

Town Council Meeting 2 may 2006

- a) **Public Transport** – Mr Clive Pearson confirmed that a draft article agreed with SCC would be sent to the Journal.
- b) **MDC's Presentation at the Previous Meeting** – Mr Clive Pearson raised concern that Cllr Ken Maddock appeared to talk mainly about the District Council and Tesco and the public toilets rather than partnership with the town and the Town Council. Mr Taffy Stride considered that it was MDC "trumpet blowing". The money raised from car park income should have been provided to the town as a gesture to offset against the swimming pool project.
- c) **The Academy** – Mr Clive Pearson commented regarding the presentation at the Annual Town Meeting that there was nothing concrete about the plans or financial matters. He considered that a further update should be requested when further details were known. Mr Taffy Stride raised concern at Mr Newton's comments that there was no need to spend substantial amounts of money and he considered that Mendip District Council had been providing misinformation, again, to manipulate the general public.
- d) **Planning Application to Tesco's Current Site** – Mr Will Dunscombe considered that the Town Council should say no to the recent application for non-retail, the site should be left as retail to provide fair competition for all.
- e) **Town Council 2006** – Mr Taffy Stride said he was disappointed with the Council over the last year and felt they had not listened to the public. He considered that it was the worst Council over the last 17 years of attending Council meetings and he hoped that the new Chair would redress the balance.
- f) **MDC Consultation Regarding New Framework Document** – Mr Taffy Stride raised concern that the consultation was in the open and enquired what would happen if bad weather occurred on the day, and that all other towns appeared to have venues that were indoors.
- g) **High Street Improvement Works** – Mr Taffy Stride raised concern, and was not impressed, with the works to date. There had been property damaged, he had concerns at surface levels and safety concerns with some slabs and kerbstones already chipped. He requested the Town Council to ensure that everything was in order.

Town Council Meeting 16 May 2006

- a) **Tesco/Haskins Planning Applications** – Mr Clive Pearson raised conservation issues regarding the existing buildings and was very saddened that the two Nissen huts, which had been standing for 63 years, had now been demolished.

Mr Will Dunscombe also raised concern regarding Tesco/Haskins as to the traffic congestion and asked what had changed to make the Council amend their decision. He requested the Town Council to ask W.S. Atkins why they had changed their position.

- b) **Bollards Protecting Walkway by Swimming Pool** – Mr Mike Harris raised concern that, although he understood the reason for removal of the bollards protecting the walkway around the back, and in between, houses between Eastfield, Shaftgate Avenue and the swimming pool, he wished the Town Council to request that the bollards be reinstated when development works were complete. Also a further bollard could be inserted at the Eastfield end.

- c) **Planning Application – 2 Bowlsh Lane** – The applicants, Mr & Mrs Vaiciukas, provided an explanation and the reasons for their planning application. Whilst a resident of Coombe Dell raised concern on behalf of the Residents Group regarding the proposed development.

Town Council Meeting 6 June 2006

- a) Public Transport** – Mr Clive Pearson updated Council that the 669 service to Street was now calling at the Community Hospital; the 2006/07 timetable was now out and it was considered that Shepton Mallet was lucky with both the number of bus services to Wells and Street throughout the week and at weekends.
- b) Tesco Revised Plans** – Mr Will Dunscombe raised much concern that the revised Tesco plans showed the Cenotaph being relocated. He considered that it was a "done deal" and he accused the District Council of being corrupt and "bent" and considered the Town Council's behaviour was unacceptable, and it would appear that the final decision would be left to Mr Les Kimberley.
- c) The Cenotaph** – Mr Will Dunscombe raised concern regarding the Town Council's letter to Mr John Bassett regarding possible ownership of the structure and land it stands on. He said that, if the structure was relocated, he would fight to the end on it and arrange for climbers to get on the structure which he would also do himself. He considered that there would be quite a strong protest and he would fight the Town Council to the very end. He challenged the Town Council to prove ownership of the Cenotaph structure and the land and he brought to members' attention the reasoning behind English Heritage listing the structure. Mr Stride also challenged the Council and the ruling and wanted to see documentation to prove who owns the structure and the land.
- d) Collett Festival** – Mr Clive Pearson informed that he was disgusted with the removal of the banner advertisement by MDC and he wished the Council every success for the day. Mr Stride raised concern regarding Collett Park toilets, in that the Ladies' toilets had been flooded out and were also in a very unclean state. He requested the councillors to look into the matter especially as Collett Festival day was imminent.
- e) Somerfield's Crossing** – Mr Stride enquired the reasoning for burning-off of the white lining denoting a pedestrian crossing at the entrance to Somerfield/Haskins from Townsend.
- f) High Street South** – Mr Stride raised much concern as to the standard of finishes, with chips and cracks in existing paving and kerbing, and requested that the matter be brought up to a satisfactory standard. He also raised concern as to the state of the cleanliness of the new paving, especially outside the Kebab Shop.
- g) Old Wells Road Closure and Repair** – Mr Mike Harris raised concern and enquired whether the proposed Road Closure for Old Wells Road in order to carry out repairs to the Dinder end would also include repairs and upgrade to the Norah Fry end of Shepton Mallet. He also enquired if upgrade was to take place to the West Shepton junction which he considered to be very dangerous.
- h) Haskins' Planning Application** – Mr Mike Harris brought to Council's attention that the Haskins' application should ensure that a 106 Agreement is included to include upgrade of all adjoining areas, especially the footpath designated between Haskins and Tesco's.

