

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY

19th FEBRUARY 2018 IN THE SOCIAL CLUB

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

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

Members of Public: 3

OPEN SESSION

Mrs A. Richards asked what was happening about the lengthsman and the potholes on the roads. She said that the roads and ditches in the parish were in the worst condition she has seen over the years.

The Clerk said that a funding application had been made in respect of ditch work. (Refer to Matters Arising)

DCC Cllr. Martin Shaw said that as advised previously he would have a Pothole action fund of £47,000 in 2018/19 for the 9 parishes in his division but said that this fund may possibly be increased but had no more details as yet. He said that the road at Drummerstone Cross was particularly bad. He also said that the County Council's "safety defect" pothole criteria policy had not changed, as the review into the policy had not been completed.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Apologies

Cllr. S. Patch

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th January 2018

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr. Tristram reported that he had (in place of Cllr. Patch) attended the Honiton Health Matters Meeting at the Beehive on the 18th January and hoped to attend the follow up meeting on the 6th March

The Chair reported that he had not been successful in the draw for the Royal Garden Party.

The Clerk reported that he had attended the briefing session on the 23rd January about the Transparency Code and gave Councillors a brief report on the requirements of the Code and what the Council needed to do to comply with the Code. No funding application had been made as the Council already owned a Laptop Computer and a scanner and did not have it's own website but utilised the village website for publishing documents. He said that the requirements included the need to publish the Meeting agendas and minutes, the end of year accounts, items over £100 spend, asset register and a list of Councillors and their responsibilities. All addresses and signatures should be redacted on published documents because of the risk of identity theft.

It had been advised that the list of Councillors should include for contact purposes an email address for each Councillor and that this email address should be a separate dedicated email address for Council business. The Clerk asked if Councillors could set up and advise him of these separate email addresses. It had also been advised that the Clerk had a Council mobile phone for Council business. The Clerk said that he would as soon as possible ensure that all the necessary documents and information are published in order to comply with the code.

Cllr. Millington confirmed that he had attended the new Councillors Short Course on the 6th February. The Clerk reported that he would be attending the General Data Protection Regulations course on the 13th March.

The Clerk reported that an application had been submitted to the Parishes Together Fund for monies to employ a contractor to carry out ditch and drainage works. The application had been for the maximum grant of £387.20.

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Patch had obtained an estimate of £150.00 (No Vat) from B. Godfrey (carpenter) to repair the Parish Council Noticeboard. The work should take 1 day and includes rubbing down the sill, making new doors, fitting new locks. It was proposed by Cllr. Staunton that the Council accept the estimate and instruct Mr Godfrey to go ahead with work, seconded by Cllr. Tuke, all in favour.

5. Reports

(a) Police:

None Received

The Clerk reported that a new PCSO had been appointed to cover Honiton Town which should free up PCSO England to cover the rural communities of the 14 parish council areas. He hopes to get out and about in the villages when he can but to email or telephone him if anyone has any concerns.

(b) District and County Councillors:

DCC Cllr. Shaw had already sent a written February report which had been circularised to Councillors and published on the website. He said that the Honiton health matters meeting at the Beehive had been a constructive meeting with a further meeting scheduled for the 6th March. This meeting and others in other market towns in Devon will enable communities to say what they want from 'place-based' delivery of health care and influence decisions by the Clinical Commissioning Group and the RD&E on services delivered locally. Crucially, no decisions will be made on the future of hospital buildings until after these community conversation meetings on place-based care have taken place.

He said that DCC had lost £15M of central government funding and facing increased pressures from social care had agreed a 4.99% Council Tax increase.

EDDC Cllr. Parr reported that the new Green Waste Recycling collection service to be introduced in May would be an optional subscription service offered to Householders at an annual charge of £48.00. Subscribers would be provided with a 240-litre bin with a fortnightly collection service operating for 11 months of the year excluding the month around Christmas. No side waste would be collected, only what is in the bin. There had been a big demand for a Green Waste collection service and EDDC were hopeful that there would be a significant take-up.

EDDC Cllr. Godbeer reported that he had recently attended a cyber crime forum which had illustrated the severity of cybercrime, how it can affect all members of the public and that it is up to everyone to protect their personal information on line. He said that leaflets are available from the Police Cybercrime Unit on the risks and the advised protection measures.

