

# OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY ORDINARY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Cllrs. C. Whithear (Chair), P. Hopkins, T. Pepper  
J. Tristram, A. Welch-Thornton, P. Sauvage

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

**Members of Public:** 2

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 raised the matter of the website and that certain matters/items needed to be revised and updated. Discussions centred around the need for the website to have a What's on Page so that visitors to the Website can easily see what activities/events were on and where. The Clerk said that there had been a difficulty on the old website with organisations not providing details of their events. One of the parishioners volunteered to take on the role of regularly contacting the organisations for this information. Everyone agreed that there was a need for a What's On website page particularly following the sad demise of The Link magazine. The Clerk to pursue the matter and review updating/revisions to the website.

### COUNCIL BUSINESS

**1. Apologies**

DCC Cllr. M. Hartnell

**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 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

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

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes**

The Clerk reported that Honiton Town Council had also objected for a second time to the planning application for the Livestock Collection Centre on Tower Road.

## 5. Reports:

### a) Police

The Clerk advised that Sgt. Roy Hutter, the Neighbourhood Sgt. For East Devon was seeking a member from each council in East Devon to attend a teams/skype meeting at 18.30hrs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The purpose of the meeting was to seek input on neighbourhood policing. Cllr. Tristram volunteered to attend the meeting. The Clerk advised that the Police online map showed 1 crime for a violence/sexual offence in Offwell in November 2021..

### b) District and County Councillors

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.

The Clerk advised that DCC Cllr. Hartnell was unable to attend as he had to deal with an urgent issue at the Southleigh PC meeting.

### c) Clerk

Nothing to report

### d) Offwell Neighbourhood Support Group

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

### e) Highways Matters

The Clerk advised that he was yet to meet with the Highways Officer to discuss the request for another grit bin and some other Highways matters. Councillors mentioned that the road marking white lines were not clear on the road to the Recycling Centre. The Clerk said that he would discuss this with the Highways Officer.

### f) Footpaths Report

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

### g) Any Other Reports

None

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

None

## 7. Correspondence

The Clerk said that he had received an email from a group pertaining to campaign for 20mph speed limits in all towns and villages through Devon. However he advised that the matter of 20mph speed limits had been discussed in the recent Devon Highways on line conference and that Devon County council were in the next few weeks due to discuss and agree a policy decision on this matter. Individual Councils had been requested to register their interest with Highways in being considered for a 20mph limit and this had already been done by the Clerk. Other correspondence had been circulated to Councillors.

## 8. Finance

**a) Current Financial Position**

The Clerk reported that there is £3,009.61 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 £408.40 for the Clerk's salary for the month of January 2022**

Payment proposed by Cllr. Sauvage, seconded by Cllr. Pepper. All in favour.

**c) 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 21/22, the amounts paid up to the 19th January 2022, any balances due to be paid by the year end on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and the estimated annual 2022/23 budget amounts.

The Clerk gave a verbal presentation of the various year costs, the projected year end spends and balance and the 22/23 budget. He explained that for 21/22 he had showed the net spend (after the Feoffees donation) on the haycart as a separate amount as this spend had not been envisaged in the 21/22 budget.

Councillors discussed the draft budget and also the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June and what amount should be included in the budget for the celebrations. Cllr. Tristram proposed a revised 22/23 budget of £7,508 with an increased amount of £700 for grants so as to include support for the Jubilee Celebrations, seconded by Cllr. Pepper, all in favour.

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

Cllr. Sauvage proposed that the precept be increased by 4% and set at £6,456 for 22/23 and that the Council support the budget with £1,052 from reserves. Cllr.

Pepper seconded, all in favour. The Clerk to submit the completed precept form.

**10. Planning Applications:**

**a) No: 21/3161/FUL – Goodman House Offwell Honiton EX14 9RR**

**Construction of proposed summer house.**

Proposed by Cllr. Hopkins, seconded by Cllr. Sauvage that the Council support this application subject to the summer house only being for residential use.. All in favour.

**b) No: 21/2943/FUL - Glanville Farm Offwell Honiton EX14 9ST**

**Creation of a pond.**

Proposed by Cllr. Tristram, seconded by Cllr. Sauvage that the Council support this application. All in favour.

**c) No: 22/0002/FUL - Colwell Wood Cottage Offwell Honiton EX14 9RW**

**Erection of replacement dwelling**

Proposed by Cllr. Pepper, seconded by Cllr. Welch-Thornton, majority in favour that the Council object to this planning application on the following grounds:-

1) Colwell Wood has a significant history and whilst the existing cottage is not listed, it does have historical links with the surrounding woodland and is a notable and attractive feature within the woodland setting.

2) The architectural design and appearance of the proposed replacement dwelling would not be in keeping with the historical woodland setting.

**11. A35 Bus Stop**

The Clerk reported that a parishioner had complained about the difficulty in safely crossing the A35 road to reach the bus stop in the direction of Axminster, due to the lack of any pavement

on the opposite side. Persons had to walk right on the road edge to a position directly opposite in order to cross. This was highly dangerous as the A35 was a busy trunk road and was totally impossible for any infirm or disabled person.

The Clerk said that he would arrange a site meeting with the new A35 regional manager when he is appointed to discuss the matter.

**12. a) Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022**

Cllr. Whithear reported that the Jubilee Committee plans for the various events were progressing and that they would in the near future circularise details to all households in the parish.

**b) Request from the Village Jubilee Committee for a monetary contribution from the Parish Council towards the cost of village events planned to mark the occasion and for a commemorative gift for the children of the Village.**

The Clerk read out a letter received from the Jubilee Committee requesting a monetary contribution of £600 from the Parish Council. Cllr. Pepper proposed that the Council give a contribution of £600, seconded by Cllr. Hopkins, all in favour.

**14. Devon Climate Emergency – Devon Climate Declaration**

Deferred to next meeting

**15. Operation London Bridge**

Deferred to next meeting

**16. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Devon Climate Emergency – Devon Climate Declaration

Operation London Bridge

**17. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The Meeting closed at 10.00pm

Signed *C. Whithear*

Date *16<sup>th</sup> February 2022*