

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
21st AUGUST 2017 IN THE SOCIAL CLUB

Present: Cllrs A Small (Chair), J Tristram, S Patch,
M Mulrain, P Tuke, T Staunton, C Whithear

In Attendance: A Jenkins (Clerk), DCC Cllr. M. Shaw, EDDC Cllr. G. Godbeer, EDDC Cllr. H. Parr

Members of Public: 5

OPEN SESSION

No matters were raised.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Apologies

Cllr. M. Brake & PCSO 30012 P Anning

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th July 2017

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Clerk reported that he was waiting a reply from Highways and Highways England regarding the Highways matters.

5. Co-opting a new Councillor

The Clerk reported that he had received only one application in response to the advert placed on the noticeboard and on the website. The applicant was Mr David Millington of Torre Tops, Offwell who the Clerk had invited to the meeting.

The Chair thanked Mr Millington for his application and attending the meeting and asked him to give a short talk on why he wished to become a Councillor.

Mr Millington gave a short talk stating that he had lived in the village since 2009 and wished to make a contribution by giving something back to the community.

It was proposed by Cllr. Staunton that Mr Millington be co-opted to the Council, seconded by Cllr. Whithear, the majority in favour.

The Chair welcomed the new Councillor to take a seat on the Council but not to take part in any vote at this meeting. The Clerk to ask Cllr. Millington to sign the declaration of acceptance of office and to give him a copy of standing orders and Good Councillors Guide.

6. Reports

(a) Police:

The Clerk reported that PCSO Anning was on leave but that he had advised that there was only one reported crime for the period 19/06/2017 to 13/08/2017. Theft of motorbike and quad bike from driveway.

The Chair advised that he had observed an elderly gentleman fly tipping metal in Cuckoo Down Lane and had reported the matter together with the vehicle registration number to the Police and EDDC.

Councillors expressed concerns about the traffic jams caused in the surrounding lanes by the police diversions following accidents on the A35 and A30.

(b) District and County Councillors:

DCC Cllr. Shaw had sent the Council a written monthly report which the Clerk had circularised to all Councillors.

He had advised in his report that the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee of DCC had decided not to refer the closures of the Seaton and Honiton Community hospitals to the Secretary of State. Several of the Councillors on the Committee were unhappy about how the meeting had been handled and formal complaints had now been made.

He said that there was uncertainty about what the RD&E planned to do with the hospitals once the wards are closed and that the new battle would be to try and retain them as centres for health services for the areas.

Cllr. Shaw said he was joining Widworthy Parish Council in a new approach to Highways England on traffic calming measures and crossings in Wilmington.

EDDC Cllr. Parr reported that the reasons for the planning refusal for the Honey Glen application had been fully detailed in the planning officer's report together with a way forward.

EDDC Cllr. Godbeer reported that a working party was looking into the CIL(Community Infrastructure Levy). In response to a query from Councillors he said that there had been no further developments on the matter of the proposed A30 Monkton by pass.

(c) Other Reports

None

7. Correspondence

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

- a) Email from EDDC re a review of the rules and guidance for the Parishes Together Fund for the financial year 2018/19. Noted
- b) Email from Carol Hayes attaching copy of the objection she has submitted to EDDC in respect No3 Offwell Barton Planning application. Noted
- c) Email from EDDC asking if we wished to order more empty sandbags for the impending season. It was agreed that the Clerk order more sandbags.
- d) Email from Devon Communities Together re Parish Plans. Noted
- e) Email from Devon Communities Together re their Devon oil Collective. Noted
- f) Emails from EDDC Aboricultural Officer re the Tree Wardens Regional Forum 2017, the Tree Guardian summer edition and also stating that they are still wanting Tree Wardens in each Parish. The Clerk to check with the Aboricultural Officer if there is anyone already acting as the Tree warden for Offwell and if not, full details of what this role would involve.
- g) Email from Action East Devon inviting a Councillor to the Working Together conference in Sidmouth on Friday 29th September from 9.30am to 2.30pm at Knowle. Cllr. Patch volunteered to attend. The Clerk to book a place.

