

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 17th MAY 2023 AT 6.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs. J. Tristram(Chair), C. Whithear (Vice Chair), A. Welch-Thornton,
P. Hopkins, T. Norris & D. Blackmore

In Attendance: A Jenkins (Clerk)

Members of Public: 1

Cllr. Tristram 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

S Guilbert a resident from Tower Road spoke and expressed his concerns about item 10b, the Planning application **23/0735/FUL**. He was concerned about a large number of matters, in particular the amount of traffic that would be generated, the inadequate parking spaces, the unsuitability of the local road network in the area for such a development, the lack of any pavements/road lighting for safe pedestrian access, that the development was unsuitable in An Area of Natural Beauty (AONB) and conflicted with EDDC Open Spaces. In addition no Transport Assessment had been submitted, no mention of any lighting in the application for what is essentially a Autumn, Winter game when there are early dark nights. This is particularly relevant as the application is for Youth football and any midweek games/training would be in the evenings after school or college when it is already dark.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Election of Chair

Cllr. Hopkins proposed Cllr. Tristram for the post, seconded by Cllr. Whithear

2. Chair to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr. Tristram signed the declaration.

3. To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons given (LGA 1972 S.85 (1))

Cllrs. Norfolk & Evans, DCC Cllr. Hartnell, EDDC Cllr. Parr

4. 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

5. Election of Vice Chair

Cllr. Tristram proposed Cllr. Whithear, seconded by Cllr. Hopkins, all in favour

6. Members to sign their Declarations of Acceptance of Office

Cllrs. Tristram, Whithear, Hopkins, Welch-Thornton, Blackmore & Norris signed their declarations, counter signed by the Clerk. The Clerk will contact Cllrs. Norfolk and Evans to sign their declarations.

7. Register of Interest forms

The Clerk gave all Councillors present their forms and requested that they complete and return the signed forms to him. The Clerk will contact Cllrs, Norfolk and Evans to complete their forms.

8. Confirmation of Responsible Financial Officer for 2023/24

Cllr. Tristram proposed that the Clerk continue as the Responsible Financial Officer, seconded by Cllr. Hopkins, all in favour.

9. Confirmation of the Internal Auditor

Cllr. Tristram proposed that Mr T. Cuthbertson continue in this role, seconded by Cllr. Whithear, all in favour.

10. Confirmation of Councillor Responsibilities/ Representatives on other Committees/Bodies

a) Planning Committee

All Councillors

b) Trees

Deferred to next meeting

c) Highways

Cllr. Tristram and Cllr. Norris

d) Footpaths (Honorary)

Hilary Thompson

e) Snow Warden (Honorary)

Tim Pepper

f) Haycart

Cllr. Whithear

g) Planting of Haycart (Honorary)

Viki Whitehead

h) Village Hall Charity

To be discussed at a future meeting

Cllr. Hopkins proposed the above appointments, seconded by Cllr. Welch-Thornton, all in favour.

11. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th April 2023

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

12. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

13. Co-option to fill vacancy on Council

Deferred to next meeting

14. Reports:

a) **Police**

None

b) **District and County Councillors**

The Clerk advised that EDDC Cllr. Parr and DCC Cllr. Hartnell had both submitted Annual reports for the following Annual Parish Meeting

c) **Clerk**

None

d) **Offwell Neighbourhood Support Group**

Nothing to report

e) **Highways Matters**

1) **Village Traffic awareness**

The Clerk advised that Devon Highways had not yet responded to the application submission for the 30mph speed limit to be reduced to 20 mph.

2) **A35 submission to National Highways**

The Clerk advised that he was waiting to hear from National Highways the date of the Walk through meeting with them. It was planned to happen in early June. He would prepare a written report on the issues of the A35 as it passes through the Parish and submit this to them ahead of the meeting. It was agreed that Cllr. Tristram, Cllr. Norris and the Clerk would meet with them.

3) **Other Highways matters**

None

f) **Footpaths Report**

None

g) **Any Other Reports**

None

15. Correspondence

None

16. Finance

a) **Current Financial Position**

b) The Clerk reported that there is £4,848.63 in the general account and £12.09 in the CIL account.

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

1) **Payment of £365.44 for the Clerk's salary for the month of May 2023**

Payment proposed by Cllr. Hopkins, seconded by Cllr. Whithear. All in favour.

c) **Renewal of Council Insurance Policy**

The Clerk advised that the brokers had invited renewal with Zurich at a renewal premium of £248.23. Renewal and payment proposed by Cllr. Norris, seconded by Cllr. Tristram, all in favour.

10.Planning Applications

a) **23/0766/FUL -Little Foxes Ramsden Lane Offwell Devon EX14 9RY**

Proposed remodelling of roof including dormers, cladding and installation of solar pv panels on roof.

Cllr. Whithear proposed that the Parish Council support this application, seconded by Cllr. Hopkins, all in favour.

b) 23/0735/FUL – Tower Road, Offwell

The construction of a Youth Football Facility, including clubhouse, parking, storage and football pitches to suit all age groups.

Cllr. Norris presented a detailed critique of the planning application and an analysis of the application in relation to the East Devon Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

The critique showed that the application is contrary to multiple policies of the Local Plan and is also contrary to the EDDC Honiton Pitch Strategy 2017 which was adopted by EDDC. This strategy had assessed a number of sites in and around Honiton and had concluded that the development of sports facilities at Tower Hill would be contrary to multiple policies of the Local Plan. The lack of accessibility by sustainable means, potential impact on the local road networks and significant anticipated impact on the landscape and AONB make the site wholly inappropriate for sports pitch delivery. It considered that it is not an appropriate site to take sports pitch development and recommended that no sports pitches should be delivered on this site. He said that the applicants had not detailed any times of use and had not provided a Transport Statement. In addition the application was missing other information and there were also concerns about the impact on the water table on the Hill. He also said that there were ecological and wildlife, concerns and objections from DCC Archaeologist, the Environment Agency, Environmental Health.

He said that whilst there was a need for new sports pitches in Honiton, the application site on Tower Hill was not suitable and that the Parish Council should object to the application.

Councillors discussed and considered the application at length. Cllr. Tristram then proposed that the Parish Council object to the planning application detailing all the various concerns and referring to the multiple policies and strategies in the EDDC Local Plan to which it is contrary to. Seconded by Cllr. Norris, all in favour except for Cllr. Hopkins and Cllr. Blackmore who abstained from voting.

13. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

At a future meeting in the autumn discuss planting a flowering Cherry Tree to mark the King's Coronation.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 21st June 2023 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed *J. Tristram* Date *21/06/2023*