

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY ORDINARY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs. C. Whithear (Chair), P. Hopkins,
J. Tristram,

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

Members of Public: 3

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

OPEN SESSION

Two parishioners spoke about the planning application for the Livestock Collection Centre on Tower Road and the revised site layout/block plan which had been submitted by the applicants showing the two revised passing bays and also the revised proposed surfacing of the vehicle circulation route around the building. They considered that the passing bays were inadequate with one being more of a waiting bay very near the site entrance and the other being insufficient in size and situate in the wrong location. The revised surfacing would not answer the concerns previously raised by Devon Highways or the concerns that the vehicle washing off bay was the in the wrong location.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Apologies

DCC Cllr. M. Hartnell, Cllrs. A. Welch-Thornton, P. Sauvage, T. Pepper

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)

Cllr. P. Hopkins – Item 9b

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th January 2022

The Clerk advised that Cllr. Parr had requested that the draft minutes be amended so that her report under Item 5b reads as follows:-

EDDC Cllr. Parr reported that the District Council faced some difficult decisions in order to achieve a balanced budget.

The Government had delayed some funding reforms eg. reform of Business Rate funding and New Homes Bonus funding [an amount paid for each new home built in the district]

which it was estimated would have resulted in c.£2.3m less income to the council, and a much increased deficit.

However, the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic on Council departments, increase in cost of operations and functions still amounted to a significant deficit of £.7m.

In order to achieve a balanced budget the Council had decided to close or dispose of several public toilets and also to increase the car parking charges in East Devon substantially.

Cllr. Whithear proposed that the minutes be amended and then be declared a true record of the proceedings, seconded by Cllr. Hopkins, all in favour.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk reported that he had discussed that the matter of a What's On page on the website with the editor and that they had decided that the best course of action was to put a What's On tab on the Home page which would link to a pdf document listing details of all the year's events on a month by month basis. The editor would take on the role of contacting all the various organisations, compiling and updating the pdf document as and when necessary. The What's On information will be uploaded onto the website in the next few weeks.

5. Reports:

a) Police

The Clerk advised that the Police had postponed the meeting on the 2nd February with Parish councils to a future date.

District and County Councillors

EDDC Cllr. Parr reported parking charges will increase from £1.00 per hour to £2.00 per hour, a rise of 100%, doubling the cost of parking in 'prime car parks'. Prime car parks are those in the hot spots of Exmouth, Sidmouth, Seaton & Beer. Other inland car parks eg in Axminster and Honiton will be charged at £1.50 per hour, a 50% rise. These steep rises were agreed by the Democratic Alliance, and made it possible to include a Wish List of projects costing over £737,000 in the Budget.

In January Officers advised the Administration that the Wish List was unaffordable, and the Senior Management team would look with Cabinet for ways to make savings/ increase income over the next months to be able to afford these items.

However at the Cabinet meeting 2 February the Democratic Alliance agreed to double the hourly charge from £1.00 to £2.00 in prime car parks, and also to extend the list of prime car parks. This would bring in income in excess of what was needed to improve car parks and traffic management, making the Wish List affordable.

DCC Cllr. Hartnell was unable to attend but had sent a report which had been circulated to Councillors. The report said that the DCC strategic plan up to 2025 has just been published. The plan focuses on how we will help the county to recover from the COVID19 pandemic, build on the resilience of local people and communities to create a fairer, healthier and more caring place, and grasp the opportunity to create a greener, more prosperous and inclusive future for all. The best place - Strategic Plan (devon.gov.uk)

He gave details of the of the achievements of the DCC apprenticeship schemes.

He reported that Highways DCC Cabinet had agreed that 20mph schemes can be progressed in 2022/23 for those communities who request them. It's worth noting that the trial completed in Newton Abbot did not have community support for default 20mph limit in residential areas but did support them outside schools. With this outcome in mind, it is important that any request for a 20mph limit is supported by Town and Parish Councils alongside the elected County Councillor. Budget Full Council meets on Thursday 17th February to set the budget for 2022/23. Despite an increase in the total budget of £49m to £629m, services are under extreme cost pressures, such as the national living wage and inflation totalling £88m, therefore requiring significant savings to be made of £38.7m. The budget has been considered by all the scrutiny committees and cabinet have now recommended a 1% increase for social care and a 2.99% increase for DCC share of the Council Tax. Band D Council tax charge for 2022/23 for DCC is therefore £1556.46. This is subject to approval on Thursday 17th

b) Clerk

Nothing to report

c) Offwell Neighbourhood Support Group

Nothing to report but the Group remain ready to respond to any requests for support.

d) Highways Matters

The Clerk advised that he had met with the Highways Officer to discuss the request for another grit bin, various pot hole complaints and the road marking white lines which were not clear on the road to the Recycling Centre. The Highways Officer to respond.

e) Footpaths Report

Nothing to report other than a continuing problem with dog mess in certain areas.

f) Any Other Reports

None

6. To consider any matters pertaining to Coronavirus and Offwell Parish

None

7. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from a household on Ramsden Lane complaining about an access entrance way being reopened on the Ty Croeso property. He said that this was not a Parish Council matter but for EDDC who had confirmed that it was an existing entrance and could be continue to be used.