8. Finance

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

- a) £124.57 be paid to the Clerk for the period 26th June 2017 to 24th July 2017
- b) £17.40 be paid to HMRC for PAYE for same period
- c) £89.59 be paid to A Dimond & Co. Ltd for supply of A4 copier paper and printer Toner Cartridge

The Clerk reported that the external auditors had requested some additional information which he had supplied and that he was hopeful of receiving their report by the September meeting. He advised that he would give an interim financial statement at the September meeting.

9. Bank Statements

The Clerk advised that there was £9,912.15 in the current account and passed around for the Councillors perusal the 1st August 2017 bank statement.

10. Planning Applications:

a) Planning Application – 17/1969/FUL – Barnfield, Offwell, EX14 9SL

Cllrs. perused the application and Cllr. Staunton proposed supporting the application, seconded by Cllr. Whithear, all in favour.

The Clerk advised that he was concerned that parishioners may often be unaware of planning applications relating to the parish having been made and as such not having the opportunity to make comments if they so wished within the statutory time limits. He suggested that the Council follow the procedure adopted by other parishes of publishing on the website a list of planning applications, which would be updated with new applications at the same time as he advised Councillors of any new applications he had been notified of.

Cllr. Patch proposed that this procedure be adopted, seconded by Cllr. Tristram, all in favour.

11. Parishes Together

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by Widworthy Parish Council asking if Offwell Parish Council would be prepared to make a joint bid under parishes Together to repair the bank that has been partially washed away / damaged by water run off on the way to the recycling centre. It was agreed for the Clerk to obtain more information and costings for the matter to be considered at the next meeting.

12. Dog Bins

The Clerk reported that he had written to EDDC but had not yet received a reply due to the person dealing being on holiday.

13. Email system

Cllr. Mulrain outlined the changes to the email system previously operated by Mr Clive Banks and how it would now operate in conjunction with the website. The matter of a welcome pack for new residents was discussed but it was felt that the website with its detailed information on the Village, organisations, societies and local services provided this.

14. Parish Council plant container outside the Village Hall

It was agreed after discussion that the Charity would replant this container.

Cllr. Whithear said that he had entered the Village Cart into the CPRE competition and that an entry had also been made by the Offwell Woods Wildlife Trust.

15. ORG & VHC Council Representative

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Patch had stepped down as a trustee of ORG & VHC and the Council needs to consider a replacement representative. Cllr. Patch said that she had been a trustee for many years and the Council representative and that it had involved hard work and commitment but that the Charity was a worthwhile cause benefiting the whole community.

The Chair thanked Cllr Patch for her work as the Council representative and asked the other Councillors if anyone was prepared to take on that role bearing in mind that they would have to become a Trustee and sign Section 13- Declaration of Members.

No one volunteered to take on the role and it was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance. The Charity if it so wished would be free to submit a written report to the monthly Council meetings.

16. Report on ORG & VHC

No report received.

17. Walking Track

Cllr Whithear said a parishioner had suggested a walking track around the perimeter of the recreation ground. This would provide a flat walk for the elderly, wheelchair users and less mobile residents but could also be multi-functional also serving as a running track.

It was felt that there was merit in this suggestion but that it was a matter for the Charity itself to consider. The Clerk to forward the suggestion onto the Charity.

18. CIL Funding

The Clerk reported that EDDC were now inviting bids to spend Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds received since they began charging CIL on 1st September 2016. CIL funds must be spent on infrastructure projects that support new development in the area, as set out on their “Regulation 123” list. The deadline for applications is Friday 22 September.

Cllr. Godbeer said that applications made so far exceeded the funds available but that all applications would be considered. He said that Axminster had submitted for a walking track and that if ORG & VHC wished to submit a bid for the new playground then this would be considered as an infrastructure project providing for Health & Wellbeing.

19. Agenda items for next meeting

Plaque for the Cross

Clerk’s review

Lengthsman

20. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on Monday 18th September 2017 at 7.30pm in the Social Club.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