Town Council Meeting 20 June 2006

a) War Memorial – Mr Will Dunscombe confirmed that he had received a copy of the documentation to the Charity Commission dated 15 July 1922 which he understood confirmed that the Town Council/Trustees had a responsibility just to maintain and upkeep the monument and did not own the structure. Therefore this confirmed that the Town Council has no mandate to relocate the structure. He considered that the Council is not working to its Quality Status remit and he would do all in his power to have this Quality Status removed. He had asked the Council several questions at the last meeting in Public Forum and had not yet received a response.

Mr Stride also raised concern that he had raised questions at the previous Public Forum and implored the Council to provide documentation of ownership and mandate to move the structure. He understood that the land had been given by the Great Western Railway Co. in 1922.

b) Public Forum – Mr Stride raised concern regarding the previous Public Forum where he had asked the Council three questions in respect of the removal of white lines on the pavement near Haskins, standard of works at High Street South and the Cenotaph, as raised earlier. He expected an answer and asked why the Council had failed to respond.

c) Vandalism at the Cemetery – Mr Stride understood that vandalism had occurred at the cemetery; the matter had been reported to the police who said that they could do nothing without evidence and photographs being taken of the perpetrators in action. Cllr Lockey also raised concern as the vandalism had occurred to the grave of one of his relatives.

d) Tesco/Haskins Planning Application – Mr Mike Harris raised concern that Tesco had not allowed the same vehicular entrance for shoppers as for goods. However it appeared that, with the Haskins plan, this had been carried out and he enquired why Tesco's could not do the same.

e) Collett Park Festival – Mr Mike Harris said that the day appeared to be very successful, however he raised that no-one could hear the opening ceremony and wished that, in future, all other stalls and those making noise were asked to terminate for the period of the opening ceremony in order that all those attending could hear the actual opening.

Town Council Meeting 4 July 2006

- a) Bus Services** – Mr Clive Pearson informed that John Parrett of SCC does not envisage any changes whatsoever to the current bus services and there are no plans to withdraw services. There are projects in the pipeline of which Mr Pearson will be informed and who will, in turn, inform Shepton Town Council.
- b) British Legion 2005 Poppy Appeal** – Mr Pearson informed that last year's Poppy Appeal accrued £4,735.24 which was slightly down on 2004's figure. The Chairman congratulated the British Legion on raising this amount.
- c) Collett Festival 2006** – Mr Pearson expressed his disgust at the Journal's presentation of photos of the event and would like to have seen a special commemorative edition of the paper or at least a full page presentation of the parade. He was of the opinion that, in light of guests travelling halfway round the world for the event, a golden opportunity was missed for Shepton to advertise itself. He requested that a plaque be made as tribute to Cllr Shearn for all his work and that photographs taken by Cllr Manvill be framed and sent to our Australian visitors.
- d) Cenotaph** – Mr Will Dunscombe requested Council to confirm that the Cenotaph will not be moved from its current site and maintained that this Council did not have the mandate or authority to move the structure. Mr Taffy Stride informed Council of historical links between our Cenotaph and that in Whitehall, which was unveiled on the same date.
- e) Bench Opposite Bus Station** – Mr Stride informed that the bench next to the Cenotaph is in a bad state of repair and requested Council to rectify the matter urgently.
- f) Tesco's, Mendip Avenue** – Mr Dunscombe enquired why the application for Change of Use went to Planning Board and requested the Council to deal with matters openly.
- g) White Lining outside Haskins** – Mr Taffy Stride again expressed concern that the removal of the white lining on the pavement outside Haskins caused a dangerous situation for pedestrians and that the matter should be addressed immediately. Although informed that the lines were removed following advice by Highways Mr Stride maintained that the lines should be reinstated. Mr Stride was also appalled that he had raised four questions to Council over the last month and had received a response to only one. He requested an update on actions taken with regard to proof of ownership of the Cenotaph and works to High Street South.
- h) Swimming Pool** – Mr Stride enquired as to the opening date for the pool.
- i) Flyposting** – Mr Stride expressed concern in the way this Council and others have been treated with regards to banners etc.

