

# OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Each month, the Chairman and myself have been discussing when it would be safe to resume Parish Council Meetings in person. Towards the end of August, we were thinking of possibly in September but then it was reported that Covid case numbers had increased in both Cornwall and Devon. A heightened response level was then declared for Devon with advice to be more cautious, so we decided not to arrange a meeting for September.

However, we now feel it would be appropriate to resume meetings in October as it is important that the Parish Council recommence regular meetings which members of the public can attend if they wish.

**However**, it is most important that we ensure that we hold the meetings in as Covid 19 safe manner as possible. In order to protect every person attending the meeting from contracting Covid 19 at a meeting and then also spreading it back to our families and further into the Community. Whilst the majority of people are now double vaccinated, it must be remembered in our considerations for the resumption of meetings that not everyone in the population at large has been able to receive the vaccinations due to health reasons and that there are possibly such persons within our Community. Also, we are advised that whilst a double vaccination offers a level of protection from severe effects and death, it does not prevent one catching Covid 19 (with possible Long Covid) and transmitting it to others.

I have checked on the latest advice re the holding of meetings in order to complete a Covid 19 risk assessment. Following advice, the Council will now hold Council meetings in the Village Hall as it is bigger enabling safe social distancing to be maintained with less congestion, has a higher ceiling with a larger volume of air, Windows at high level can be opened to let in fresh air. Also the Hall is larger so this allows for consideration of anyone who is Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, for whom the advice to shield has been lifted. They may feel cautious about attending a Council meeting but the Hall will allow those people extra space so they can sit further away from others and feel safer.

## **Conditions which will apply to attendance at Council Meetings**

**All attendees are recommended to bring and wear a mask (particularly in confined spaces such as the foyer and toilets), use hand sanitiser provided (and bring their own hand sanitiser if they prefer).**

**No person to attend the meeting if they or anyone in their household has had Covid-19 symptoms in the last 7 days.**

**Attendees must leave contact details prior to the start of the meeting, or use the building QR Code.**

**If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough or a high temperature in the 7 days following the meeting, they must advise the Clerk or Chair and are advised to follow the stay at home guidance.**

Unfortunately, the change of venue to the Village Hall will mean in a change of day and week in the month for the regular monthly Council meetings.

Meetings will now be held on the third Wednesday of the month on an ongoing basis for the future, with the first meeting on Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The only exception will be the month of December when it would be for an earlier Wednesday in the month. This year it will be Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and next year it will be Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

The dates for Council meetings in 2021 and 2022 are now as follows:-

### **2021 Council Meeting Dates**

<b>October</b>	<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>

### **2022 Council Meeting Dates**

<b>January</b>	<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>February</b>	<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>July</b>	<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>August</b>	<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>

Adrian Jenkins, Clerk to Offwell Parish Council

14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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