

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 7.30PM

ON MONDAY 21st OCTOBER 2019 IN THE SOCIAL CLUB

Present: Cllrs. A. Small (Chair), S. Patch, J. Tristram, V Smith, C. Whithear, P. Hopkins

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

Members of Public: 4

OPEN SESSION

No matters raised

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Apologies

Cllr. P. Tuke, Cllr. M. Mulrain, Cllr. M. Brake, DCC Cllr. M. Shaw, EDDC Cllr. P. Arnott

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. a) Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th September 2019

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 reported that the DALC ‘Being a Good Councillor’ training course at Kilmington had been held on the 30th September and that Cllr. Hopkins and him had attended the course. They had found the course to be informative.

The Clerk advised that he was liaising with the other Councils on the proposed A35 Parishes Liaison Forum on a suitable date, format and venue. As the suggestion for the forum had initiated from Offwell, he had suggested that Offwell be the venue.

The Clerk advised that he had reported the dirty sign at Greystones Cross to Highways England and that their contracting agents Balfour Beatty were due to clean it within the following week. The Clerk advised that Stephen Kelly, the Devon Highways Officer is due to inspect the hedge outside Fairings, as well as the hedge from Higher Lodge up to the Linch. as he had reported that as being overgrown onto the road. He had also asked him to look at the tree situate on the road junction island

at Tower Road and Cuckoo Down Lane, as it had a number of dead branches and could be a potential hazard.

The Clerk advised that he had ordered the 100 sandbags from EDDC and the 50 free of charge door stickers from Able Community Care.

5. Reports

a) Police:

The Clerk reported that he had not received any police report.

b) District and County Councillors:

DCC Cllr. Shaw had sent his written report which had been forwarded to all Councillors. He had advised that he had submitted a 21 point document to the Fire service's consultation outlining the weaknesses of the report and was also writing to all the Fire Authority members. The County Council had also expressed their concerns.

He had also advised that following the cancellation of the Gigaclear contract, the CDS contract will be put out to tender again in 2020 but it is likely to be some years before the infrastructure installation works are completed.

He had sent a report on the Area Traffic Group Meeting at Seaton on the 14th October but the Clerk advised that no Offwell Parish matters had been discussed.

EDDC Cllr. Parr reported that misleading and unfounded information had been circulated about the value of the Sidmouth site with a figure of £50m being referenced. This figure is the estimated sale value of all the residences in a completed new development on the council's former office site.

Ownership of the Knowle site will be transferred to Pegasus Life on Wednesday 18 December 2019, for an increased sum of £9,019,605, an additional £1.5m or 20% uplift on the original agreed price for the former HQ site. The Relocation project has been funded from existing cash resources rather than incurring any external borrowing.

She also advised that the EDDC scrutiny Committee was due to meet later in the week to consider the matter of car parks and car parking charges. Electric Car charging points are due to be installed in car parks in Exmouth, Sidmouth, Seaton & Honiton with further charging points planned at Blackdown House and the East Devon Business Centre. EDDC are also introducing low emission vehicles to their vehicle fleet.

EDDC Cllr. Parr reported that in August EDDC had recycled 62% of all waste collected, had paid 98% of invoices received within 10 days and collected 99% of rent due on Council owned homes. The Council was now busy preparing for Budget which would be a challenging process with some difficult and careful choices and decisions to be made.

c) Other Reports

None

6. Correspondence

The Clerk advised that he had forwarded on to Councillors all email correspondence received. The items of note were:-

- a) Devon Community resilience Forum event on 27th November at South Brent. **Noted**
- b) Parish Paths Partnership newsletter Autumn 2019 **Noted**
- c) Roadworks alert. This was from Roadworks Alert from one. Network which the Clerk had signed up for and which he also recommended that Councillors sign up to. **Noted**

7. Finance

a) Current Financial Position

The Clerk advised that there was £9,447.77 in the current account (after allowing for uncleared cheques but not allowing for the below payments).

The Clerk advised that a further payment of £1,101.78 Cil monies had been made that day by EDDC which would increase the balance in the dedicated CIL account to £3,362.09.

It should be noted that the Council has resolved to make a commitment to spend of £2,250 from this CIL monies on playground equipment for the Project.

The Clerk gave Councillors a breakdown of the present position against the budget as at 21st October with a spend to date of £2,870 and a projected end of year spend of £7,202 against the budget of £8,287.

b) Intervening Expenditure to approve

None

c) Expenditure to be approved

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

1. £40.00 be paid to The Information Commissioner for the Data Protection Registration renewal.
2. £318.72 be paid to the Clerk for salary for period from 16th September to 14th October 2019.

d) Forthcoming expenditure to approve

None

8. Planning Applications

19/1714/FUL – Northcombe Farm, Offwell, EX14 9SP

Councillors perused the application but were concerned that the proposed combined plans were for what appears to be a residential building but this is not mentioned in the planning application and extent of the proposed works.

Councillors resolved to support the planning application for the proposed livestock/storage building and erection of silo and siting of associated container to house bio mass boiler as set out in the planning application but to seek firstly clarification from EDDC planning on the proposed combined plans for a residential building. Proposed by Cllr. Tristram, seconded by Cllr. Hopkins, all in favour.

