

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY

24th APRIL 2017 IN THE SOCIAL CLUB

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

In Attendance: A Jenkins (Clerk), PCSO P. Anning,

Members of Public: 6

OPEN SESSION

A statement was read out by Mrs Ann Richards wishing to correct a few inaccuracies held by Councillors about the rates for hiring the hall by locals and the amount of money the Charity had received from the Council. Councillor Staunton said that any comments made were not personal views but views which had been made to him by parishioners and that he had a duty to express their views at Council Meetings.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Apologies

Cllr. D Paveley

2. Declaration of Interests

None

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

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

5. Reports

(a) **Police:** PCSO Anning reported that there had only been 1 reported crime over the last month., a theft of an amount of diesel from a diesel tank on the periphery of the village. He advised that he had as yet not conducted the speed checks but planned to do so in the next few weeks. In response to a query from Cllrs. about the proposed reduction in PCSO's numbers in Devon, he said that he understood that numbers would reduce from approx. 350 to approx. 200 through natural wastage over a period of 3 to 5 years with no redundancies for 12 months and a review after 12 months.

(b) **District and County Councillors:**

No reports received

(c) **Other Reports**

None

6. Correspondence

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

- 1) Email from EDDc re the Knowledge weekly newsletter
- 2) Email from Devon County Council (DCC) re the notice of Election polls for the DCC elections on the 4th May 2017.
- 3) Email from EDDC re Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) together with a guidance note explaining CIL and its implications for Parish/Town Councils.
- 4) Email from EDDC re SWITCH fundays about a funday in Offwell Parish during the summer holidays. Asking for suggestions for a suitable venue and any community groups who might want to be involved. Cllr. Brake suggested the Village Hall & Recreation ground and the PTFA, ORG/VHC and the Offwell Playground Team. Details given to him to pass on to them to contact EDDC.
- 5) Email from EDDC re the new 2017/18 Parishes together Fund.
- 6) Email from EDDC re DEFRA making a sudden change to the Avian Flu Protection regulations.
- 7) Email from EDDC inviting representations on its Planning Obligations SPD and the Consultation Statement.
- 8) Email from EDDC re the district Council now offering competitive quotes for grounds maintenance and street cleaning needs.
- 9) Email report from Carol Hayes on the Community Safety annual Conference she attended. Clerk had already sent copies of the report to Cllrs. and report now on the village website.
- 10) Email from Carol Hayes re the continuing and worsening potholes in The Goyle. Copies already passed to Cllr Patch who said that she had contacted a senior manager at Highways on the matter and was at present waiting a response.
- 11) Letter from DCC enclosing hard copies of the A30 Honiton to Devonshire Inn Recommended route Leaflet. The Clerk gave copies to all Cllrs. The Clerk to ask Windmill Garage to put one display.

7. Finance

- a) The Clerk advised that the Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17 accounts were still being prepared pending the internal audit and would be presented to the Council at the May meeting for approval and signing off.

- b) Cllr. Whithear proposed, Cllr. Patch seconded, all in favour that:
£137.84 salary be paid to the Clerk for the period 6th March 2017 to 3rd April 2017
- c) Cllr. Tuke proposed, Cllr. Staunton seconded, all in favour that:
£2.00 be paid to HMRC for PAYE for same period

8. Bank Statements

The Clerk advised that there was £12,189.05 in the current account and passed around for the Councillors perusal the 1st April 2017 Bank statement.

9. Affordable Housing Needs Survey

The Clerk reported that Janice Alexander of DCT had advised in the previous week that the response rate had been good, was in excess of 40% and that the final response rate may well be nearer 50%. She will advise further for the next Council Meeting. The report should then be issued in June.

Cllr. Whithear said that he was most concerned that questions 9 and 10 were missing from the survey forms and in view of this questioned the validity of the survey when it was issued. The omission had not been noticed by other Councillors or by members of the sub committee who had met with Janice Alexander to discuss the survey forms. Cllr. Mulrain suggested that it might be a numbering error rather than an omission of two material questions relevant to the validity of the survey.

It was decided that the Clerk should raise the matter of the missing questions with Janice Alexander and report back at the next Council meeting.

10. Notice Board at Cleave Cross

The Chairman advised that his investigations were continuing. The difficulty was that suitable boards advertised had to be collected and involved long distance collection journeys and costs. The Chairman and the Clerk would investigate further to find a suitable board.

11. Training for Councillors

The Clerk reported that 2 places had been booked for the Chair and Vice Chair for the Chairmanship Course on the 13th June 2017.

12. Plaque for Offwell Village Cross

The Clerk reported that he was in the process of completing the application.

13. Lengthsman

The Clerk reported that he had some specimen contracts used by other local councils but suggested that he recontact other local councils who may want to get together for the new Parishes Together funding for 2017/18. Cllrs. also suggested that the Clerk contact EDDC in view of the email received from them to enquire whether their Grounds division would be prepared to quote for lengthsman work for the Parish Council.

14. Planning Applications:

a) Planning Application – 17/0722/FUL – The Bishops Tower 17/0721/LBC - The Bishops Tower

The applications were for full planning and listed building consent for a first floor extension to the property. Cllrs. perused the applications and decided not to comment on the application. All in favour.

b) Tree Preservation Order – 17/0071/TPO – Land at The Bishops Tower

The Clerk advised that he had today received an email from the EDDC Arboricultural Team advising of the above TPO but no details were available on the Council website. The Clerk to make enquiries and to report back to Council at next meeting or beforehand depending on the closing date for comments.

15. Report on ORG & VHC

Cllr. Patch reported that the Big Breakfast event organised by the Offwell Playground Team had been a huge success with 80 plus covers and had raised £355.90. Cllr. Brake also reported that the Playground Team had set up an email address offwellplaygroundteam@aol.co.uk, a Facebook page and a website. Two further events had been organised – a Cream Tea event in the Social Club on Sunday 14th May 2017 and a Gardener's Question Time event in the Village Hall on Friday 2nd June 2017.

17. Agenda items for Next Meeting

None

18. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on Monday 15th May at 7.15pm in the Jubilee Room at the Social Club.

Cllr. Mulrain tendered his apologies for absence in advance of the meeting.

It was proposed that the Council adopt the same format as last year's Annual Meeting providing Wine and nibbles for those attending the meeting. Proposed by Cllr, Whithear, seconded by Cllr. Tristram, all in favour. The Chair to obtain the wine/nibbles and to submit an account to the Council.

It was agreed that the Offwell Playground Team be invited to provide a presentation at the Annual Meeting on the new playground project for the village. Proposed by Cllr. Brake, seconded by Cllr. Patch, all in favour.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

