

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY

17TH SEPTEMBER 2018 IN THE SOCIAL CLUB

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

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, Cllr. S. Patch, Cllr. D. Millington, EDDC Cllr. H. Parr, PCSO D. England

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th August 2018

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the the Monitoring Officer at EDDC to advise the review outcome of the Register of Interest Forms for all Councillors.

Some Councillors were still experiencing problems accessing their new email accounts but were seeking to contact Cllr. Brake to resolve matters.

Cllr. Tristram advised that the Forestry Commission had replaced the broken barriers.

The Clerk reported that the Steven Kelly, the Highways Officer had indicated that he was hopeful of funding a finger post for North Coombe Road from his signing budget. He had advised however that

Highways would not allow a visibility mirror to be allowed at this point, as the Department for Transport do not permit visibility mirrors

The Clerk reported that following the publication of the draft minutes for the last meeting, he had been contacted by Carol Hayes. She had been working on a 1918 commemorative exhibition for some time, this will be in the Church during the first two weeks of November. She has already purchased two of the smaller standing figures which will be engraved or carry an inscription to the men of Offwell and Widworthy who died in WW1.. She had written a full-page article about the exhibition in the new Honiton community paper in May and also in The Link in April.

The Clerk said that he had contacted David Murray, the Church Warden seeking confirmation that the PCC were agreeable to the silhouette figure being placed inside the Church but that he was still waiting an answer. It was proposed by Cllr. Tristram that the Clerk should proceed to order the sitting silhouette figure, seconded by Cllr. Mulrain, all in favour.

With regard to the hedge outside Fairings, the Chair said that it was Cllr. Mulrain who was going to speak to the owner. Cllr. Mulrain advised that he had inspected the hedge after the last meeting and was of the opinion that the hedge did not actually constitute a problem, as it was no different than the other hedges along the lane. Other Councillors were of the same opinion, and the Council decided not to pursue the matter.

The Clerk advised that he had referred the matter of the other hedge between Higher Lodge and The Sheiling to Highways but to date had not received a reply. Councillors believed the hedge had been cut back a bit.

5. Reports

(a) Police:

The Clerk reported that PCSO England had been off work prior to the September meeting and had forwarded his report subsequent to the meeting. He had reported that there were 2 reported crimes for the period 10th June 2018 to 20th August 2018.

The crimes were:-

- 1) **Assault a person thereby occasioning them Actual Bodily Harm** – Assault on a member of staff at the recycling centre – unknown offender
- 2) **Theft from a Meter / Automatic Machine** - Theft of money from ATM – unable to ID the offender

The Clerk also reported that PCSO England was unable to attend this meeting but had forwarded his report. He had reported that there were no reported crimes for the period 20th August 2018 to 17th September 2018.

(b) District and County Councillors:

DCC Cllr. Shaw had sent the October 2018 report which had been circularised to all Councillors and posted on the website. The report included amongst others, items on the

proposed Dorset and East Devon National Park, road repairs in Northleigh, Offwell and Seaton, and his Locality Budget and the Invest in Devon fund.

With regard to the speed limit on Tower Road, Highways had advised him that the DCC Speed Limit Policy is in line with the latest Government guidance, which is that the minimum criteria for a 30mph Speed Limit should be 20 or more visible frontages(dwelling) along a minimum distance of 600m. Tower Road gives the appearance of a rural road with occasional development and does not approach 20 dwellings within the recommended distance. Highways had said there is ample evidence that lower speed limits introduced where the road environment does not indicate a more urban environment tend to be ignored.

Highways said that the Police collision data showed that there had been 1 reported Slight Injury Collision in the area in the last 5 years. This was in 2015 and a junction overshoot at the crossroads. Their minimum investigatory level at casualty reduction sites is 5 injury collisions within a 30m radius within a 5 year period.

They had however noted the concern of residents regarding the lack of footway and that it may be appropriate to consider warning signs for identified hazards such as No Footway/ Pedestrians in the Road and Crossroads. Consideration was being given to possible funding of a signing intervention.

The Clerk reminded Cllr. Shaw that the Parish Council had been also concerned about speed on the unnamed lane running off the A35 past the Bishops Tower towards the crossroads with Tower Road. The accident in 2015 was caused by a vehicle travelling at high speed off the A35 along this lane and overshooting the junction with Tower Road and that vehicles including HGVs and large Tractors travelled along this lane at high speed every day. He asked that Highways also look at signs for both ends of this lane as it was highly dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and other users.

Cllr. Shaw advised that the meeting with Highways England to discuss the proposed traffic calming measures for Wilmington will be held in Wilmington Village Hall at 2.00pm on Friday 19th October 2018. It is possible for an Offwell Parish Councillor to attend the meeting and he would arrange for an invitation to be sent to the Clerk.

Cllr. Shaw said that at the recent Cabinet meeting on the 12th September 2018 it had been reported that DCC had a projected overspend forecast of £8.1M at month 4 and that the Cabinet had acknowledged the need to take action to contain and reduce this projection.

EDDC Cllr. Godbeer advised that the Scrutiny Committee had been considering the involvement of tree officers in planning consultations and that a Planning Enforcement Policy was currently being developed which would include tree works.

Cllr. Godbeer reported that the Council hopes that East Devon will have a 100% renewable energy supply by 2040 and were investigating the provision of charging points for electric cars.