The Clerk to contact EDDC and seek clarification.

19/1915/FUL- Land West of Northgate Lane, Offwell

The Clerk advised that this application had been approved with conditions.

9. Hutgate Lane – Tower Cross

No matters discussed.

10. Ash Dieback

The Clerk advised that devonashdieback.org were working on a scheme to supply free trees and that Woodland Trust also had a free tree scheme for communities. He will advise further when further information is released on the schemes but asked that Councillors in the meantime consider which landowners in the Parish may possibly be interested in taking advantage of the schemes to plant and establish more trees.

11. Lengthsman

Councillors discussed the matter of lengthsman and the need for that type of work to be carried out in the parish. Cllr. Patch said that there was a need and gave the name of someone who was prepared to do such work and held the appropriate Certificates. The Clerk said that he would also check with other Parish Clerks so that the Councils would be able to obtain quotes from a number of contractors but that Councillors also needed to compile a list of where work was needed, the extent of work and the number of hours work required.

The Clerk said that a JCB had been working clearing out easements on a number of lanes in the Parish. He had spoken to the driver who said that he was working for Highways. The Clerk had written to Stephen Kelly for confirmation that Highways were directing this work, the extent and nature of the work and the lanes/places in the Parish it is being carried out. He was presently waiting a reply.

12. Offwell Haycart

The Clerk reported that he had checked through previous minute books as far back as January 2005 when Mrs Smith and other parishioners had the idea of the Haycart as a welcome to the Parish of Offwell and together with several members of the village at that time raised money from many fund raising activities and several sources including the AONB and Western Power Distribution who also agreed that the Haycart could be placed on their land.

The Parish Council at that time supported the idea but did not wish to be involved financially, other than making a small donation to assist with advertising and costs for the fund raising activities.

In 2011 the wooden flower barrels had broken and further monies needed to be raised to replace them with a flat bed container. A funding request was made by Mrs Smith, Mrs D Furze, Mrs W Bartlett, Mrs B Hallowses, Mrs T Roberts and Mrs H Garwood to the Parish Council for a grant of £125 towards the cost and this together with a grant they received from the East Devon AONB enabled the work to be carried out.

The Minutes also show that in 2014 the people looking after it were mainly Peter and Melanie Jolly and also John Stratton, Brab and Bridget Hallowses. John Tristram. Further work was needed in 2015 to replace the planting box troughs. Whilst the Council never undertook financial responsibility for the Haycart, the Council paid for this small amount of work and has in recent years financially supported the annual planting costs of the Haycart by Peter and Melanie Jolly.

Councillors then discussed the matter of the Haycart, it's condition, it's benefit and the responsibility and ownership. The Clerk advised that the Council had never formally adopted the Haycart and had never financially contributed to the purchase of it. Councillors felt that the Council could not make any decision on the matter without first consulting with Mrs Smith and the others who had made the funding request in 2011, even though some of them no longer lived in the Parish. It was decided that the Clerk should write to all of them seeking their thoughts on

the matter as the original fund raisers of the Haycart and their opinion as to whether they would be agreeable for the Parish Council to make a decision on the future of the Haycart

13. Colwell Fingerpost

The Clerk said that he had written to Highways for confirmation as to when the fingerpost is due to be installed.

14. Receipts

Cllr. Patch said that a parishioner had asked about receipts for any payments made by the Council. The Clerk said that no payments were made by the Council without an invoice, and that all invoices/receipts were filed in the accounts file and formed part of the various documents and accounts which were audited by the Internal Auditor following the end of the financial year. The Clerk agreed to provide a list every 3 months.

15. Hours and Time Sheets

Cllr. Patch said that a parishioner had asked her about hours and time sheets for the Clerk. The Chair and the Clerk clarified that the Clerk’s contract was for 8 hours a week

16. Hedges

This had been dealt with under Item 4 matters arising.

17. Defibrillator

In answer to a query from Cllr. Patch the Clerk clarified that whilst Mrs Savage carried out regular inspection of the defibrillator, it was also important that the phone box was kept clear inside of insects/cobwebs etc and outside of weeds/plants around the phone box which could hinder access. As discussed in a previous meeting, Councillor Tristram had cleared the weeds/plants from around the box and was going to keep a check on it. Persons from the VETS scheme were also checking the cleanliness inside the box.

18. Bonfires

Cllr. Patch said that some parishioners had been commenting on Bonfire nuisances. The Clerk said that EDDC Environmental Health were the body who dealt with any complaints and that he displayed on the Notice Board their advice leaflet on Bonfires

19. Parish Council Policies

The Clerk said that he was due to attend the DALC Conference on behalf of Kilmington PC and that there were a number of legal update presentations planned on various Governance matters which could affect parish council policies. It was agreed to defer this matter to a future meeting.

20. Parish Council Website

The Clerk and Cllr. Smith reported that the sub committee had recently met on the 24th September and had discussed a number of matters on how the website could be changed and improved. Cllr. Brake had undertaken to prepare a test website to incorporate these improvements.

21. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Offwell Haycart
- Ash dieback
- Parish Council Website
- Council Meeting dates for 2020

22. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 18th November 2019 at 7.30pm.
The Meeting closed at 9.25pm

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