(c) Other Reports - None

6. Correspondence

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

- a) Email invitation to the AONB Annual Meeting at Kennaway House on Wednesday 21st February. Circularised to Councillors. Cllrs. C. Whithear and M. Mulrain are attending.
- b) email from braintumourresearch.org. Circularised to Councillors.
- c) February Newsletter from DCC Cllr. M. Shaw. Circularised to Councillors.
- d) Request for a grant application form from St. Mary's Church, Offwell. Form sent to them.
- e) Email from EDDC with the Posters for new EDDC green recycling service being introduced May 2018. Circularised to Councillors and forwarded for inclusion on the village website.
- f) Email from an energy project company. Circularised to Councillors.
- g) Email invitation to the 2018 Community Safety Partnership Annual Conference at Broadclyst Victory hall on 11th April. Circularised to Councillors. Cllr. M Mulrain attending.
- h) Email from DCC seeking views in the Exe Estuary Codes of Conduct. Circularised to Councillors.
- i) Email from DCC advising that Devon County is third in the UK counties recycling league table. Circularised to Councillors.
- j) Email from DCC Highways that they are undertaking a full review of the traffic sensitive street network. Circularised to Councillors.

- k) Email from EDDC with agenda of EDDC Council Meeting on Wednesday 28th February including details of the formal proposed Council Tax Resolution for 2018/19. Circularised to Councillors.
- l) Email newsletters from Offwell C of E VC Primary School.
- m) Email from C. Hayes that she attended the Honiton Health matters meeting on 18th January and will be posting a brief report on the website. She will also be attending the follow up meeting on the 6th March. The website also now has up-to-date information on the Honiton surgery appointments trial plus the PCC request for a public survey over increasing the Police Precept to enable Devon & Cornwall to employ more front-line policing.

The Clerk reported that a diary of the dates of the Parish Council Meetings in 2018 had been forwarded to all Parish, DCC & EDDC Councillors, PCSO D. England and also ORG & VHC to book the room hire and for posting on the village website.

7. Finance

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

- a) £238.12 be paid to the Clerk for the period 11th December 2017 to 8th January 2018
- b) £45.80 be paid to HMRC for PAYE for same period
- c) £118.11 be paid to P & M Jolly for plants & bulbs for Offwell Haycart planting 2017

The Clerk queried if the repairs to the Haycart had been carried out yet. Cllr. Whithear said not as yet but confirmed that the Haycart was in a safe condition.

8. Bank Statements & External Auditors Report

The Clerk advised that there was £10,322.25 in the current account (after allowing for 3 uncleared cheques).

9. Planning Applications

The Clerk reported that EDDC had advised that the following Tree Preservation Order had been confirmed: -

TPO No. 17/0153/TPO – Land at Bishops Tower, Tower Cross, Honiton EX14 9TN

It was also reported that planning application No.17/2985 in respect of 8 Four Acres Close, Offwell, EX14 9SX had been refused

10. 30mph Speed Limits Proposals

The Clerk reported that DCC Cllr. M. Shaw had advised that he had been approached by residents of Tower Road, near the junction with the A35, who are concerned about speeding on this section which does not have a pavement, making it dangerous for pedestrians. They had asked him to support a 30 mph speed limit on the section from the A35 to the first junction. Cllr. Shaw had asked for the Parish Council's view of this proposal before discussing it with Highways.

The Chair said that the national speed limit applied on Tower Road and that residents had raised the matter of a 30mph speed limit in the past but that the request for such a speed limit had been refused by Highways.

The Clerk said that concerns had also been expressed to him about speeding on the unnamed lane from the A35 towards Tower Road, going past Tower View Fruit farm and the Bishop's Tower. Whilst the national speed limit also applied on that lane, it was very dangerous for pedestrians, horse riders and lane users as due to the angle of the junction with the A35, vehicles (including HGVs) often exited off the A35 onto the lane at a high speed without slowing down at all, without any consideration for pedestrians and other users already on the lane.

Councillors agreed that speeding was an issue along Tower Road and the unnamed lane and would support Cllr. Shaw raising the matter of 30mph speed limits with Highways.

11. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr. Whithear asked if a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the Village was still in existence. The Clerk said that he thought there wasn't but that the local Honiton Police Team would be able to advise if there was. He said that the Police do also operate a community messaging system called Devon and Cornwall Alert which is part of the Neighbourhood Alert network. It tells people what crime is happening in their area and allows them to respond with information etc. The Devon and Cornwall Police link on the village website has information on this scheme and also how to contact the Honiton Police Team. the Devon and Cornwall Police link

12. Agenda items for Next Meeting

None

13. Date and time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 19th March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Social Club. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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Signed.....

Dated.....