Town Council Meeting 18 July 2006

- a) **Car Theft & Vandalism** – Mr Clive Pearson expressed concern that car theft appeared to be on the increase and that a spate of vandalism had occurred with windows smashed, including that of the SMTC offices. He enquired whether all the CCTV cameras in town are operational, and this was confirmed by the police.
- b) **Illegal Parking** – Mr Clive Pearson raised concern regarding illegal parking in the town and that no traffic wardens or beat officers were seen. Vehicles had been parked in the disabled bays and he hoped steps would be taken to control this.
- c) **Town Clocks** – Mr Pearson enquired as to the situation regarding the clock in the High Street and was informed by the Chairman that a new wire was on order and all was in hand. Mr Pearson also hoped that the clock on the Academy building would soon be operational.
- d) **Station Road Bench** – Mr Taffy Stride was pleased to note that the broken bench at Station Road had now been taken away for repair by MDC.
- e) **High Street South** – Mr Taffy Stride informed that grating was damaged and minor repair works were still outstanding. The Chairman confirmed that High Street South had not yet been handed over and was aware of the problems which were in hand.
- f) **Lido** – Mr Taffy Stride requested an update to opening of the swimming pool, which the Chairman informed would be 28 July, with an opening ceremony scheduled for early August.
- g) **War Memorial** – Mr Stride raised concern at the matter being discussed at the meeting of 4 July and, as this had not been agendaed, felt this was undemocratic. He had written to SMTC seeking clarification of ownership and was awaiting a reply. Mr Stride thanked the Chairman for taking interest in the recent demonstration, which had been well-researched and had received good feedback from the public. A report would be compiled and provided to SMTC.

Mrs Joy Stride provided a detailed history of the structure and informed that the current site was the only one fulfilling all original conditions out of 5 preferred sites. She also informed that the structure was hollow.

The meeting then adjourned to the Council Chamber.

Mr John Bassett showed Council the latest amended plan showing that the roundabout is going through the Cenotaph and stressed that the structure would not be "safer". He also reminded Council that SMTC's role was for the "upkeep and restoration" of the monument and that SMTC should not be invested with the power to demolish, move or even drill holes in the structure.

Shirley Williams, who is an urban designer and trained as an architect informed that she has spoken to English Heritage. She informed the structure could be of national importance, forms a landmark at the top of the town and the structure could not be touched without English Heritage being involved.

Mr Will Dunscombe expressed concern that a vote was taken at the meeting of 4 July on a matter not on the agenda, and that the "Council should be ashamed of themselves".

Cllr Jeremiah then left the meeting for 10 minutes in protest at the disruption from the public gallery.