Other correspondence including a Wild about Devon newsletter and a new grant scheme had been circulated to Councillors.

8. Finance

a) Current Financial Position

The Clerk reported that there is £2,601.21 in the current account, not allowing for any payments to be approved at the meeting.

The CIL account balance is unchanged at £12.09

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

- 1) Payment of £326.72 for the Clerk's salary for the month of February 2022

2) Payment of £112.00 to ORG/VHC for Room Hire for Meetings 20/1/20, 17/2/20, 17/3/20, 26/7/21, 20/10/21, 17/11/21 and 8/12/21

Payments proposed by Cllr. Tristram, seconded by Cllr. Hopkins All in favour.

9. Planning Applications:

a) 22/0253/FUL- Ty Croeso Offwell Honiton EX14 9RY

Demolition of single storey detached dwelling and erection of a two storey 3-bed detached dwelling.

Cllr. Tristram proposed supporting the application, seconded by Cllr. Hopkins, all in favour.

b) 21/1798/FUL - Land On The East Side Of Tower Road Offwell Honiton

Change of use of an existing agricultural building and associated works for use as a Livestock Collection Centre.

The Clerk said that he shared the concerns that had been raised by parishioners in the open session. After liaising with the Chair he had submitted a further detailed objection to the application, stating these concerns and that the proposed passing bays would not address the matter of Tower Road not being of sufficient width for two large vehicles to pass for over 50% of its length. Also the matter of the minor lane had never been addressed or even mentioned by the applicants highways consultants.

10. Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

The Chair reported that ideas and plans are proceeding well for a Jubilee Street Party. Three meetings have been held to discuss ideas and plans.. On Sunday 5th June a 1950's style Street Party reminiscent of the celebrations for the Queen's coronation is planned to take place at the Village Hall complex in Offwell. It is hoped to hold this party outside on the grass but if the weather is adverse this will take place in the village hall. Festivities will begin with some simple games and/or races at around 2 p.m. with a tea party beginning at 3.30 p.m., catering for 120 people. Villagers being encouraged to dress in a 1950s style and the children to make crowns. There will be some games and races. Villagers will also be encouraged to decorate their gardens

Cllr. Whithear proposed that this format be adopted as the official Parish Council event for celebrating the Platinum Jubilee. The organising Committee to be a sub committee of the Parish Council with Cllr. Whithear as the Chair and the sub committee to submit a report to the monthly Parish Council Meeting. He further proposed that the £600 event amount previously agreed by the Council be paid into the CIL account and that this account be used for receiving any donated event monies and also for making event payments. Once the jubilee event had taken place, the CIL account to revert to it's original CIL purpose with a balance of £12.09. Seconded by Cllr. Tristram, all in favour.

The Clerk advised that the Council's insurers will require a form to be completed with full details of the event and to be submitted a month in advance of the event.

11. EDDC Gift of Oak Sapling

The Clerk reported that EDDC had offered all Town and Parish Councils within it's area a 2-3 metre high Oak Tree sapling to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. The tree would be planted by EDDC and a commemorative plaque supplied. The tree had to be planted in an open space with public access. The Clerk advised that he had spoken to the Chair of the Village Hall and Recreation Ground who had agreed that it could be planted at a particular spot on the recreation ground. Cllrs. resolved to accept the offer and for the tree to be planted there.

12. EDDC Responsible Dog Ownership

The Clerk advised that EDDC Environmental Health had circulated to parishes an article on Responsible Dog ownership. He wished to discuss the content of the article with them and would report back at the next meeting.

13. Devon Climate Emergency – Devon Climate Declaration

The Clerk had circulated details of the Devon Climate Emergency project which is to raise awareness of climate change and to encourage creating a resilient, net-zero Devon where

people and nature can thrive. He advised that Devon County Council, all the Devon District Councils, and many Town and Parish councils had signed the Declaration to endorse and support the principles of the project. Cllr. Whithear proposed that Offwell Parish council sign the Declaration, seconded by Cllr. Hopkins, all in favour.

14. Operation London Bridge

The Clerk had circulated a draft Operation London Bridge policy to be considered for adoption by the Council. The policy sets out the protocol to be followed by Offwell Parish following the Death of the Sovereign, a Senior National Figure or Local Holder of High Office. Cllr.

Whithear proposed adoption of the Policy with it to be reviewed in November 2022, seconded by Cllr. Tristram, all in favour.

Cllr. Whithear to speak to the PCC to confirm a suitable agreed area for the laying of any flowers.

15. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Councillor vacancies

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

16th March 2022 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed *C. Whithear*

Date *23rd March 2022*