

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY ORDINARY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 19th JULY 2023 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

In Attendance: A Jenkins (Clerk),

Members of Public: 2

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

Andy and Tina Bricknell of Offwell Woods spoke in relation to their planning application (23/1308/FUL) Item 9a on the agenda and explained the reasons for and details of the application to create a new vehicular access and track to Offwell Woods.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

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

EDDC Cllrs. H. Parr , P. Arnott and DCC Cllr. Hartnell had tendered their apologies.

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 21st June 2023

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

5. Reports:

a) Police

The Clerk reported that whilst no Councillor from Offwell was able to attend the recent meeting with Police Inspector and Sergeant at Dunkewswell, the Chairman at Kilmington PC had and that he had reported that the Police Inspector was aware that there had been criticism of their lack of communication and connectivity with Parish Councils in the last few years, This is something that they wish to address and Inspector Grey who is the Inspector for East Devon said that in future the PCSO's would aim to attend one in every 3 or 4 council meetings. The Clerk advised that he had spoken to Inspector Grey himself and that he had confirmed this and that PCSO Daren England would be contacting the Parish Council in the next few weeks.

b) District and County Councillors

No reports received

c) Clerk

None

d) Offwell Neighbourhood Support Group

Nothing to report

e) Highways Matters

1) 20mph

Cllr. Whithear proposed that that the Council obtain a further 10 of the 20's planty A4 stickers, seconded by Cllr. Tristram, all in favour. The Clerk said that he would obtain these at a cost of £1 each.

2) A35

The Clerk advised that he had heard nothing further from National Highways.

3) Bus Service survey

The Clerk said that he understood that National Highways would be responsible for the provision of safe access to the existing eastbound bus stop and that it was therefore in their financial interest to suggest a bus survey so as to try and avoid this obligation and the financial implications.

He suggested that we wait for their response to the meeting we had with them before considering a bus survey. In the meantime he would consult with the DCC County Councillor on the feasibility of the bus route being diverted through the village and if this was not possible the feasibility of moving the eastbound bus stop to a better position allowing safe access. If either of these alternatives were not feasible from a practical point or would not be possible as they would have to be funded by the bus company/DCC, then the only option left would be for National Highways to meet their obligation and provide safe access to the existing bus stop.

4) Other Highways matters

None. .

f) Footpaths Report

Cllr. Tristram reported that a new gate had been installed on the end of Footpath 19. He had also reported to DCC PROW that a section of the boardwalk by the stone bridge was rotten and needed repair/replacement and the Contractor had been advised.

g) Any Other Reports

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. Update of standing orders

Deferred to next meeting

8. Finance

a) Current Financial Position

The Clerk reported that there is £3,418.02 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 to A.Jenkins for the Clerk's net salary after tax/NIC deduction for the month of July (29/06/2023 to 27/07/2023) and to HMRC for the appropriate amount based on a gross salary amount of £365.44.**
- 2) Payment of £39.20 to Axminster Printing for stationery.**
Payments proposed by Cllr. Whithear, seconded by Cllr. Norris. All in favour

9. Planning Applications

a) 23/1308/FUL - Land South East Of Higher Lodge Offwell

Creation of new vehicular access and track to Offwell Wood

Cllr. Tristram proposed that the Parish Council support this 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 advised that he had spoken to Planning. The Enforcement Officer and Planning were still waiting for the applicants to address the breaches and submit the required documentation to Planning for their consideration.

b) 23/0735/FUL – Land North Of Honiton Golf Course Northleigh Hill Road Honiton

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

Cllr. Norris advised that the Golf Club had submitted a further letter of objection and that Devon Highways had also commented on the application. However, the planning application had now disappeared off the planning website and he was unsure if the application had been withdrawn or if it was due to an IT issue. The Clerk to speak to Planning and find out the reason and present position.

10. Electricity Sub Station

Cllr. Tristram raised the matter of the unsightly tree stumps in front of the electricity sub station. The stumps have been there for a number of years since the large conifers were cut down and were an eyesore on the Ramsedn Lane entrance to the Village. He has been approached by the Feoffees, who have volunteered to make some funding available to plant hedging to screen the unsightly sub station structure.. However, it would probably be necessary to remove the stumps and root systems sufficient to allow a beech or similar hedge to take root and flourish.

The Clerk said that he had written to National Power and was presently awaiting for their technician who is responsible for the sub station to contact him.

11. Update of standing orders

Deferred to a next meeting.

12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Update of standing orders

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Clerk advised that he was presently waiting the Internal Auditors report and that as soon as it was received a meeting would be called to consider and approve the 22/23 AGAR.

The next monthly meeting is the 16th August 2023 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed *J. Tristram*

Date *23/08/2023*