

# **OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY**

### **17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018 IN THE SOCIAL CLUB**

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

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

**Members of Public:** 1

### **OPEN SESSION**

No matters were raised.

### **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**1. Apologies**

Cllr. M. Brake, PCSO D. England

**2. Declaration of Interests**

None

**3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

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

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Councillors Patch, Millington and Staunton said they were still experiencing problems accessing their new email accounts.

The Clerk advised that he had written to Stephen Kelly again, asking for an update about the hedge between Higher Lodge and The Sheiling, the request for a grit bin near the Haycart and the Colwell finger post.

The Clerk reported that he had written to DCT requesting that they give a Smart Meter presentation at the Council's January meeting. They have advised however that they are committed to running a training event on that evening and also on the date of the Council's February meeting. However, if

either of those events are cancelled due to insufficient bookings, they will contact the Clerk and come along to do a presentation at the Council Meeting

## 5. Reports

### (a) Police:

PCSO England had forwarded his report to the Clerk. He had reported that there was one reported crime for the period 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The crime was:-

**Non Counting Action Fraud-** Victim had been contacted by someone saying they worked for BT Internet. Phone Scam.

PCSO England had confirmed that he had forwarded the Council's request for a traffic counting exercise on the A35 onto the Police road Casualty reduction officer who is in contact with Highways England.

The Clerk advised that he had been made aware of a few reported thefts in recent months in our neighbouring and adjacent Council areas. Those mentioned were a theft of a caravan along Tower Road and theft of farm equipment in Cotleigh. He said that he had written to PCSO England asking that If this is correct, would it be possible in future when giving us his monthly report to mention any such reported crimes which are immediately just outside our parish. This would enable the Council to flag up to parishioners through the website the need for extra vigilance and for any extra security measures.

Cllr. Patch mentioned a recent incident in Cotleigh where a tarmac gang had unloaded a pile of tarmac outside a property despite being told not to and had then demanded money from the property owners. The gang had then returned at 2400hrs midnight (hooting to one another like owls).The property owners phoned the police but they did not attend and the property owners had to chase the gang away. The gang then returned at 0300 hours and following a further phone call to the Police, the Police then attended the scene with police dogs.

### (b) District and County Councillors:

EDDC Cllr. Godbeer advised that the Council expected to occupy the new Honiton Offices on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

He advised that Council proposed in the future to utilise digital IT technology as much as possible in order to minimise the need for paper records and document storage.

He reported that the Council has appointed [Devon IT experts Cosmic](#) and the [Business Information Point](#) to provide local businesses with the support they need to plan and launch a business and be more sustainable by using the latest technology.

The East Devon Enhancing Productivity Programme offers a range of fully funded workshops and one-to-one support for pre-start and existing businesses across East Devon.

Business Information Point is offering pre-start businesses a range of free workshops on topics including digital marketing, bookkeeping and financial planning. Tailored one-to-one advice with an experienced business advisor is also available to help pre-start businesses plan and launch their new ventures.

For existing businesses in East Devon, Cosmic is offering a series of professional development workshops aimed at helping businesses become more productive and to make the most of digital technology. The workshops are available to established businesses and will be accompanied by additional one-to-one business consultancy.

Support is also available for farmers and growers across East Devon to help address the changes in Agricultural support that commence in April 2019. This pilot support is available immediately until March 2019.

Full details and information on the workshops and the expert support consultancy is on the Council's website.

DCC Cllr. Shaw advised that there were some big issues for DCC coming up shortly. They had a difficult financial settlement and budget to consider with a foreseen possible council tax increase being necessary.

DCC Highways had however received an additional £18M from central Government for pothole repairs. He will advise in due course how much of this has been allocated for his division but asked that the Parish Council consider and let him know which sections of road in the Parish are in most need of repair work.

Cllr. Shaw had forwarded on his December report but this mainly mentioned matters in other parishes/towns.

**(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: Telephone and other scams, Domestic Abuse campaign
- c) Email from EDDC re Draft Heritage Strategy Consultation.
- d) Email from EDDC re Draft Landscape Character Assessment Consultation.

**7. Finance**

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

- a) £250.12 be paid to the Clerk for the period 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018
- b) £48.80 be paid to HMRC for PAYE for period 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- c) £195.00 be paid to Offwell Recreation Ground & Village Hall Charity for Hire of Social Club room for the Council monthly meetings from January 2018 to December 2018 and for hire of Offwell Village Hall on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018.
- d) £120.00 be paid to Community Heartbeat trust for the Village Emergency Telephone system for the period 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

**8. Bank Statements**

The Clerk advised that there was £9,150.08 in the current account (after allowing for uncleared cheques) and £1,433.97 in the dedicated CIL account. He passed for Councillors perusal the Bank Statement dated 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**9. Budget and Precept 2019/20**

It was agreed to defer this item to the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

**10. Planning Applications**

**18/2750/FUL – Thatch Cottage, Offwell EX14 9SL**

**18/2751/FUL - Thatch Cottage, Offwell EX14 9SL**

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

**11. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

The Clerk advised that there was no update on this item.

**12. Gigaclear**

The Clerk advised that it seemed to have gone quiet with Gigaclear with no activity and none of the works for which we had received Temporary Traffic Restriction Notices having gone ahead.

**13. Parishes Together Grant Work**

It was agreed to defer this item to the January meeting.

**14. Emails**

The Council decided to defer this item again until all Councillors were able to access their new email accounts.

**15. 20mph Speed limit**

The Clerk advised that he had investigated how Shalbourne had qualified for a 20 mph speed limit with the Parish Council only responsible for small portion of the implementation costs. He advised that Shalbourne was in Wiltshire and that Wiltshire County Council had Community Area Transport Groups with specific discretionary highways budgets for capital funding small scale schemes to improve safety and traffic management. The Transport group had undertaken a series of metro counts and had agreed to fund the majority of the £10,000 20 mph speed limit implementation costs because of the high vehicle count due to Shalbourne being on a rat run route.

Unfortunately Devon County Council had no similar budgeted schemes as Wiltshire. DCC Cllr. Shaw said however that this was a matter that DCC were investigating with a new positive view and that a working group was looking at various policy issues including 20 mph speed limits. They were due to report back to Cabinet shortly but there would be big costing and budgetary issues to consider.

**16. Agenda items for Next Meeting**

Parishes Together Grant Work

Budget

Review of Offwell Parish Council Standing Orders

**17. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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