Town Council Meeting 5 September 2006

- a) **CCTV and Crime** – Mr Clive Pearson raised concern regarding comments in the Journal, whereby MDC was confirming that they had success with the CCTV. He still considered that there was no police presence anywhere to be seen. Traders within the town were very frustrated following ongoing and recent damage, and there had been a significant increase in window smashing within the High Street and Market Place, the latest of which was Boots the Chemist. He considered that MDC and the police should get together to tackle the problem and there should be more Beat Officers at the relevant times within the town centre.
- b) **1 August Council Meeting** – Mr Taffy Stride raised concern at the lecture given to members of the public regarding their alleged behaviour at the previous meeting. He considered that members of the public had behaved impeccably and that the councillors were not acting responsibly.
- c) **Seating within Collett Park** – Mr Taffy Stride had previously raised matters regarding two memorial seats still missing, no action had taken place and he wished to be informed of progress and hoped that the matter would be concluded shortly.
- d) **High Street South** – Mr Taffy Stride raised concern, once again, regarding the unsatisfactory standard of works and the considerable number of defects all of which were still outstanding. The Chairman informed that the County Council was fully aware of all the defects but that the works had still not been handed over to the County and it was hoped that remedial works would be carried out shortly.
- e) **Station Road Footpath – Chain-link Fencing** – Mr Taffy Stride reported that, despite raising much concern over the chain-link fencing in its very poor condition, the matter still remained unresolved.
- f) **Tourist Information Centre Relocation** – Mr Taffy Stride raised concern as to the reason why it was relocating.
- g) **Tesco development and Highways**- Mr Chris Norman raised concern regarding the Tesco highway layout and enquired as to whose fault it was that Tesco had received planning consent. He considered that the highways should have been put to the south of the development as per the Shepton 21 proposals and he was boggled by the current proposed traffic layout.
- h) **War Memorial** – Mr Will Dunscombe raised concern, following the confirmation of the Planning Officer at MDC that the structure did not need to be moved for the new development to take place. The Town Council already had the result of the parish poll and he pleaded with them to leave it where it is, that no-one wanted it moved, and he considered that the Council was out of step, out of tune and out of touch with their community.

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Public Forum Notes - Town Council Meeting 19 September 2006

- a) **Police Matters** – Inspector Paul Richards provided members with an update following three months' operation of the new community policing set-up. He considered that there were good communications with the Clerk. Since the restructuring he considered that they had made significant progress; they had reduced outstanding car crime; reduced the distraction of the Beat Officers who were not now dealing with live crimes and therefore they were not held up doing paperwork in the office but on patrol within the community; the detection rate had improved from 23% up to 29%; there had been improved managerial communications with victims of crime; and both the visibility and morale of his police officers had improved.

He considered that there had been increased throughput of prisoners through utilising the cells in Wells in lieu of Yeovil therefore cutting down timescale and improving efficiency. The Beat Officers had not been given crimes unless they were of a racist nature, thereby leaving them to do their job; they had made significant inroads by executing a successful drug-bust; executing a recent fire-arms situation and dealing with numerous vehicle thefts and crimes. They also had considerable success with burglary detections within the town centre. He considered that other crime figures may rise in the interim, however these were down to a number of combination issues; due to mobile officers in a minibus attending situations, dealing with public order arrests, antisocial arrests and many other matters; one example of which was an incident which occurred over the weekend – there was one officer at the scene within 4 minutes of the call and there were a further 9 police officers there within a further 4 minutes (8 minutes total). This resulted in an arrest with good evidence available from CCTV. He considered that, over time, it would be known that the police in Shepton Mallet are not a "soft touch". He had also been working on the street drinking ban with MDC and the Town Council which would possibly be going live on 22 September.

However, despite all the successes, several things had gone wrong. They had lost PCSO Matt Williams who now had a job within the Gloucester police force and there were current budget restrictions which implied they could not recruit a replacement until the current employee had left. However they had now found a replacement Community Support Officer who was currently in training and who would be online in about 3 weeks' time. A further problem was that the two Beat Managers were married to each other and had both been on holiday causing a void which had not been filled in the short term. Andy Pritchard had now been promoted and would be leaving for Yeovil and the Beat Manager, Ed Hawkins, had been promoted as his replacement. Currently they were looking to recruit a new Beat Manager for Shepton Mallet.

Clive Pearson commented that he had, through the Clerk, submitted a report to Paul Richards raising the frustration felt by town centre retailers as to the recent window-smashing. Mr Pearson wanted to see the police identify the offenders, publish and report their names and even look to their parents to provide compensation-funding. Mr Pearson considered that a police presence was required and action should be taken at the known risk times within the town centre. Inspector Richards confirmed that criminal damage was a complex and broad issue and related to regeneration. He hoped the police would get more involved on a strategic level with both Shepton 21 and the Town Council.

Mr George Bartlett considered that the CCTV had been working well and assisting as a deterrent against crime and further considered that, should the CCTV not be in place, then there would be a 50% increase in crime within that area.

Mr Taffy Stride raised concern as to the police response to a telephone call on 22 July where, due to the local station being unmanned, he had telephoned the appropriate number and had waited for some 20 minutes without response. He had tried again repeatedly with still no response. Inspector Paul Richards confirmed that the police service had recently provided a single telephone number for use by the public, however there had been a very high rise in demand and they were currently putting in extra resources.