He reported that East Devon had recycled 61% of refuse in July but although this was one of the highest figures in the UK, they were seeking to increase the amount of recycling by appealing for householders to recycle more of their tins and other metal items.

He advised that the Council had weekly advice surgeries at various locations for anyone who had a query about their Universal Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support. However, there is no need for persons to wait for one of the weekly surgeries – they can ring or email the Council for advice and that the Council will seek to quickly deal with their query there and then. Details of the Surgeries and contact details are shown on the Council website.

Cllr. Godbeer advised that it was now planned that the Council would move into the new Honiton building on the 28th January 2019.

(c) Other Reports

None

6. Correspondence

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

- a) A temporary prohibition of through traffic and parking for the lane from Colwell Barton to Slade Dairy for the period Wednesday 26th September 2018 to Wednesday 3rd October 2018.
- b) A temporary prohibition of through traffic and parking for the road past North Combe Farm for the period Saturday 6th October 2018 to Saturday 13th October 2018.
- c) A general Temporary Traffic Order for various roads throughout East Devon, The only one in Offwell Parish is Drummerstone Cross to Cleave Cross. No actual firm date is shown for the roadworks.
- d) A reminder Notice and invitation for the conference focusing on the river catchments of East Devon and the Blackdown Hills
- e) A reminder invitation from David Colman, the Senior Arboricultural Officer at EDDC for the South West Tree Warden Regional Forum on the 27th October 2018.
- f) Devon & Cornwall alert re fake Netflix emails.

7. Finance

Cllr Whithear proposed, Cllr. Tuke seconded, all in favour that:

- a) £250.12 be paid to the Clerk for the period 25th June 2018 to 23rd July 2018
- b) £48.80 be paid to HMRC for PAYE for period 23rd July 2018 to 20th August 2018

8. Bank Statements

The Clerk advised that there was £8,906.67 in the current account (after allowing for uncleared cheques) and £1,088.39 in the dedicated CIL account. He passed for Councillors perusal the Bank Statement dated 1st September 2018.

9. Planning Applications

18/1644/FUL - Glanville Farm Offwell Honiton EX14 9ST

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

18/1951/FUL - Meadow View Northgate Lane Honiton EX14 9UZ

The Chairman said that he had been to the site and that Mr Langworthy, the owner of the adjoining property Oak View had expressed concerns about the proposed single storey extension to Meadow View restricting light to his own property.

Cllrs. perused the application and the Chairman Cllr. Small proposed supporting the application but pointing out Mr Langworthy, the owner of the adjoining property Oak View concerns about the proposed single storey extension to Meadow View restricting light to his own property. Seconded by Cllr. Tristram, all in favour.

Cllr. Whithear asked the Clerk if he was aware if a decision had been made on the appeal against the refusal of planning application 17/1347/OUT - Land Adjoining 3 Offwell Barton Offwell Honiton EX14 9SA -Demolition of redundant barn and erection of dwelling. The Clerk said he was not aware of the present position but would make enquiries and report back at the next meeting.

10. Sandbags

The Clerk reported that he had received an email from EDDC Streetscene enquiring if the Council had an adequate supply of empty sandbags for the forthcoming winter season or if we required a further supply. They had also requested the name and full contact details of the Parish Council person who can be contacted in an emergency 24/7. These contact details would be supplied to their "Out of Hours" Home Safeguard service who would put the public through in the event of an emergency.

The Chair advised that the existing stock level is adequate and agreed that his contact details be provided to Streetscene.

The Clerk queried as to whether the Council should have a supply of sand available in addition to the empty sandbags. Councillors discussed the matter but felt it was not necessary to hold a stock of sand for the sandbags.

11. Snow Winter Plan

It was proposed by Cllr. Whithear that an additional grit bin be requested to be located near the Haycart, seconded by the Chair, all in favour. The Clerk to make a request to Highways.

12. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Following discussion on the information notes prepared by the Clerk on the CIL Neighbourhood portion of the Levy, it was agreed that the Clerk seek advice and clarification from EDDC as to what is defined as infrastructure, the types of funding that would meet the requirement to support the development of an area and what are the infrastructure spending priorities of EDDC as the charging authority, relating to the area within and around Offwell.

13. Gigaclear

The Clerk advised that Gigaclear were continuing their works through the Parish

and that residents had experienced various problems such as the locations where excavations were being made for siting cabinet boxes, how the works and the road closures/restrictions were affecting vehicular access into and out of the village and what appeared at times to be a complete lack of communication between Gigaclear, MGM their sub-contractors and Devon Highways.

He read out emails he had received or had been copied into by residents. He said that he had raised concerns with Highways about Gigaclear digging up verges particularly where there were grips, easements, hedgerows and protected trees. He had asked if there was any guidelines that the Council could refer to for information and guidance. Highways had replied that they shared the same concerns and had received similar various representations from the public about a potential legacy of problems with damage to hedgerows, trees, drainage ditches, culverts and stone banks. They are presently discussing these issues with Gigaclear and their sub-contractors in order to agree method statements on a way forward.

14. Parishes Together Grant Work

The Council decided to defer this item to a future meeting until it was known how the Gigaclear works would affect the ditches that the Council proposed to spend the grant on.

15. Emails

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

16. Agenda items for Next Meeting

Cllr. Mulrain tendered his apologies in advance.
Standing Orders

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 15th October 2018 at 7.30pm.
The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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

