

**MINUTES of a meeting of Cannington Parish Council held on
Tuesday, 17th August 2005, in Cannington Village Hall.**

Present Cllr Locke (Chairman), Cllrs. Mrs. Cartwright, Allen, Dyer, Edney, Fitzpatrick, Gibson, and Sutton.

1/8/05 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Child and Lindsay

2/8/05 Parish Plan.

The Council carefully considered the recommendations of the Parish Plan Committee contained in the final document.

1 ENVIRONMENT

- Steps are being taken to improve the appearance of the approaches to the village. Brymore School are to provide floral displays at the west end of High Street near to Withiel Drive. Mr. D. Greenslade of Greenslades Grounds Maintenance has prepared plans for a planted display area at the southern end of Main Road between Irvines and the by-pass. These plans have been submitted to the Highways Authority but required amendment to take account of a gas main across the site. The revised plans were, unfortunately, not approved in time for the 2005 planting season so it is hoped that work will commence in time for next summer.
- The demand for improved street lighting was noted but Members were only aware of Rodway, near to the Countryside Centre and Park Lane as being a problem. It was thought that a request for further information in Target would possible provide more information.
- It was noted that Somerset Highways had a rolling programme of road and footpath maintenance. Reports of problems are passed to the Assistant Area Highways Manager as they were received and Members regularly reported defects.
- The problem of overhanging hedges, branches and collapsing walls intruding onto pavement was the responsibility of Somerset Highways but the Parish Council was willing to write to property owners in the first instance once it was aware of particular problems. Members agreed that again, a Target article may yield further information.
- The Council has received a number of complaints regarding pavements being obstructed by signs and seats. These had been passed on to Somerset Highways, and would do so again if problems arose again.
- Dogs were already banned from the fenced children's playground at the Brook Street Play Area. However current legislation and guidance does not allow either the Parish Council or District Council to make bye-laws to extend the area to include the whole play area or the playing field without the complete fencing of the ban areas. However it was agreed to investigate the cost of erecting a fence and gates at the playing field which separated the pitches from the car park. It was noted that the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act applies to the built up area of the village, the play area and the playing field and makes it an offence for an owner not to clear up after his/her dog has fouled pavements, verges or any land in the open air to which the public has access. Members were pleased to hear that the Sedgemoor Dog Warden had recently prosecuted several dog owners and called upon witnesses to fouling incidents to contact the Dog Warden and agree to give evidence. It was understood that new legislation on the control of dogs was expected shortly but its implications for Parish Councils are not yet known.

2. POLICE

- The Council has been pressing for several years for an increased police presence in Cannington. It agrees that more patrols would help with harassment and drug problems.

It was understood that the Sector inspector had actually discussed anti-social behaviour with the Rector, but for some reason no Member of this Council was invited to participate. Police statistics showed that Cannington was relatively crime free, but in the opinion of the Council, there was a significant amount of anti-social behaviour which did require a police presence.

- The Police have been notified of the misuse of motor cycles and scooters in various parts of the village.
- Amendments to speed limits in the Parish were carried out two years ago and include the extension of limits in High street and Combwich Road. Members were of the opinion that the problem was one of enforcement of existing limits rather than changes. The Council had instigated a Neighbourhood Speedwatch Scheme in an effort to reduce vehicle speeds.
- It was agreed that illegal parking was a problem and one which had been notified to the police on several occasions. Again enforcement is what is required.
- The Council has raised the problem of speeding traffic in Brook Street near to the school several times. It was understood that the County Council was seeking to introduce a 20mph limit but this proposal has proved difficult to implement and meet Department of Transport requirements. It was agreed to raise the matter with the Traffic Engineer and again and suggest the possibility of the installation of speed chicanes.
- Councillors were of the opinion that the Sector Inspector was under the impression that the Parish Plan was a Parish Council document which expressed its views rather than those of the residents of the Parish. It was felt that relations with the Police were not as they should be and it was essential that a good working relationship was established. It was agreed therefore to invite Inspector Hart to a meeting with a small number of Councillors to 'clear the air' and dispel any misconceptions on either side.