Cllr Inchley welcomed the update on the drugs situation and that the police were looking to utilise resources in a more effective and efficient manner. He raised concern regarding the town centre in that it appeared that ball games and cycle-riding was taking place by members of the Portuguese community, to which Inspector Richards advised that he would take the matter up with the new Beat Manager and considered that education was the first way to approach this matter.

Cllr Bartlett congratulated the two officers on their promotion which was obviously good for them but, in a way, bad for the town and enquired from Sergeant Pritchard as to his consideration regarding getting more PCSOs to the town. He considered that this was progressing and would take some time for them to go on stream but it was hoped that the new Beat Manager would be responsible for directing the PCSO team.

Cllr O'Connor raised enquiries regarding the investment and performance of the CCTV system, to which Inspector Richards confirmed that it was a deterrent and reassured councillors that the system had led to a significant number of arrests and charges being brought.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Richards, Sergeant Pritchard and Beat Manager PC Hawkins for their 45-minute presentation and interaction with members of the public. He once again congratulated Sergeant Andy Pritchard and Beat Manager Ed Hawkins on their promotion and looked forward to the police attending the council meeting on 17 October.

- b) War Memorial** – *Mr Stride read part of a letter whereby he had lodged a complaint against the Council with the Information Services regarding the Freedom of Information Act and he considered that he would wish to take up an offer of a meeting with selected members of the Council as set out in the letter received from the Council.*

Mr Bassett read part of a letter sent to Mr Stride from the Council which confirmed that the Town Council was uncertain as to the ownership of the War Memorial. He considered that the Town Council should not proceed to do any exploratory or survey work, or indeed undertake any expenditure, until they were certain of the legal ownership of the structure. He also read out part of a letter received from English Heritage which appeared to confirm that they would not allow drilling of the structure until a robust Method Statement had been provided to, and approved by, English Heritage. He pleaded with the Council not to proceed and also enquired whether Council felt there was a clash of interest between the Council's architect and the company that was proposed to undertake

the exploratory and survey works. The Chairman responded that this matter was noted and confirmed that the Council had been in touch with English Heritage and David Clark at Mendip District Council.

- c) High Street South** – *Mr Taffy Stride confirmed that he had met with a representative from Somerset County Council and informed that he had been told that the staining to the York stonework within the parking areas within the High Street may mean that the paving setts would need to be ripped up and replaced with tarmac.*
- d) Bus Services** – *Mr Clive Pearson confirmed that he had arranged additional meetings with Somerset County Council and Bus Service providers and that he would hopefully provide a written update to councillors for the next meeting.*

Public Forum Notes - Town Council Meeting 3 October 2006

a) Public Transport – Clive Pearson – First Bus have carried out impact studies to subsidies fare's which are now complete and they currently have no plans to change existing services. Following a one hour meeting with First and SCC officers numerous other points raised and Clive was awaiting notes of the meeting which he will distribute through the Clerk prior to the next meeting of Council. They would also review provision of low level access buses on the Wells to Shepton Mallet service. Clive was still actively progressing matters but reported progress was slow.

SMTC – Noted and await notes of meeting and further reports.

b) Contaminated land at the Tesco Site – Clive Pearson – had heard that the site has been found to be contaminated. Can we confirm the validity of the matter.

SMTC - Chairman will investigate and inform. MDC Cllr M. Robinson was fully involved in the Tesco development matter and no such subject had been voiced at meetings which she attended.

c) Open Forum –Taffy Stride – SMTC previous decision not to minute but only to take notes. It appears that there is no feed back and request that a standing item be placed on future agendas to enable feedback.

SMTC – Chairman to advise way forward.

d) High Street South. Removing yellow lines, problems with flooding. Request for verification and rectification.

SMTC – Verify with Somerset Highways current scenario and how far on with safety audit and remedial works. Clerk to arrange a site meeting with SCC Officers.

e) Station Road – Taffy Stride - Chain-link fencing still faulty and no action to date.

SMTC – Attempt to verify ownership and liability –SCC / Haskins / Ellis

f) Collett park – Taffy Stride - Seats and Bylaws

SMTC – Confirm Collett Park seat policy review being worked up. Confirm Bylaws and common sense approach procedures. Portfolio meeting arranged for the 24 October 2006.

g) MPCT – Taffy Stride – Following report from Robin Smith now report by doctors and staff, who is right and who is wrong. Something a foot some where.

