

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20TH MARCH 2017 IN THE SOCIAL CLUB

Present: Cllrs A Small (Chair), M. Brake (Vice Chair), J Tristram, S Patch,
M Mulrain, P Tuke, T Staunton,

In Attendance: A Jenkins (Clerk), PCSO P. Anning, Cllr. S Randall Johnson

Members of Public: 6

OPEN SESSION

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Apologies

Cllr. D Paveley, Cllr. Whithear, EDDC Cllr. H Parr & EDDC Cllr. G Godbear

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr. Patch declared an interest in item 16

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th February 2017

The minutes were declared a true record of the proceedings, proposed by Cllr. Mulrain and seconded by Cllr. Patch, all in favour.

The Chair said that the Council were saddened by the passing away of John Seymour who had been a Councillor for many years. A condolence card had been sent to Mrs Seymour and the family.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

5. Reports

- (a) **Police:** PCSO Anning reported that no crimes had been reported over the last month. The matter of speeding through the village was discussed and PCSO Anning said that he would conduct some speed checks over the course of the next few weeks. The matter of parking outside the school was also discussed and PCSO Anning said that whilst it was much better than it used to be, he would speak to anyone inconsiderately parking / stopping outside the school.

(b) District and County Councillors:

Cllr. S Randall-Johnson reported on the County Council's work on Dementia setting standards across the whole county and commended the work locally in Honiton to raise the issues of those suffering from this disease and helping to improve their quality of life.

She was particularly concerned about funding for schools and felt that it was vitally important that Parishes and villages do all they can to support their local school's through new developments to ensure a continuing and good stream of children entering each year. Offwell presently has approximately 15 new children a year but the ideal would be 30 a year. There was widespread concern at Council and within education in the County at Devon's education funding being £290 less per child than the national average. The County were actively seeking fairer funding from Government. However, she said that even with this unequal funding it was good news that 94% of pupils in Devon were in good or outstanding performing schools.

She said that sadly this would be the last meeting she would be attending, as due to electoral boundary changes she would not be standing for this particular ward at the DCC elections in May. She said that she had enjoyed her time of representing the ward and parish and would continue if elected in the new ward she was standing for to support all small villages.

She said that her locality budget account was empty and that the Parish would have to submit a fresh request to the locality budget team for the £300 AHN survey contribution, once the new DCC Councillor had been elected and locality budgets(if any) are set.

Other Reports

Cllr. Tristram as Offwell School governor representative reported that the school was hopeful for more money for local schools but that it was important for everyone to support the campaign for fairer education funding for Devon. He said that the headteacher was happy to come to any future Council Meeting that concerned the school.

6. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that the following correspondence had been received:-

1. Email from Devon County Council (DCC) re the DCC elections on the 4th May 2017 and a reminder that the deadline to register to vote is 13th April 2017.
2. Email forwarded on by Cllr. tristram from Grant Thornton re the annual return and information pack.
3. Email from DCC re the launch of Pinpoint (free online directory of support and services available within Devon). It replaces devon Community directory.
4. Email from DCC toupdating our listing on Pinpoint.
5. Email from EDDC re a fixed rate home improvement loan scheme.
6. Email from EDDc re the Knowledge weekly newsletter
7. Email from National Plant monitoring Scheme
8. Email from Highways re the Annual Parish Paths partnership (passed onto Cllr. Tristram)
9. Email newsletter from Offwell C of E primary school. PTFA Community afternoon Tea & raffle event on Friday 31st March

7. Finance

Cllr. Tristram proposed, Cllr. Patch seconded, all in favour that:

a) £139.84 salary be paid to the Clerk for the period 9th January 2017 to 6th February 2017
No HMRC PAYE payment due for this period

b) £89.51 be paid to DALC for membership fee for April 2017/18

8. Bank Statements

The Clerk advised that there was £12,432.01 in the current account and passed around for the Councillors perusal the 1st March 2017 Bank statement.

