at Spruces. These trees are approx. 100 years old, are now in a dangerous state and have to come down. One has already fallen onto a stable.
4. Land purchase adjacent to Playing Field. Mr K Male explained the current position as he would have to declare an interest and be unable to discuss the matter in Council. The land owner has been approached and will be meeting the three relevant bodies, PFMC, VHMC and PC, to further discuss.

1404. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies. Mr K Male signed the Register of Interests book for item 3b (min 1406b) and Mr R Fielding for item 3c (min 1406c).

1405. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th May 2008 having been circulated were taken as a true record of what took place and duly signed by the Chairman who had queried the last line of 1394a having received a complaint regarding the accuracy of the statement. Council unanimously agreed that it remain unaltered.

1406. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND RAISED BY MEMBERS.

- a) To further consider the Playing Field MC's project for a FULL MUGGA. The Chairman asked if all members had received minutes of a meeting held between members of the PFMC (including Mr K Male), Les Collett of SSDC, Adrian Moore, playing field advisor, and himself. All had. MC elaborated on them detailing some suggestions made by AM including turning round the existing half MUGA to incorporate it (thereby saving money) and his (AM's) concerns about overall dimensions and types of fencing. AM stressed the need to “get it right before starting” and that the project won't run for a year or two. There are concerns over the need for a sinking fund, which the PC may have to top up via the precept, and the current validity of the 2003 survey undertaken by the PFMC. There was obviously misunderstanding over the timescale for the project and the PC do have to provide 10% of the total cost. KM **proposed** these minutes be attached to the June PC minutes. This was **sec. unan.** KM said the PFMC committee are very industrious and he would not like the PC to appear anti the project but it is right to be concerned over raising the precept and spending public money. MC said there is a need for the PC to be constructive. The PFMC are using the 2003 survey result and the response to their question posed in the PP questionnaire, neither of which exactly address the current situation or mention the cost of the project, as evidence of support for this project.. HC agreed this is not sufficient stating there is a need to show the village is going to get behind the project and support it physically and financially. SS said she and DN (both of whom could be instrumental with funding) are supportive of Fivehead as a village. They cannot support the project at present but will do so if a new survey of the village is actioned which demonstrates the majority support of the village. The survey needs to show the timescale and clarify the cost (as at this moment in time minus the cost of wiring and lighting), detail the costs of and explain the need for the provision of a sinking fund and the impact on the precept (rates). LC requires same. Council would like to liaise with the PFMC over the design and content of this survey and to see it before it is published. This should satisfy LC's concerns over cohesion.
- b) Possible purchase of Land adjacent to Playing Field. The current situation was fully explained at Public session. A letter from the potential vendor is awaited.
- c) Stillbrook Woodyard: to receive a report on further consideration of application on May 28th at Area

North Committee Meeting. KB and members of the public had attended. SS was thanked for the part she had played in the refusal of this application. The procedure on the Stop Notice will now be followed. Clerk to write 1. to Roger Wootton to clarify what is on that form and to ask when he can push for enforcement. 2. To Simon Gale requesting a talk by a planner to inform members how to respond most effectively to applications.

d) Insurance of anticipated new bus shelter. A quote of £44, the value given being £3500, had been received. A decision was deferred as the shelter has not yet been installed.

e) St Martins Church - Good Neighbour Scheme. (Deferred from last meeting.) Council support this initiative, described in the newsletter, but there is no one available to go on a Steering Committee. It was considered to be a community issue not a PC issue. Clerk to write re same.

f) Support sought from Curry Rivel PC re concerns over very heavy vehicles using the A378. Clerk to respond - Council debated this issue and recognised that certain firm's lorries are licensed for exemption and therefore entitled to use the A378. It was thought there are a high number of licences issued by Langport Town Council, around 276. There is a substantial mill this side of Langport. If the numbers using the road exceed the quota Council will give support.

g) Field shelter Lower Swell. A response from Planning Enforcement was read out. The site has again been visited and Mr Phillips has written to the owner. A Notice s330 will be issued if he receives no reply.

h). Complaints, unofficial, of 1. excessive noise coming from workshop at Sedgmoor Game Farm. The background was described by the owner at the Public Session. As no written complaint had been received it was felt Council could take no action other than to suggest the person/s concerned go to see the owner.

2. Tree felling at Spruces. Again explained at Public Session. As these trees are dying it was accepted they need to be felled.

i) The erection and use of a large wooden shed at Ashgate Westies on the Main Road. No planning application has been received for this. It is being used as a residential dwelling and the appearance is out of character. Members feel their approach to possible breaches of planning needs to be consistent so Clerk to write to the owner and the Planning Office for clarification.

1407. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

a) From SSDC re Review of BT Pay phone provision. Clerk to respond saying Council notes Fivehead's payphone is not being removed and the general demise of the service. Members would not like to see Fivehead's box removed as it is useful in emergencies and there are blank spots locally in the mobile phone network.

b) From SCC re invitation to Area Working Panel Meeting 3rd June. 7.00pm at North Barrow. SS will be attending and was asked to note points of relevance.

c) From SCC re application for upgrading of Restricted Byways to Byways open to All Traffic. None of these applications will be determined by SCC as they fail on a point of law. L11/57 therefore remains as a Restricted Byway.

1408. REPORTS.

d) Cemetery Sub Committee. RF & MC are to action repair to Mary Ann Ford's stone. e) Highways. Isle Abbotts Rd is to be closed for resurfacing. Clerk to contact Mr K Sharp to remind him the surface requires levelling. g) PCSO Beth Unthank sent her apologies. Fivehead had no reported crime during the last month.

1409. PLANNING.

b) Decisions s.t.c.: 07/05478/lbc Cathanger Manor Fivehead. Removal of existing render and the application of lime render.

08/01528/ful Silverwood Ganges Hill Fivehead. Internal & external alterations, the erection of a first floor extension and replacement outbuildings and log store.

1410. TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2007-8

These having been circulated were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman and the RFO.

1411. TO COMPLETE THE AUDIT RETURN FOR 2207/8

The statement of accounts was signed off, the annual governance statement, having been read out, was agreed and signed off. The internal auditor had completed his section and signed it off. His report to Council was distributed to members for perusal. Item for next agenda.

1412 FINANCE

The financial position of the Council was received.

A letter from the HM Revenue & Customs confirming the Clerk has declared her earnings and paid her stamp had been shown to the internal auditor.

a) Payments authorised during the previous month		
i) A&M Garden Services	maint. April & May	£284.08
b) Payments authorised at the meeting:		
ii) Mrs M Knox	salary	£182.62
Mrs M Knox	expenses deferred again, book with auditor	
iii) Fivehead Village Hall MC	rent April x2	£44
c) Income received during the month		
iv) NATWEST	Int. received. 31.03.08	£109.37
v) HM Revue & Customs	VAT refund (07-08)	£27.62

1413. MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING.

b). Clerk. Consultation on future priorities of Western Power received . Reply date July 25th. Into circulation.

c) Councillors. NC reported the missing Ganges Hill sign has been replaced. Clerk asked to find out what conditions were placed on the shed/workshop at Sedgmoor Game Farm. RF proposed a vote of thanks to SS for her help over the Stillbrook Woodyard planning application. She was unanimously thanked. SS handed over a report from Speedwatch which was put straight into circulation. SS said that there is a “tick box” PCT (Primary Care Trust) survey going round. It is important to be mindful to support our doctor’s surgery when completing the survey.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm

Chairman

Dated