SMTC – To closely monitor the situation and work with Doctors, staff and the community to protect the valued facility.

Public Forum Notes - Town Council Meeting 17 October 2006

a) **Police Matters** – PCSO Penny Freestone introduced herself to members having been in the post only a few weeks and provided apologies for her Sergeant whom was unable to attend the meeting. The new Beat Manager Steve Hubbard who was an experienced officer was also now in post. Currently Penny was the only PCSO covering the parish but that by the Spring an additional four PCSO's should also be in post. Currently they were dealing with the outstanding parking issues and over the last four days some 21 tickets had been issued and they considered the improvement could already be seen. They would now be looking to target the recent problems within Collett Park. Members of the Public raised several matters and requested the PCSO to audit road markings on her beat around the Town. One member raised concern as to parking obstruction and illegal parking around the Prison locality which had been raised with the Police previous and was informed by the PCSO that they were aware of the matter and dealing with. Members of the Public and all Councillors considered it was good to see and be able to converse with an active police present in the Town.

Police reminded of Prison requirement

b) **Public Forum Feedback** – The Clerk updated progress with previous points raised under Public Forum, which included High Street south and the Tesco development. Mr Stride considered it progress.

No action

c) **Public Transport** – Clive Pearson provided a copy letter received this morning from SCC. First Bus are still considering many of the points raised. The correspondence confirmed that service of a Low Floor bus would be forthcoming in the future, Service 669 would visit into the hospital grounds and that the flag in St Peters Road would get removed. The extension of service to the Ridgeway Estate was currently being tendered and the additional service to the Tadley Acres estate would in the future be provided by First Bus from Cannards Grave Road and by South West Coaches from the Whitstone Road entrance. Mr Stride raised concern as to speed ramps within the Tadley Acres development. SCC would look at changing operating times for Service 29 to provide onward connections to the Weston-Super-Mare and Taunton services. SCC also confirmed good news that the bus services within Somerset were enjoying a period of stability and that it was pleasing to see considerable uptake in free travel passes. Mr Pearson was thanked by all Councillors and members of the public for his sterling work to date.

No action

d) **Shepton 21** – Mr Taffy Stride raised concern as there appeared to be no public representation included within the organisational structure.

No action

e) **Regal Road Car Park** – Mr Taffy Stride enquired the ownership and operation of this facility. Originally it was to be handed over with the sale of the Amulet but MDC appeared to be continuing to manage and operate this public car park.

MDC requested to confirm situation

f) **War Memorial** – Mr Taffy Stride enquired as to the reason for this matter to be dealt with in closed session. He confirmed that he would attend the meeting with the Town Council representatives on the 24 October and that he would supply the Clerk with names of those with him that would attend.

