

DRAFT

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY ORDINARY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs. P. Sauvage, M. Norfolk, A. Welch-Thornton & J. Evans

In Attendance: A Jenkins (Clerk), EDDC Cllr. H. Parr

Members of Public: 1

Cllr. Sauvage, chaired the meeting

He welcomed everyone to the Council meeting and outlined / reminded everyone of the Covid-19 measures which had been adopted for Council meetings.

OPEN SESSION

D. Blackmore, an Offwell resident said that he had lived in the village since 1973 and been involved as chair fundraising for the Village Hall. He was attending the meeting as he was interested in village affairs and wanted to learn more about the Parish Council.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

**1.To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons given (LGA 1972
S.85 (1))**

Cllrs. P.Hokins, T. Pepper, J, Tristram and C. Whithear had tendered their apologies. The personal reasons given by them all were accepted and approved by Council.

**2.To receive any declarations of interest relating to items outlined in this
agenda (this does not preclude the duty to declare further interests as
applicable)**

None

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th January 2023

Deferred to next meeting as insufficient Councillors present who had attended that meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

5. Reports:

a) Police

The Clerk advised that the Police January newsletter had been posted on the Website. He said that the Newsletter as per previous newsletters gave no Crime reports and referred people to visit the Police.UK website for their particular area's Crime map and recorded crimes. However, as in previous months there is no such recorded crime information whatsoever available for Honiton Rural which includes Offwell Parish. There is in fact no such information available for the months of December 2022, November 2022, October 2022, and September 2022. He had understood that the Police had taken on the Police Neighbourhood Volunteer in order to free up the Police Officers from having to send reports to Parish Councils' and that she would take on this role instead. However, it now appeared that her role appeared to be issuing Newsletters which whilst they are useful and informative it was also essential that Parish Councils were informed as to what crime is occurring in their parishes. He suggested that Councillors take the opportunity to visit one of the forthcoming Police events in Honiton in order to discuss and raise the issue with the Police Officers.

b) District and County Councillors

EDDC Cllr. Parr reported that both the district and parish council elections were due to take place in May and the EDDC electoral democracy officers would shortly be issuing Nomination Form Packs and a timetable of the important dates to Parish Clerks.

c) Offwell Neighbourhood Support Group

None

d) Highways Matters

1) Village Traffic awareness

The Clerk advised that he had completed the online 20 mph speed limit application form and submitted it with a detailed supporting information document to Devon Highways. He had asked them to confirm receipt but hadn't yet received their confirmation.

The Clerk distributed the 20's Plenty A4 sized notice stickers to the Councillors for them to pass onto householders to use and display through the village.

2) A35 submission to National Highways

The Clerk reported that he was still waiting on certain information to be provided by DCC in order that he can finalise the submission document.

3) Other Highways matters

None

e) Footpaths Report

The Clerk advised that he had surveyed the footpaths and submitted the survey to DCC PROW.

f) Any Other Reports

None

6. Correspondence

All correspondence had been circulated to Councillors.

7. Update of standing orders

Deferred to next meeting

8. Communication with the community, especially to comments on social media

Councillors agreed that the Offwell Together facebook site was not one for the Parish Council itself to be involved in and that the Offwell Village website is the place where all official Parish Council business should be posted and displayed online.

The Clerk said it was acceptable for individual Councillors to participate on the Offwell Together facebook if they so wished as a way of communicating with those in the Community who use this social media. However, it was important to remember the principle of collective responsibility if commenting on any Council decisions.

9. Finance

a) Current Financial Position

The Clerk reported that there is £2522.87 in the general account and £12.09 in the CIL account.

b) Expenditure to be ratified.

None

c) Expenditure to be approved for which bills have been received

- 1) Payment of £365.44 for the Clerk's salary for the month of February 2023

Payment proposed by Cllr. Norfolk, seconded by Cllr. Welch-Thornton. All in favour.

d) Request for a donation grant from Trip Community Transport Association.

The Clerk had circulated the request for a donation grant from TRIP. He advised Councillors that in previous years the Parish Council had given a £100 donation each year. Following discussion on the matter, Cllr. Evans proposed giving a donation of £150 this year, seconded by Cllr. Welch-Thornton, all in favour.

e) Request for Parish Council financial support for the King Charles coronation tea part celebration on Sunday 7th May 2023

The Clerk had circulated the written application from the Coronation Party Committee for a grant of £400 towards the tea party to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The Clerk understood that the party would be similar to last year's Jubilee celebration which had been a very successful event enjoyed by 120 members of the community.

He said that in relation to Coronation celebrations, Town/Parish and District Councils had been advised not to organise a Council event themselves or what could be perceived to be a Council organised event to celebrate the Coronation. This is due to the proximity of the Coronation to the Council elections in early May. This advice however does not prevent Councils from financially supporting a Community organised event or Councillors partaking in the Community event.

Following discussions on the matter of the amount of the grant, Cllr. Norfolk proposed giving a donation grant of £250, seconded by Cllr. Evans, all in favour.

10. Planning Applications

None

10. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

None

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

15th March 2023 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.25pm