3. PARKING

- It was felt that the parking situation in High Street was much improved following the revised restrictions introduced 2 years ago and there was little more that could be done.
- It was agreed to raise the problem of kerbside car parking by College students and staff at the next liaison meeting.
- Councillors were opposed to parking on one side of High Street only, although it would increase the number of parking spaces it would also increase traffic speeds. The current system of alternate parking on both sides acts as chicanes and effectively slows traffic.
- Parking on the wide pavement in High Street has been raised in the past but rejected on the grounds of cost.
- Sedgemoor D.C. has, in the past, been reluctant to allow parking on part of the grassed area at Bowling Green. However it was resolved to contact them again to suggest it and also include Priory Close and Grange Close.
- The Council was totally opposed to the creation of a public car park and toilets in the village pointing to the enormous problems suffered by the residents of Nether Stowey after such facilities were introduced in Castle Street.

4. YOUNG PEOPLE

- Councillors thought that the young people were reasonably well served with play space as the village was provided with the playing field and the play area in Brook Street. The latter having a fenced area with play equipment for toddlers.
- The recommendation for a shelter was noted and it was conceded that, although they may be useful in some areas, they could form a magnet for anti-social behaviour and needed to be sited away from dwellings. In Cannington however, there was no obvious site in the centre of the village. The playing field was likely to be too remote. The Clerk was asked to investigate the value of the shelter recently erected in Woolavington.

- The Parish Council has funded the setting up of non-denominational youth clubs in the Village Hall but, in spite of being popular with members, on each occasion the clubs have folded due to lack of parental support.

5. LIFESTYLE

- Councillors were sympathetic to the establishment of a new community centre but were divided over the retention of the existing hall should such a centre be built.
- The County Council's Parish Lengthsman Scheme could be used to employ a person to carry out cleaning and other duties in the parish, but at present Sedgemoor are not willing to contribute funding. It was understood that the current scheme was to be revised and the Council agreed to watch developments. Security staff at the College have agreed to lock the bus shelter.
- Locking of the play area to prevent misuse was a matter for Sedgemoor, but in order for it to be effective new high fencing would be needed to prevent out of hours access.
- Several benches had been provided over recent years and Councillors would be willing to consider new locations. The corner of Mill Close and Mill Lane was considered to be a possibility.
- The Parish Council would be happy to support the idea of a village fair but a new group of volunteers to take on its organisation was required.

It was resolved that these views should be circulated to residents of the whole village by means of a flyer.

3/8/05 Planning Matters.

1. New Applications

APPLICATION 13/05/00017: Conversion of barns north west of Clayhill Farm to 3 holiday lettings and relocation of access road.

No objections.

APPLICATION 13/05/00018: Conversion of loft space to living accommodation with a rear dormer at 11 Lonsdale Road.

No objection.

APPLICATION 13/05.00019: Fell one yew tree at the rear of Brooklands, Brook Lane.

No objection.

APPLICATION 13/05/00021: Erection of small animal centre on site of existing College buildings on land east of Rodway.

There was no objection in principle but it was recommended that: -

- the access road and car park be surfaced with tarmac to prevent nuisance from dust and noise;
- that work be carried out to the surface water system to prevent rainwater flowing off the site onto the gardens of dwellings in Folly Close.

Members also asked if the land between 26 and 28 Rodway was to continue to be used as a pedestrian access to the site and was the existing emergency access to be retained.

2. Review of Old Mineral Planning Permission – Cannington Park Quarry.

The Council was concerned that the continued working of this quarry, including deeper excavation, would lead to

increased use of inadequate lanes by heavy goods vehicles and recommends that the applicant be required to provide alternative access to the quarry for HGVs to reduce their impact on Chads Hill and Stradlings Lane. It is believed that in the past there has been talk of direct link to Rodway.

3/8/05 Licensing Act 2003 – Globe Inn.

The Clerk reported that the Globe Inn has applied for extended licensing hours. It was resolved to object on the same grounds as for the previous applications in Cannington.

4/8/05 Financial Matters.

It was resolved to pay the following outstanding accounts: -

Clerk	Salary July 2005	£341.00
Clerk	Expenses July 2005	£ 58.33
Greenslades Grounds Management	Grounds maintenance June 2005	£345.99
Bridgwater College	Playing field mowing	£296.10
Sedgemoor D.C.	Installation of dog bin, Bowling Green	£ 90.63

David Ayres - Clerk to the Parish Council - 5 September 2005.