No action

Public Forum Notes - Town Council Meeting 7 November 2006

- a) **Remembrance Details** – Mr Clive Pearson confirmed details to this year's event. There would be a 2 minute silence at the Cenotaph on Saturday 11 November at 11am. The Sunday Formal Parade would fall-in at the Cenotaph at 10.40 on 12 November followed by the Church Service at 11.15am. He requested members support to this years poppy appeal and regretted that he would not be holding his usual stall in the town centre as he had done for the past seven year's but that poppy's were readily available from the town centre shops and garages. Members were also invited to attend the usual musical event to be held at Whitstone School on the 9 December 2006 starting at 7pm. – **NO ACTION**
- b) **High Street south** – Mr Taffy Stride enquired when remedial works would be carried out. The Chairman reported that matters were in hand but no date had yet been advised. – **CHASE MDC**
- c) **Regal Road Car Park** - Mr Taffy Stride enquired progress to his previous concerns and request for clarification over the disposal or otherwise of this public car park. – **CHASE MDC FOR A RESPONSE**
- d) **Collett Park Seating** - Mr Taffy Stride enquired is there had been any progress to replacement of the removed memorial seats for the late Cllr Denning and ex-band master Maurice Whitcombe. The Collett Park Portfolio Holder confirmed that these seats would not be replaced like for like due to the financial costs involved. The Council had agreed a revised policy regarding all seating in the park. Mr Stride still considered it disgraceful that the Council did not intend to replace these two memorial seats. **NO ACTION**
- e) **Station Road Footpath Repairs** - Mr Taffy Stride thanked the Council for progressing the matter and that Somerset Highways had confirmed their ownership and would carry out the required repairs to the chain-link fencing but requested that repairs to the path surface also be carried out at the same time. – **NO ACTION**
- f) **Prison Estates Planning Application and future development of spaces at Maxwell Road area** – Mr Taffy Stride raised concern as he understood that the owner of the property concerned was not aware of the works and that he was aware of possible future plans to develop Maxwell Road area to which he had great concerns. The Chairman considered the Council should await the relevant planning application before making further comment.- **NO ACTION**
- g) **Brother Drinks Application** – Mr Mike Harris confirmed awareness of details and the content provided by the Clerk to the draft Chairman's response to the revised conditions application. He considered that the company was flaunting the current conditions. There was a total lack of enforcement and the application should be refused. The company should get their act together and prove their-selves prior to any further consideration. He was basically sick and fed up of complaining about this matter. Mrs Bailey an adjoining resident also supported Mr Harris's views and concerns.- **PLANNING RESPONSE + ATTEND PLANNING BOARD**
- h) **Swimming Pool** – Mr Mike Harris informed that the swimming pool was still full of water and raised concern that this was a health and safety issue. He wished to know if the pool was to be emptied for the winter or if to be left full and if so what was the reasoning behind the decision. **ENQUIRE MDC**
- i) **Recent Flooding Leg Square** - Mr Tim Hoddinott raised much concern as to the reason for the severe flooding which occurred in the early hours of Friday 20 October 2006. Previously there had been problems outside his house with drains and water gullies which he understood was due to partially blocking and also insufficient size and capacity in the pipe work. Somerset Highways had stated they could do nothing about it due to insufficient funding. He raised concern as to the condition of the culverts and did not believe the problem was due to the amount of rainfall that had occurred. He considered that the water level rose within an hour and receded within one and a half hours. He considered that Mulberry Company may have opened their sluice gates and allowed the lake to empty which may have

*caused the incident. Mr Ash also a resident of Leg Square viewed that the sluice gates on the lake were open on the Sunday morning following the flooding on the Friday. They both wished the Town Council to pressurise for a full investigation and remedial action to ensure this does not reoccur in the future. Cllr Inchley confirmed that Mulberry Company had not opened their sluice gates at the time of flooding. **NO ACTION***

Public Forum Notes - Town Council Meeting 21 November 2006

a) Police Update – Penny Freestone PCSO, provided apologies for her Beat Manager, Steve Hubbard who unfortunately could not attend. They were continuing with plenty of visible patrols, continuing to enforce traffic parking issues and working to improve links and communications with youths within the Town Centre and Collett Park. It was hoped that a further PCSO would join the team at the end of December 2006. A short question and answer session then took place with both the public and Cllrs. Mike Harris raised the problem of on street parking on both sides of the highway through Shaftgate Avenue, Cllr Bartlett raised the problem of boy racers using MDC Car Park at Cannards Grave Road which the PCSO was aware and dealing with. There would be an operation to deal with the matter in December. The Chairman requested regular provision of Crime stats and success outcome using CCTV. He also raised concern as to the safety of paper delivery youths with no lights or warning bells on their bicycles. The PCSO informed that she would deal with the matter and talk to the newsagents. Penny also requested copies of the Town Council minutes to be forwarded to her.

ACTION – PCSO plus Clerk

b) Town Centre Retail – Mr Clive Pearson raised concern as to the trading position and possible closure of long term retailers when the Tesco development opens. Mr Stride informed that he understood that a 24hr convenience store would open in its place.

ACTION - Noted

c) Brothers Drinks – Mr Mike Harris confirmed that he was disappointed with MDC decision for a 6 month trial and that he had to report to the police the very next morning the problem of a HGV vehicle blocking the pavement. Members raised concern regarding reporting procedure to collate information and complaints during the trial period.

ACTION – Request MDC to confirm Complaints Procedure and to keep SMTC advised.

d) Update Previous Minutes – Mr Stride enquired to progress from previous matters raised relating to Station Road Chain link, High Street South remedials, Regal Road Car Park. He also considered the Council should have progressed an insurance claim to renew Memorial Seats in Collett Park and also raised issue with litter on Station Road embankment now that the grass had been cut.

ACTION – Chase MDC and SCC

e) Swimming Pool – Mr Mike Harris informed that the swimming pool was still full of water and raised concern that this was a health and safety issue. He wished to know if the pool was to be emptied for the winter or if to be left full and if so what was the reasoning behind the decision.

