

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY ORDINARY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs. P. Sauvage, M. Norfolk, A. Welch-Thornton & J. Evans

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

Members of Public: 1

Cllr. Sauvage, chaired the meeting

He welcomed everyone to the Council meeting and outlined / reminded everyone of the Covid-19 measures which had been adopted for Council meetings.

OPEN SESSION

D. Blackmore, an Offwell resident said that he had lived in the village since 1973 and been involved as chair fundraising for the Village Hall. He was attending the meeting as he was interested in village affairs and wanted to learn more about the Parish Council.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1.To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons given (LGA 1972

S.85 (1))

Cllrs. P.Hokins, T. Pepper, J, Tristram and C. Whithear had tendered their apologies. The personal reasons given by them all were accepted and approved by Council.

2.To receive any declarations of interest relating to items outlined in this agenda (this does not preclude the duty to declare further interests as applicable)

None

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th January 2023

Deferred to next meeting as insufficient Councillors present who had attended that meeting.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

5. Reports:

a) Police

The Clerk advised that the Police January newsletter had been posted on the Website. He said that the Newsletter as per previous newsletters gave no Crime reports and referred people to visit the Police.UK website for their particular area's Crime map and recorded crimes. However, as in previous months there is no such recorded crime information whatsoever available for Honiton Rural Police area which includes Offwell Parish. There is in fact no such information available for the months of December 2022, November 2022, October 2022, and September 2022. He said that whilst the Newsletters were useful it was essential that Parish Councils were informed as to what crime is occurring in their parishes. He had understood that the Police had taken on the Police Neighbourhood Volunteer to free up the Police Officers from having to send reports to Parish Councils' and that she would take on this role instead. However, it now appeared that this was unacceptable as Parish Councils should be informed as

b) District and County Councillors

DCC Cllr. Hartnell reported that DCC are facing major budget challenges due to inflation and demand on services particularly Social Care and Highways. All services have been asked to find savings or additional income as part of ongoing efforts to control budgets. The Budget will be discussed and agreed by Cabinet next month.

Highways are facing a strain on resources due to the cold weather spells and over 500 potholes being reported every day and this is set against the Highways budget having been fixed for 3 years by the Government with no allowance for inflation.

The Budget will be discussed and agreed by Cabinet next month

EDDC Cllr. Parr reported that there were 2 joint meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees last week to discuss the Draft Budget and make recommendations to Cabinet and thence Council.

In earlier versions of the Budget, it was advised that an estimated £434k would have to be taken from the Medium Term Risk Reserve to balance the Budget. However, the recently announced Local Government Finance Settlement was higher than expected, and EDDC has been allocated an additional £349k. As result, thanks to the Government, only £85k will be required to be taken from the Reserve.

Draft Local Plan Consultation ended 15 Jan, and had been an invitation to comment on the Draft LP document, which will shape Development and guide Planning in East Devon over the next few years-

- 1 how much building will take place and where;
- 1 delivering housing to meet the needs of local residents;
- 1 where are the proposed strategic sites for building around our towns and area centres;
- 1 employment and supporting town centres;
- 1 where should a second new town be located?

c) Clerk

None

d) Offwell Neighbourhood Support Group

None

e) Highways Matters

1) 20 mph Speed Limit submission

The Clerk circulated to Councillors a brief report he had prepared on a 20mph submission. Following discussion, Councillors asked the Clerk to complete/submit the application to Devon Highways for the existing 30mph speed limit area to be reduced to 20 mph together with detailed supporting information.

2) Village Traffic awareness

This was discussed as part of the following item.

3) Additional safety signage on entering the village, e.g. Please slow down children and animals

The Clerk advised that Kilmington Parish council had purchased 50 A4 sized notice stickers from 20's Plenty Campaign organisation @ £1 each and were prepared for Offwell PC to have 20 of them if they so wished at the same cost price. The sticker notices could be stuck onto plywood boards and then displayed by householders through the village. Councillors thought this was an excellent idea and would help to promote drivers reducing their speed through the village. Cllr. Whithear proposed that the Council purchase the 20 sticker notices from Kilmington PC for £20, seconded by Cllr. Evans, all in favour.

