

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY ORDINARY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 19th OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs. J. Tristram, A. Welch-Thornton, M. Norfolk, J. Evans
T. Pepper,

In Attendance: A Jenkins (Clerk)

Members of Public: 2

Cllr. Tristram, the Vice Chair 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

The residents living in Sweethayes spoke of their concerns about the planning application 22/2122 FUL for their neighbouring property Weetwood which is due to be discussed under Item 9a.

Their concerns related to the proposed first floor windows on the eastern elevation and the rear balcony of Weetwood which will overlook their property on the eastern side and cause a lack of privacy to them. When the applicant had originally spoken to them about the proposed development he had indicated that there would be no windows or balcony overlooking their property and on that basis they said that they had no objections to the development. However, the plans submitted now showed first floor windows and a balcony which would indeed overlook their property causing a lack of privacy and as such they were objecting to the application on those grounds. They said that if the applicant was to submit revised plans without these first floor overlooking windows and balcony, then they would have no objection to the planning application. Councillors noted their concerns and said that they would take these into account when later considering the application. They advised the residents to submit their concerns/objection to EDDC planning.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

- 1. To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons given (LGA 1972 S.85 (1))**
Cllrs. C. Whithear, P. Sauvage, P. Hopkins, C. Whitehead, EDDC. Cllr.H. Parr,
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 28th September 2022

Cllr. Norfolk said that Item 12 should note his request that cloud Next be requested to confirm the spam filters they employ on their emails.

Cllr. Welch- Thornton proposed that the minutes duly be amended to record this and then be declared a true record of the proceedings, seconded by Cllr. Norfolk., all in favour.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk will advise re the Cloud Next spam security filters at the next meeting.

5. Reports:

a) Police

The Clerk reported that no specific report had been received for Offwell. The only correspondence received related to a new Honiton Rural Police Team newsletter which had been put together by a new member of their policing team Megan Seymour. She is a local Policing support Volunteer, creating newsletters and such to free up PCSO Darren England for more Community engagement Opportunities. She is aiming to make the rural Policing newsletter a monthly, if not a bi-monthly occurrence.

The Clerk said that whilst this initiative is welcome, it does not provide a police report for crime within our parish. We are merely referred to crime statistics on the police.uk website but these statistics are at least two months out of date. Surely we should be provided with the previous month's crime in order that the Parish council and parishioners can be aware of what crime is and has more recently occurred in the parish. The Clerk said that he would discuss this matter with other Parish Council Clerks for their opinion on the matter and whether a joint approach should be made to the Police asking for more up to date crime statistics to be provided by the new policing support volunteer.

b) District and County Councillors

The Clerk advised that no reports had been received from the District Councillors. DCC Cllr. Hartnell had submitted a written report which had been circulated to Councillors and added to the website.

c) Clerk

None

d) Offwell Neighbourhood Support Group

None

e) Highways Matters

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

Cllr. Norfolk advised that the schoolchildren had drawn a variety of small signs with wordings such as "please respect the speed limit through our village" or "careful driving is appreciated", "twenty is plenty" or "children and animals around, please take care" and that these signs had been placed on private properties throughout the village. Councillors believed that this signage had reduced the speed of vehicles through the village but felt that larger more prominent signs would be more effective and that the Council should obtain quotations for such signs.

The Clerk said that he had attended a Devon Highways workshop at the recent DALC conference and the subject of 20mph speed limits in villages was a concern and high priority with all the Parish Councils present at the workshop. Many of the councils were doing similar to Offwell in putting up signs on private property asking drivers to slow to 20mph and to drive carefully through their village. Devon Highways said they were of this aware but warned that the red roundel must not be used on the signs as this would be illegal and that Devon Highways would enter private properties to remove any signs using the roundels.

The Clerk said that there is a national campaign - 20's Plenty for Us which is a 'not for profit' organisation with over 600 local groups campaigning for 20 mph speed limits to make cities, towns and villages better and safer places to be.

They campaign for a speed limit of 20mph to be normal on residential streets and in town and village centre. They use signage with a red heart shaped surround rather than a red roundel. Many parishes are using these signs and the graphics they have available. The Clerk gave Cllr. Norfolk details of this organisation and the various signage and graphics they have available, for him to investigate and come back to Council with costings and recommendations. Cllr. Evans said that he would also obtain some costings for signs.

The Clerk suggested that the Parish council set up a petition asking parishioners to sign if they agree and support the Offwell village speed limit being reduced from 30mph to 20mph. He said that if the petition was signed by the overwhelming majority of the parishioners, it would demonstrate in any future request to Devon Highways for a 20mph limit, that the whole Community was supportive. Cllr. Norfolk undertook to set up a petition. Cllrs asked the Clerk to enquire what would be involved and the costs etc in setting up a Speedwatch scheme for Offwell.

