

DRAFT

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY ORDINARY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 23rd AUGUST 2023 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs. J. Tristram (Chair), C. Whithear, T. Norris, D. Blackmore,
P. Hopkins, A. Welch-Thornton, M. Norfolk

In Attendance: A Jenkins (Clerk),

Members of Public: 1

Cllr. Tristram 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

No matters raised.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

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

Cllr. Pepper & DCC Cllr. Hartnell had tendered their apologies.

- 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 19th July 2023**

The minutes were declared a true record of the proceedings, proposed by Cllr. A. Welch-Thornton, seconded by Cllr. Whithear, all in favour.

- 4. Matters arising from the Minutes**

None

- 5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th July 2023**

The minutes were declared a true record of the proceedings, proposed by Cllr. Norfolk, seconded by Cllr. Norris, all in favour.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

7. Reports:

a) Police

The Clerk reported that he had received an email from PCSO Darren England regarding the police connectivity plans for Town and Parish councils.

He had advised that currently at Honiton they have the following neighbour team members who cover Honiton Town and Rural :

Inspector Gray 15764

Sgt Beards 15294

Pc Catton 17797

Pc Trudgeon 17615

Pcso England 30017

They are looking at when and how we can connect with the parish councils and had asked to be provided with the dates of upcoming meetings.

They can then look at when and who will be able to visit the Parish council meetings. Once they have dates they will then email ahead to confirm their attendance and who will be attending. They hope to be able to visit 2 to 3 times a year and still continue to send out the newsletters.

They are also planning on more regular contact with parish clerks and this could be over teams, phone call, email.

The Clerk will reply to PCSO England.

b) District and County Councillors

None

c) Clerk

None

d) Offwell Neighbourhood Support Group

None

e) Highways Matters

1) 20mph

None

2) A35

The Clerk said that he had written to the National Highways requesting their response to the matters discussed with them on the walk through on the 12th June and set out in the Clerk's report.

3) Bus Service survey

The Clerk advised that he had spoken to DCC Cllr. Hartnell about the possibility of rerouting the bus service through the village and also the possibility and financial feasibility of the eastern bound bus stop being moved to another location which would allow safe access. Cllr. Hartnell will discuss the matter with the DCC Cllr. Lead on Public transport and advise.

4) Other Highways matters

Cllr. Whithear raised the matter of Highways repeatedly repairing a particular pothole on Ramsden Lane every few months and having done so for a number of years. The pothole was caused by a small spring under the road and it could be solved by putting a small pipe underroad to divert the spring water into a road side ditch. He had spoken to the pothole contractors a number of times

over the years and asked them why they didn't do this to resolve the matter and prevent the pothole reoccurring. Their reply was that whilst that may resolve the matter it wasn't their job to do that, only to fill in the pothole. Cllr. Whithear said that this was false economy and that Devon Highways was wasting public money in continually filling in the pothole and not dealing with the underlying cause.

The Clerk to contact DCC Cllr. Hartnell and ask him to speak to the Highways officer and Highways management.

The Clerk reported that that he had been notified of a temporary prohibition of through traffic on the 12th September 2023 affecting the top section of Fern Lane where it meets the A35. He had circulated and emailed out the Notice and accompanying map to everyone.

f) Footpaths Report

Cllr. Norris advised that a parishioner has made a complaint to Devon County Council PROW about Footpath 16, The farmer/landowner has ploughed and planted right to the edge of the field with maize. The lodged complaint is that the ploughing and the growing maize crop has made it very difficult to walk safely along the footpath

g) Any Other Reports

None

8. Correspondence

The Clerk advised that correspondence had been received from Devon & Cornwall Police's Cyber Protect officers advising of the South West Cyber Resilience Centre (SWCRC). It is headed up by a Devon & Cornwall Police Superintendent and is a not for profit organisation, funded by the Home Office and regional policing. It exists to help South-West based small to medium sized businesses, charities and public sector organisations like Parish Councils, with their Cyber Security.

Cyber Security can feel complicated, expensive, and unmanageable. It can be hard to know where to start, or how to improve resilience. Professional Cyber Security support is often expensive and for many SME's, sole traders, local charities, Parish and Town Councils, obtaining such assistance can be well beyond their financial means. The CRC's have been set up by Government to help groups and organisations who find themselves in just this position. Much of what is on offer from the CRC is absolutely free. The Cyber Protect Officer of Devon & Cornwall Police recommends that Parish Councils sign up for this service which the Clerk has done.

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by Andy & Tina Bricknell of Offwell Woods who had advised that someone had stolen several of their "Private land" signs. They have reported the theft to the Police and have written to all the licence holders advising them of the theft and asking them to let them know if they should hear of anything relating to the theft or indeed if they happen to see the signs dumped anywhere. The Clerk advised that he had also sent out an email to broaden this appeal for any information to all Offwell residents.

9. Finance

a) Current Financial Position

The Clerk reported that there is £3,013.38 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 to A.Jenkins for the Clerk's net salary after tax/NIC deduction for the month of August (27/07/2023 to 31/08/2023) and to HMRC for the appropriate amount based on a gross salary amount of £456.80
- 2) Payment of £120.00 to Community Heartbeat Trust for 23/24 Village Emergency Telephone System.
- 3) Payment of £10.00 to Kilmington Parish Council for 10 Twenty's .Plenty A4 stickers.

Payments proposed by Cllr. Hopkins,, seconded by Cllr. Norris. All in favour

10. Planning Applications

a) 21/1798/FUL - Land On The East Side Of Tower Road Offwell Honiton

Change of use of an existing agricultural building and associated works for use as a Livestock Collection Centre.

The Clerk advised that he had spoken to the Planning Officer. The Enforcement Officer and Planning were still waiting for the applicants to address the breaches and submit the required documentation to Planning for their consideration.

b) 23/0735/FUL – Land North Of Honiton Golf Course Northleigh Hill Road Honiton

The construction of a Youth Football Facility, including clubhouse, parking, storage and football pitches to suit all age groups.

The Clerk advised that he had spoken to the Planning Officer and that the reason why the planning application had disappeared off the planning website was because they deemed it to be invalid as it was missing so much required information and documentation. They would reinstate it onto the website as and when these were submitted by the applicants. The Clerk will continue to monitor the matter.

- c) The Clerk advised councillors that planning application 23/0766/FUL For Little Foxes, Ramsden Lane had been approved and also that the planning appeal APP/U1105/D/22/3306390 for Marwood House, Bluebell Lane had been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

11. Electricity Sub Station

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the technician who is responsible for the sub station who had advised that he had requested and was presently awaiting a quotation from contractors for the removal of the tree stumps. He would contact the Clerk and advise further on receipt of the quotation.

12. Update of Standing Orders

Deferred to next meeting

13. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Update of Standing Orders

Email accounts

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.35pm