4) Speedwatch scheme

No interest had been shown in persons volunteering to be part of a speedwatch scheme.

5) A35 submission to National Highways

The Clerk reported that he was waiting on certain information to be provided in order that he can finalise the submission document.

6) Blocked road drains

Cllr. Evans reported that a number of the road drains on Ramsden Lane were blocked by leaves and that he had reported the matter to Highways.

7) Other Highways matters

None

f) Footpaths Report

The Clerk to complete the P3 survey report

g) Any Other Reports

None

6. Correspondence

All correspondence had been circulated to Councillors.

7. Update of standing orders

Deferred to next meeting

8. Communication with the community, especially to comments on social media

Deferred to next meeting

9. Finance

a) Current Financial Position

The Clerk reported that there is £3061.37 in the general account and £12.09 in the CIL account.

b) Expenditure to be ratified.

None

c) Expenditure to be approved for which bills have been received

- 1) Payment of £365.44 for the Clerk's salary for the month of January 2023
- 2) Payment of £153.06 to Kilmington Parish Council (Kilmpe) (Cross invoice received from Kilmpe for the 5 Offwell Councillors who attended the joint Good Councillor training course on the 7th November 2022. DALC had invoiced Kilmpe for the whole cost of the training course (£336.74) and Kilmpe had paid this amount).

Payments proposed by Cllr. Pepper, seconded by Cllr. Whithear. All in favour.

d) Budget & Precept

The Clerk gave Councillors a budget report based on an Excel spreadsheet document (as attached).

The spreadsheet, showed the Annual budget amounts for 22/23, the amounts paid up to the 18th January 2023, any balances due to be paid by the year end on the 31st March 2023 and the estimated annual 2023/24 budget amounts.

The Clerk gave a verbal presentation of the various year costs, the projected year end spends and balance and the 23/24 budget.

The Clerk explained that the haycart planting is at present very kindly sponsored by Honiton Garden Centre but he had included an amount in the budget in case this is not renewed. The Council elections are due to take place in May. He advised Councillors that should there be more than 9 candidates then an election would be held, in which case the EDDC would charge the Parish Council for the election costs which would probably be approximately £1,100. If there were only 9 candidates or less, then there would no election or costs involved. He also advised that the website monthly administration costs were presently £50.00 per month and have been at this figure since the new website was created a few years ago. The website administrator had requested the Council consider increasing the monthly charge. Councillors discussed the draft budget. Cllr. Evans proposed that the Website monthly website administration payment be increased from £50.00 per month to £55.00 per month. Cllr. Pepper proposed accepting the budget of £8,048, seconded by Cllr. Whithear, all in favour.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for his work in producing the report and budget forecast.

Cllr. Evans proposed that the precept be increased by £500 and set at £6,956 for 23/24 and that the Council support the budget with £1,092 from reserves. Cllr. Whithear seconded, all in favour. The Clerk to submit the completed precept form.

e) Request for Parish Council financial support for the King Charles Coronation tea party celebration on Sunday 7th May 2023.

Clr. Whithear said that a Village Tea Party on Sunday 7th May was being planned to celebrate the Coronation. The plans were at an early stage at present. Councillors expressed in principle supporting the event but asked that a formal grant application be submitted in order to fully consider the matter and decide what grant could be given.

10. Planning Applications

**a) 22/2257/LBC -The Bishops Tower Tower Cross Honiton Devon EX14 9TN
Retention of work which was not approved under application 16/0014/LBC after fire damage**

Cllr. Evans proposed that the Council has no objection to this application, seconded by Cllr. Welch-Thornton, all in favour.

**b) 23/0036/FUL - Sunnyside Wilmington Honiton EX14 9SF
Proposed rear extension and a glazed garden room**

Cllr. Whithear proposed that the Council support this application, seconded by Cllr. Welch-Thornton, all in favour.

10. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

None

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

15th February 2023 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed *J. Tristram*

Date *19/04/2023*