

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY ORDINARY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 21st JUNE 2023 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs. J. Tristram (Chair), C. Whithear, T. Norris, D. Blackmore

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

Members of Public: 0

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

No matters raised

COUNCIL BUSINESS

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

Cllrs. P. Hopkins, M. Norfolk & A. Welch-Thornton, DCC Cllr. M. 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)

Cllr. Whithear – Items 9c) 2 & 4

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th May 2023

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

5. Co-option to fill vacancy on Council

The Clerk advised that the legislation allowed the Parish council to consider co-opting at this meeting without having to advertise the vacancy. The Clerk reported that Tim Pepper had advised that he wished to join the Council and was prepared to be considered for co-option.

Cllr. Tristram said that he had spoken to Tim Pepper and that whilst he may not be able to attend every meeting due to business commitments, he wished to make a contribution to the Community by being a Councillor. Cllr. Tristram proposed that Tim Pepper be co-opted, seconded by Cllr. Whithear, all in favour.

6. Reports:

a) Police

The Clerk advised that Newsletters had been received which again referred to the Police.Uk website for details of crime in your area but no crime data was shown. He had emailed the Police asking them to advise why was no crime data available and was presently awaiting a reply.

The Clerk advised that an email had been received from a Dunkeswell Councillor regarding a police advocates meeting with the police inspector for East Devon on the 29th June. Councillors were unsure if anyone would be able to attend.

b) District and County Councillors

EDDC Cllr. Parr gave a brief verbal report. She advised that the Council were seeking to produce a report on the housing need and the available housing land supply in the District. Also that the Council were reviewing the management, inspection frequency and repair scheduling of the Council's own let housing properties in order to address certain issues including a huge repair backlog and vacating tenants leaving houses in a terrible damaged state.

She will forward a written report to the Clerk.

c) Clerk

The Clerk advised that he had spoken to Zach Bricknell and asked if he was prepared to act as the Honourary Tree Officer for the Parish Council. Zach had kindly agreed. Cllr Tristram proposed that he be appointed, seconded by Cllr. Norris, all in favour.

d) Offwell Neighbourhood Support Group

Nothing to report

e) Highways Matters

1) 20mph speed limit application

The Clerk said that he understood from press announcements that DCC Highways had decided on the six successful 20mph applications and that Offwell was not one of these. Highways had not notified Offwell of their decision and had also never even acknowledged receipt of Offwell's application. Their application procedure and processes were most unsatisfactory.

2) A35

The Clerk circulated a copy of the report he had prepared on the A35 issues pertaining to Offwell parish. This report had formed the framework of the discussions of the walk through meeting that Cllr. Tristram, Cllr. Norris and himself had with the two National Highways Officers on the 12th June. The schedule of the Devon parishes walk through meetings only allowed for a short 40 minute meeting, so the main focus and the walk had been on the Mount Pleasant section from the Ramsden Lane junction to past the Windmill Garage but they had also briefly discussed the other issues along the road through Offwell.

Cllrs. Tristram and Norris both reported on the meeting and the issues discussed. They felt that the walk along the Mount Pleasant section had made the officers aware of the safety concerns and hazards posed by the speed of traffic, the junctions and their geometry, the bend, the lack of a safe pavement and the hazard of safely accessing to and from the eastbound bus stop. This made this section particularly dangerous with many unreported collisions and near misses in addition to the reported/recorded accidents.

As regards the bus stop, the officers had asked if it had always been in that position. Cllr. Tristram had advised them that it had been there for over 50 years. The Officers had then said that possible solutions could be a) providing a safe footpath and to and from a safe crossing point, b) moving the bus stop to a different location with a safe crossing point c) asking for the bus service to reroute through the village. They suggested that the Parish Council do a survey of parishioners opinions on these options. They said that options b and c would have to be funded by the bus company and their decision would obviously be based on the cost, the usage of the bus by parishioners and in relation to c the size and suitability of the bus, and bus stop provision for the route along the village lanes.

The Officers said that they would contact the Council again once they had fully considered all the issues in the Clerk's report.

Councillors discussed the matter of the bus stop and decided to consider at the next meeting the matter of a survey.

3) Other Highways matters

Cllr. Tristram reported that a grit bin had disappeared. The Clerk to investigate.

f) Footpaths Report

The Clerk advised that he had obtained from DCC a pdf version of the Definitive Map showing the public rights of way in the parish and had forwarded a copy to the Footpaths officer.

g) Any Other Reports

None

7. Correspondence

The Clerk said that he had received an email from Cllr. Evans resigning as a Councillor due to work commitments. He would advise EDDC accordingly.

8. Update of standing orders

Defer to next meeting

9. Finance

a) Current Financial Position

b) The Clerk reported that there is £4,234.96 in the general account and £12.09 in the CIL account.

c) Expenditure to be ratified

None

d) 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 June (25/05/2023 to 29/06/2023) and to HMRC for the appropriate amount based on a gross salary amount of £456.80.

- 2) Payment of £37.00 to C. Whithear to reimburse for purchase of Sadolin treatment stain and Hammerite paint to repaint the Haycart
 - 3) Payment of £73.14 to Community Heartbeat Trust for new set of pads for the defibrillator.
 - 4) Payment of £250.00 to L. Whithear for the King's Coronation tea party grant to reimburse for purchases made for the event.
- Payments proposed by Cllr. Norris, seconded by Cllr. Blackmore. All in favour (except for Cllr. Whithear who took no part).

10. Planning Applications

a) 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 whilst the applicants had carried out some further works, they were still in breach of the planning conditions and that the Planning Enforcement Officer had advised them that these and any further works were carried out at the applicants own risk. 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.

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting, the Parish council had submitted a detailed objection to this planning application. Cllr. Norris advised that since the last meeting two other consultees- the EDDC District Ecologist and EDDC Lanscape officer had also objected and commented on the application. He also said that Honiton Golf club had also objected to the application.

10. Councillor training

The Clerk advised that he was liasing with Kilmington, Shute and Widworthy to look to arrange with DALC a local evening training course for new Councillors. He would advise further in due course.

11. Code of Conduct Policy

The Clerk had circulated a draft Code of Conduct Policy. Cllr. Norris proposed adopting the policy, seconded by Cllr. Tristram, all in favour.

12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Bus stop survey

Update of Standing Orders

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 19th July 2023 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed *J. Tristram*

Date *19/07/2023*