

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 7.30PM
ON MONDAY 15th JULY 2019 IN THE SOCIAL CLUB

Present: Cllrs A Small (Chair), P. Tuke, J. Tristram, ,
M.Mulrain, S Patch, P. Hopkins, V Smith

In Attendance: EDDC Cllr. H. Parr, A Jenkins (Clerk)

Members of Public: 2

OPEN SESSION

No matters were raised.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Apologies

Cllr. M. Brake, DCC Cllr. M. Shaw

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. a) Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th June 2019

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

b) Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th June 2019

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

4. a) Matters Arising from the Minutes held on 17th June 2019

The Clerk advised that with regard to the grant to the Offwell Playpark Project that he had now received a reply from EDDC. They had confirmed that the playground project was a suitable infrastructure under the CIL regulations but had advised that the Council could not give the money as a grant. The regulations required the Council to spend the money directly on the purchase of a playground equipment item and the Council would have to show this in it's annual returns to EDDC.

The Clerk advised that he had contacted DALC for their advice on the matter and they were seeking clarification from NALC. Once he had received their reply, he would write to the Charity accordingly confirming the Council's decision.

b) Matters Arising from the Minutes held on 17th June 2019

None

5. Reports

a) Police:

The Clerk reported that he had not received any report from the Police.

b) District and County Councillors:

EDDC Cllr. Parr advised that there was an open day in Colyton Town Hall on Tuesday 16th July at 3.00pm. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue service were attending together with members of the Fire Authority. It was to discuss the various proposed options which all include the proposed closure of 8 Fire Stations including Colyton. The effect of these closures would affect all Communities in East Devon and the meeting was an opportunity to ask questions and find out more.

The EDDC app. is available to download onto mobile phones, with news, information on waste collections, planning and a Report It function.

She also gave a brief synopsis on the EDDC support for business and The Economic Development Service which jointly funds and supports delivery of the Heart of the South West Growth Hub.

DCC Cllr. Shaw had sent a written report which had been forwarded to all Councillors. He had been protesting against the Fire authority plans to close fire stations and had put the authority's plans on the agenda of DCC Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee for its September meeting. He was also aiming to attend the Public Meeting at Colyton Town Hall on the 16th July.

He had also advised that DCC Traffic Speeds Task Group had produced a very full report on 20mph speed limits whose proposals were now going to Cabinet.

c) Other Reports

None

6. Correspondence

The Clerk advised that he had forwarded on to Councillors all email correspondence received. These had included: -

- a) Newsletters from Offwell C of E Primary School
- b) Devon & Cornwall Police Alerts re: Drivers targeted with fake fines, Fatal RTA, Theft of Pedal Cycles, National Neighbourhood watch week, and Police connectivity plans.
- c) Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service consultation

- d) Email from Devon Investigations re their service to move on Travellers illegally parked
- e) Email from EDDC re free introduction to Crowdfunding session.
- f) Newsletter from DCC re Ash dieback
- g) Email invitation from Stagecoach to their first Stagecoach South west Conference for Community stakeholders in Exeter on Wednesday 24th July 2019.
- h) Email from DCC Cllr. M. Shaw re Coly Traffic group meeting on Monday 22nd July 2019 at 2pm in Colyton Town Hall.
- i) Parish Paths newsletters.

7. Finance

a) Current Financial Position

- b) The Clerk advised that there was £7,760.12 in the current account (after allowing for uncleared cheques but not allowing for the below payments) and £2,260.31 in the dedicated CIL account. He passed for Councillors perusal the Bank Statement dated 1st July 2019.

c) Intervening Expenditure to approve

None

d) Expenditure to be approved

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

- a) £250.12 be paid to the Clerk for salary
- b) £49.00 be paid to HMRC for PAYE.

e) Forthcoming expenditure to approve

None

8. Planning Applications

None

9. A35

Cllr. Tuke said that there was great concern about the serious dangers posed by the speed of traffic on the A35 and the difficulties in exiting from the various side roads, lanes and entrances on to the A35 as it passes through the Parish. Various possible changes to improve the situation were discussed but it was felt that the dangers were in the main caused by the speed of the traffic. It was felt that the Council should request a meeting with Highways England to discuss the matter. The Clerk said that all the parishes from Honiton to Axminster are probably suffering the same problems and sharing the same concerns. He suggested contacting the other parishes with a proposal to form a Parishes A35 Liason Forum. The forum would enable the Parishes to discuss the common problems and dangers posed by this road and hopefully come up with a proposed action plan for changes to put forward to Highway England at a joint meeting with them. The Parishes by working together in this way may have a stronger voice in speaking to Highways England.

Councillors agreed for the Clerk to contact all the parishes (Monkton, Cotleigh, Widworthy, Shute, Dalwood and Kilmington) who abut or are bisected by the A35 to ask if they were prepared to support a forum.

10. Councillor Training

The Clerk advised that he had booked a place for Cllr. Smith to attend Being A Good Councillor Course at the Beehive on the 17th July.

He also advised that there may be an opportunity for Cllr. Hopkins to attend an evening Being A Good Councillor short course which he was trying to arrange at Kilmington within the next few months. He would advise further on matter at the next meeting.

11. Trip Donation Request

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from TRIP requesting a donation/grant for 2019. The Council were prepared to give this their consideration but requested that the Clerk ask them to firstly complete and return a Council Funding Request form.

12. Offwell Vets-Telephone Box-Cleaning

The Clerk reported that he had been copied into an email that Tina Sauvage had sent to all the Vets appealing for help in keeping the telephone box clean inside and out. She had done her monthly check last week and discovered mega little friends inside, taking camp. South West Ambulance has issued warnings that if boxes are not kept clean inside and outside clear of vegetation and cobwebs that they will turn us off at CAD. Cllr. Tristram volunteered to assist by checking on the box.

13. Parish Council Policies

The Clerk advised that he was looking into the various policies that the Council should have in place. He was presently preparing Code of Conduct, Complaints and Records Management Policies for Council to consider and was also working on other policies. He would circularise the first three policies to Councillors over the next month for them to study ahead of the next appropriate meeting and then follow this up with other policies over the following months.

14. Parish Council Website Information

Cllr. Smith said that the website information seemed to need updating and that perhaps the Website needed to be given a refreshed look. The Clerk said that he had also been considering what needed to be displayed as regards the Parish Council itself and was investigating the website formats adopted by other Councils. The information to be displayed needed to be in an easy to read and follow format but also be to be a friendly updating format for the website administrator.

It was agreed that the best way forward would be to form a subcommittee to consider the changes that are needed. It was felt that the Committee should be Cllr. Brake, Cllr. Smith, the Clerk, and the website administrators Carol Hayes and Dawn Mulrain. The Clerk said that he would contact everyone in a few weeks once the main holiday period was over in order to arrange a meeting.

15. Agenda items for Next Meeting

- Hutgate Lane- Tower Cross
- Policies
- Website

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 19th August 2019 at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed..... Date.....