2) **A35 meeting with National Highways – 27th October 2022**

The Clerk advised that the invitations for the meeting had been issued to all Parish and Town Councils from Chideock to Honiton and their appropriate County Council Councillors. The two Devon Highways officers covering from Honiton to Axminster had also been invited. Our ward EDDC Councillor/ Leader of EDDC Council Paul Arnott had said that he will attend and also a representative from from our local M.P. Richard Foord's office.

The Clerk said that he would be attending along with Cllr. Tristram and Cllr. Sauvage.

3) **Other Highways matters**

The Clerk said that he had spoken to a senior Devon Highways Officer at the DALC conference about how safety for road users can be improved at the dangerous A35 junction with the unnamed lane to the Bishop's Tower. The senior Highways officer had agreed to making a site visit to discuss the matter. The Clerk to arrange this with DCC Cllr. Hartnell and the Highways Officer. The Clerk to remind Cllr. Hartnell about forwarding details of the Chapter 8 training and the Community Road Warden Scheme.

f) **Footpaths Report**

No report received

g) Any Other Reports

None

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

None

7. Correspondence

The Clerk advised that he had received a letter from Cllr. Whithear resigning as Chair for personal reasons with immediate effect but would be continuing as a Councillor. Councillors were sorry to learn that he was resigning as Chair. Cllr. Tristram, the Vice Chair to send him a letter thanking him for his service as Chair.

Cllr. Tristram said that he was prepared to act as Chair in the interim until a future meeting when all Councillors would be present and make an appointment decision. Cllr. Pepper proposed that Cllr. Tristram be Chair until the January meeting when the Chairmanship can be agended for consideration and decision. Seconded by Cllr.Norfolk, all in favour.

Correspondence had been forwarded onto Councillors including:-

Food standards and the charitable supply of food - Noted

Fire Service consultation – noted. The Clerk had already included details on the Home Page of the website.

Latest news from the Royal Devon NHS Trust - noted

8. Finance

a) Current Financial Position

The Clerk reported that there is £4,580.62 in the current account (net of the £360.00 payment to be ratified under item 8b.

The CIL account balance remains unchanged at £12.09

b) Expenditure to be ratified

Payment of 360.00 to EDDC for dog waste collection service

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

1) Payment of £333.44 for the Clerk’s salary for the month of October 2022

2) Payment of £120.00 to the Community Heartbeat Trust for renewal of the Vets Emergency telephone system.

Items b) and c) payments proposed by Cllr. Evans, seconded by Cllr. Norfolk. All in favour.

9. Planning Applications

a) Ref. No. 22/2122/FUL – Weetwood, Offwell EX14 9SB

Erection of two storey 4-bed detached dwelling, erection of a detached single garage and demolition of existing dwelling.

Following discussion and consideration of the comments expressed by a neighbour in the Open Session, ,Cllr. Norfolk proposed that the Parish council object to the application on the grounds of the first floor windows on the eastern elevation and the rear balcony which will overlook the Sweethayes property on the eastern side and cause a lack of privacy to the occupants of that property. If a revised plan without overlooking windows and balcony was submitted, the Parish Council would be prepared to reconsider it's objection.

Seconded by Cllr. Evans, all in favour.

10. Devon Community Resilience Forum virtual event 14-16 November

Cllr. Norfolk and Cllr. Whitehead will attend/view the virtual event.

11. Councillor Training

The Clerk advised that DALC will deliver a ‘being a good councillor’ short course at Offwell Village Hall on Monday 7th November with a 6.30pm start and ending at approx. 9.15-9.30pm. a Councillor

from Kilmington will also be attending and possibly also Councillors from Widworthy and Shute. The cost of the course and venue will be proportionally apportioned between the various Councils.

12. Warm Welcome Campaign

The Clerk said that he had put this on the agenda as he had the previous week become aware of this new nationwide Churches led campaign to support communities. It is a mission to support community organisations to open their doors and provide a warm welcome for those struggling to heat their homes this winter. The campaign aims to organising places within the communities that can offer a warm welcome. that have opened or are opening up free, warm, welcoming spaces for the public over this winter across the UK.

The Clerk advised that he had spoken to the Revd. Jeremy Putnam who had himself only recently become aware of the Campaign and would be investigating how Offwell can support the Campaign.

The Clerk had earlier today received and forwarded onto Councillors an email from EDDC advising that funding may be available.

13. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Village Traffic Awareness

Venue for Council meetings in 2023.

14. Date and Time of Next meeting

Wednesday 16th November 2022

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed *B. J. Tristram*

Date *16th November 2022*