9. Affordable Housing Needs Survey

The Clerk reported that a pack of 200 survey forms had been received from DCT. The Chairman and Councillors said that the majority of the forms had been delivered to households with just a few left to deliver. The Clerk asked for any forms left over to be returned to him as he needed to know the exact number actually delivered so that DCT would be able to calculate the response rate.

The Clerk advised that he had drafted a notice about the survey and passed around a copy for the Councillors perusal. The notice had been posted on the noticeboard and at Windmill Garage.

10. Notice Board at Cleave Cross

The Clerk advised that Andrew Luxton of Stags had now contacted Cllr. Patch and had confirmed that Mrs Brown, the landowner had no objection to the notice board being erected on her land. The Clerk reported that he had again spoken to the Planning Dept. who had advised that whilst the planning application fee was normally £195.00 they would for the Parish Council reduce it by 50% to £97.50.

After discussion, it was resolved that the notice board should be one for Community notices and not a Parish Council noticeboard for council notices, minutes, agendas and other official notices. It was proposed by Cllr. Mulrain, seconded by Cllr. Brake that the Council fund a community notice board for local events to be placed at Cleave Cross. All in favour. The Chairman to investigate what notice boards are available.

11. Training for Councillors

The Clerk reported on the available Training courses available through DALC.

It was resolved that 2 places be booked for the Chair and vice Chair on the Chairmanship Short Course at Devon Communities Together, Exeter on Tuesday 13th June 2017. Cost £25.00 +VAT per person. Proposed by Cllr. Patch, seconded by Cllr. Tuke, all in favour.

12. Plaque for Offwell Village Cross

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Tristram had spoken to the Headteacher who advised that she would have no objection to the plaque about the cross being attached to the chain link fence adjacent to the cross. It was resolved that the Clerk speak to the Planning Conservation Team to check that this would be acceptable and if so, proceed with listed building application for the acrylic sign. Proposed by Cllr. Tuke, seconded by Cllr. Staunton, all in favour.

13. Lengthsman

The Clerk reported that DALC had advised that they only have specimen contracts etc for clerks and deputy clerks and nothing for lengthsman. They had suggested we contact EDDC who may have a specimen contract. Cllrs. suggested contacting some other local parish councils. The Clerk to investigate further.

14. Planning Applications:

Planning Application – 17/0498/FUL – Highfield House

The Clerk reported that he had circularised details of this application to all Cllrs. and that there had been no objections to the application.

15. Report on ORG & VHC

Cllr. Patch reported that the Charity had over the last year been investigating the costs of a new playground to replace the existing one. They had received various quotes from various playground specialists and had decided on a quotation from Wicksteed, one of the premier well established playground equipment suppliers. The cost of the project was substantial at £66,360 and would involve much fundraising. The charity had formed a fundraising subcommittee which had been named The Offwell Playground Team. It had already given a presentation on the project at the AGM and was seeking to involve the whole community in the project. It was suggested by Cllr. Brake that possibly they could be the speaker at the Council’s Annual Meeting in May and give a presentation to the Council and parishioners present.

16. Request for Funds from ORG & VHC for the outside redecoration of the Village Hall.

The Clerk reported that a funding request form had been received from ORG & VHC for funding for the outside redecoration of the village hall complex. The cost of the project was £5,400 and they had asked for the Parish Council to consider funding the whole project if possible, but would grateful for any amount. The Clerk read out the request in full and passed for Cllrs. perusal the funding request form and the accompanying quotation for the works and a copy of the latest ORG/VHC accounts.

After discussion, it was resolved that the Council should fund 50% (£2,700) of the cost. Proposed by Cllr. Mulrain, seconded by Cllr. Brake, all in favour. The payment to be made when the works are completed.

17. Agenda items for Next Meeting

None

18. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 24th April 2017 at 7.30pm in the Social Club.
The date for the Annual Meeting to be Monday 15th May 2017.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed..... Dated.....

