

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY

20TH AUGUST 2018 IN THE SOCIAL CLUB

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

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

Members of Public: 0

OPEN SESSION

No matters were raised.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Apologies

Cllr. M. Brake, Cllr. T. Staunton, EDDC Cllr. G. Godbeer

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th July 2018

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Clerk advised he had asked Gigaclear whether the drone mentioned at the last meeting belonged to them but they said that they nor their surveyors use drones.

The Clerk reported that he had obtained from EDDC a pdf copy of their Bonfires leaflet and had forwarded it on to Carol Hayes for inclusion on the Website

The Clerk reminded Councillors that they needed to review their Register of Interest Forms and to advise him in writing whether there were no changes or if there were that they were completing and submitting a new form to EDDC. The Clerk said that that he had to write to Monitoring Officer at EDDC by the 1st September to advise the review outcome for each of the Councillors. The Clerk said that to date only 3 Councillors had written to him and asked the remaining Councillors to review their forms and write to him urgently.

The Clerk asked if all the Councillors were now able to access their new email accounts. Some Councillors said they were still experiencing problems and that they were going to contact Cllr. Brake for his assistance in resolving their connectivity problems.

The Clerk reported that he had received an email on the 24th July from PCSO Darren England apologising for missing the meeting and not giving any report but that he had been on leave and off work.

Cllr. Tristram advised that the Forestry Commission had installed the barriers to prevent access by motorbikes but that they had been broken less than a week after installation, The Forestry Commission are going to replace the broken barriers.

5. Reports

(a) Police:

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

(b) District and County Councillors:

DCC Cllr. Shaw had sent both August and September 2018 reports which had been circularised to all Councillors and posted on the website. The reports included amongst others, items on the present position on Wilmington's proposed traffic-calming measures and the A35 safety and speed management, the future of the community hospitals, Cllr. Shaw reported with regard to the Community Hospitals that a review is being conducted by the RD & E. It is expected that the CCG will be making their final decisions towards the end of the year on the future of the Community hospitals.

EDDC Cllr. Parr advised that there was £200,000 available for Community projects in East Devon under the new Communities Together Fund and that it is now not just Town and Parish Councils who can apply. Community and Voluntary organisations are also able to apply. The project must however benefit more than one parish.

DCC Cllr. Shaw advised that he had a meeting about 10 days ago with the Highways England Regional Director to discuss safety on the A35. The section from Honiton to Charmouth had one of the worst safety records and Highways England were undertaking a study into proposals to rationalise some speed limits and install some 20 average speed cameras along this 13 mile stretch. The results of the study should be available by Spring 2019 with any proposed measures supported by the study to be implemented in 2020/21.

Further discussions are due to take place on the proposed traffic calming measures for Wilmington. Cllr. Shaw said that it would be possible for an Offwell Parish Councillor to attend those discussions and that he would advise the Clerk of the date of the meeting. Cllr. Shaw said that £60,000 for the repairs to the Drummerstone Cross Road was included in the programme of works for this financial year and the work should be done before the end of March. Cllr. Patch said that the road was continuing to deteriorate and showed to Councillors photographs she had taken of a section of the road where the tarmac was now only 4 feet wide. Councillors expressed their concerns to Cllr. Shaw. He asked Cllr. Patch to email him the photographs so that he could discuss the matter with Highways and see if the repair work could be brought forward in the schedule of works.

Cllr. Shaw said that he had not heard anything further from Highways about the Finger Post for North Coombe road or the speed limit for Tower Road and the other unnamed lane past the Bishops Tower to the A35. He said that he would speak to Highways on these two matters.

(c) Other Reports

None

6. Correspondence

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

- a) Notice of the adoption of the East Devon Villages Plan by EDDC
- b) Various Devon & Cornwall alerts including National Neighbourhood watch E-Newsletter, Police Commissioner's Newsletter, Rural East Devon Neighbourhood Police Team Priorities and updates, phishing emails re fake British Gas refund emails, Fake LinkedIn emails, Nfib Alert re Bogus Overseas Officers
- c) Notice and invitation to attend conference focusing on the river catchments of East Devon and the Blackdown Hills.
- d) A Temporary prohibition of through traffic notice for the Access to Sewage Works and Road from St. Marys Church to Colwell Barton for the period Thursday 23rd August 2018 to Saturday 15th September 2018.
- e) Email from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner seeking opinions on the proposed merger between Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police.
Following discussion by the Council, Cllr. Small proposed that the Council reply stating that it was in favour of the merger, subject to the conditions that there would be no increase in policing costs to the public and that the merger would result in more police officers on the beat with less administration costs at the top level. Seconded by Cllr. Tuke, all in favour. The Clerk to send reply.
- f) DCC Public Rights of Way – Parish Paths Partnership Newsletter Summer 2018
- g) Notice of a Devon Wide Food Waste Conference in Crediton on Friday 21st September 2018.
- h) Notice and Invitation to EDDC Working Together for the future of East Devon 2018 Conference at the Knowle, Sidmouth on Friday 28th September from 9.30am to 2.30pm. Places were limited to one per Parish Council. Cllr. Patch to attend.
- i) Invitation to East Devon AONB Partnership Annual Meeting on Thursday 20th September 2018.
- j) Email from EDDC stating that they were moving towards paperless filing and would only keep electronic copies of Parish Councillor Register of Interests Forms in future. All paper copies would be destroyed on the 12th September. If the Parish Council would like the paper copies it would need to contact the Democratic Services before the destruction date. The Council discussed the matter and decided not to have the paper copies back.