ACTION – Chase MDC

f) War Memorial – Mr Stride raised concern that his group were to be kept informed and had not as the matter was on the agenda again, relating to A Caution lodged with the Land Registry.

ACTION - Noted

g) Slinky Bus Interchange – Mr Stride provided information and concern as to lack of consultation / knowledge of the proposals.

Action – Noted on next Council Agenda

h) HERs Scheme / Heritage Buildings – Mr Stride raised concern as to the finishes and standard of works.

Action – Inform Paul Tomlinson of MDC

Public Forum Notes - Town Council Meeting 5 December 2006

a) Station Road Development – Mr Clive Pearson raised concern and was saddened as to this proposed development which would put an end to the possible extension of the East Somerset Railway line. The old Station waiting room and ticket booth would disappear and should be retained as a future tourist attraction. Mr Stride supported the concern and informed that a group were attempting to get the buildings listed and if this failed then they would still lobby for the existing buildings to be incorporated within the development.

NO ACTION

b) Regal Road Car Park Sale - Mr Will Dunscombe raised concern as to the sale and the sum of monies obtain by MDC. The property appears to have been sold at a considerable loss. Mr Stride fully supported this matter and thought it disgusting that MDC should purchase the area for £100,000 and sale the same area for just £17,000 and he was still investigating to find out just how much MDC were currently paying to lease the same area back for the use of car parking.

CHASE MDC

c) Collet Park Green Flag Award – Mr Will Dunscombe considered that the Council should not be wasting money on attempting to obtain an award which they probably knew they would not get but that the money should be spent on other matters within the park such as to stop the park flooding.

NO ACTION

d) War Memorial Costs – Mr Will Dunscombe considered the Council should stop wasting further monies on attempting to move the structure, the monies should be diverted to support the skatepark, a much valued facility for the youth of the Town.

NO ACTION

e) High Street South / HERs – Mr Stride confirmed he had received a response from MDC regarding HERs building works following raising the matter at the previous Town Council meeting. He had now sent a response and would provide a copy to the Town Council. Mr Stride once again raised concern to the standard of works to the recent highways which he was still chasing.

CONTINUE TO CHASE SCC WITH MDC

f) Proposed Slinky Bus Service – Mr Taffy Stride enquired what this service was all about. Mr Mike Harris raised concern as to the condition of the Cannards Grave Road highway and its suitability for the positioning of bus stops and shelters.

CONTINUE TO LOBBY SCC WITH MDC

g) Bellway Homes Development /Planning Appeal – Mr Harris requested Council to raise the highway problems at Westfield and Hitchen Lane junctions with the developers at future meetings.

CONTINUE TO LOBBY AND RAISE POINTS AT FUTURE MEETINGS

Public Forum Notes - Town Council Meeting 19 December 2006

Community Hospital – Mr Clive Pearson updated Council as to the successful League of Friends Christmas Carol event held in the hospital day room. He thanked the Council and other partners for their continued support. He raised concerns as to problems of illegal car parking causing obstructions especially access for the public bus services and requested police support in the matter.

ACTION – PC STEVE HUBBARD

Christmas Lights – Mr Clive Pearson congratulated the Council for working with other partners such as MDC and the Chamber of Commerce in an excellent display especially with the new Centre Tree display.

ACTION – INFORM MDC AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Cleanliness of Town Centre – Mr Mike Harris raised concern as to apparent drop in standards. It appeared that of late when leaves and debris was dropping there was a lack of cleaning, however the cleaner and motorised vehicles had now reappeared. He raised further concern as to the discarded bubble gum fouling the pavement surfaces especially in the Town Centre.

ACTION – REPORT TO MDC ENVIRONMENT AND STREET SCENE. ALSO REPORT TO CONTRACTOR CONNAUGHT

Alcohol Restriction Order (Town Centre) – Members requested update to supply and fitment of signs to allow enforcement. The Clerk confirmed this was an MDC function and there were practical problems with placement of signs within the Conservation Area. A meeting was to be arranged early in the New Year to resolve the matter.

ACTION – GUY BRAGE MDC

Weight Restriction Flaunting – Members raised concern and requested Police Traffic to enforce. Steve Hubbard confirmed that he would progress the matter.

ACTION – PC STEVE HUBBARD