Other items of correspondence received through the post related to:-

- a) East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Draft Partnership Plan (2019-24) with an online consultation response form. The draft plan and the form can be viewed on line on the website <http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/looking-after/aonb-management-plan>
- b) Hedges which was dealt with under Item 13.

7. Finance

Cllr. Mulrain advised that Tina Sauvage had checked the pads for the debrillator and that the existing ones run out at the end of September. The price of the new pads is £70.00, plus £3 postage plus VAT, Cllr. Tristram proposed that an item for the new pads be added to the payments list for approval at this meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Patch, all in favour.

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

- a) £249.92 be paid to the Clerk for the period 28th May 2018 to 25th June 2018
- b) £48.80 be paid to HMRC for PAYE for period 25th June 2018 to 23rd July 2018
- c) £87.60 be paid to Community Heartbeat trust for new pads for the defibrillator.

8. Bank Statements

The Clerk advised that there was £9,382.99.36 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 Statements dated 1st August 2018.

9. Planning Applications

None.

10. Road at Drummerstone Cross

The Clerk said that Cllr. Patch had been confronted by a very angry parishioner complaining about the state of the road at Drummerstone Cross and his perceived lack of action by the Parish Council. The Clerk said that he contacted Stephen Kelly, the Highways Officer who had advised that the work on this road is in the programme for this financial year. Cllr. Shaw confirmed that it is still in the programme.

11. Finger Post North Coombe Road

Matter had been discussed under Item 5b.

12. “There but not there” Commemorative figure

The Clerk advised that he had received a request from Mrs L. Whithear for the Council to consider purchasing one of the commemorative “There but not there” figures on behalf of the village. She had suggested a silhouette which could sit on a church bench at a cost of £42 or a smaller 10inch standing figure which could be placed inside the church at a cost of £29. Other various options were also available. The Clerk passed around for Councillors perusal pictures of the various silhouette figures which were available.

Following discussion, Cllr. Mulrain proposed that the Council purchased the sitting silhouette figure at a cost of £42 but that the Council should firstly obtain confirmation from the Parochial Church Council that they were agreeable to the silhouette figure being placed inside the Church. Seconded by Cllr. Millington, all in favour. The Clerk to contact the PCC.

13. Hedges

The Clerk read out an email that he had received from Mrs A Richards of Honey Glen complaining about two hedges. The first one was the hedge in front of Fairings in Ramsden Lane which she said had been hanging out in the road for a very long time causing cars and pedestrians out into the road to avoid it.

The other hedge is the one between Higher Lodge and The Sheiling on Ramsden Lane, which has been discussed in the past by the Parish Council. She said that she had lost two wing mirrors having had to pull in tight to the hedge to avoid cars coming down in the middle of the road. The hedge is now so bad that there are some quite large sticks protruding which caused her smashed mirrors.

The Council discussed the matter of the two hedges and agreed they were both causing a problem for vehicles and pedestrians using Ramsden Lane. With regard to the hedge outside Fairings, the Council decided that the best course of action was for the Chairman to speak to the owner and discuss the matter.

The other hedge is one that had been discussed in the past by the Parish Council but had despite various enquiries been unable to establish the ownership of the hedge and adjoining piece of land. The Clerk reminded Council that under the Highways Act 1980, Devon Highways has a duty to protect the safety of highway users by ensuring that owners carry out their legal duty to maintain roadside hedges and trees. Where roadside growth is becoming a problem, they are able to serve a notice on the owner requiring the work to be completed within a certain timeframe. If the work still isn't done, Highways may then do the work themselves and claim back the cost from the owner. The Council discussed the matter and decided that the Clerk should refer the matter of the hedge to Devon Highways.

14. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Clerk said that due to some Councillors still being unable to access their new official email accounts, he had printed out the documents relating to the legislation and rules on the CIL neighbourhood proportion and gave out a set of documents for each Councillor to retain. It was decided to defer this item to the next meeting.

15. Gigaclear

The Clerk advised that following the open meeting with Gigaclear on the 23rd July, he had received a schedule of the proposed works from Gigaclear and that this had been sent out to all Councillors and to Carol Hayes for publication on the Website.

Some parishioners had advised since the meeting they had met with Gigaclear to discuss how they proposed to cross their land, how it would affect their properties and walls etc and the wayleave agreements. There appeared to be a mixture of satisfaction and dissatisfaction amongst parishioners following these meetings. Concerns had also been expressed about some of the workgangs being unable to speak English and also how the works and road restrictions were affecting vehicular access into and out of the village.

The Clerk said that other parishes were also experiencing similar problems. He said that everyone needed to keep a watching brief on the various works being carried out through the parish. He would ask Gigaclear for regular updates on the proposed schedules of works.

16. 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.

17. Emails

It was decided to defer discussion on this item referring to the forwarding on of emails to Councillors until the next meeting.

18. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Parishes Together Grant work
- Gigaclear
- Emails

19. Date and time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 17th September 2018 at 7.30pm.
The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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

