

OFFWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY ORDINARY MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 6th DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: J. Tristram Chair), T. Norris, M. Norfolk, D. Blackmore, A Welch-Thornton,

In Attendance: A Jenkins (Clerk),

Members of Public: 0

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

No matters raised.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

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

Cllr. Pepper, Cllr. Pepper, Cllr. Whithear, DCC Cllr. Hartnell, EDDC Cllr. Parr

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 18th October 2023

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

5. Reports:

a) Police

The Clerk advised that he had not heard anything from the Police as to when they will send someone to attend a council meeting.

b) District and County Councillors

The Clerk reported that EDDC Cllr Parr had submitted a written report which included the following matters from the last Cabinet meeting:-

1. The forward plan is currently being worked on. High on the list is ‘joined up’ working and discussions with the three tiers of Local government.

2. Seaton Hospital. The League of Friends has put in an application to make the hospital a Community Asset. This will come before the officers for a decision within 8 weeks, not the cabinet or council.

The steering group is producing a business plan to go to the Integrated Care Board (ICB).

3. South West Water- Discussions re sewage discharges, land run, climate change etc continue.

Water companies have set out their five year plans with action plans setting out what they are intending to do.

Water quality results for East Devon’s beaches were received and all beaches will qualify for the Blue Flag award next year.

Members asked if there was any information on the impact on nature caused by the effluent released into water courses and the sea.

A useful tool to get real time status on storm overflows can be viewed at <https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/environment/rivers-and-bathing-waters/waterfitlive> . Sensors now installed on all main rivers in East Devon, being tested and going live shortly.

4. Car parking strategy for the proposed dates of 2024-2031.

Questions were asked regarding the electric charging bays that have lain dormant for two years in some car parks. Reasons were given that the lease was on the space and to be used only for charging.

Chargers need three phase electricity and EDDC are still waiting for this to happen.

Do the local towns or parishes have any insights they would like to put forward?.

5. Public waste bin review and other related waste and recycling matters- Dog bin and litter bin collection rates- proposed cost increase to all towns and parishes, the service charge price rise to be spread over two years.

Prices plus inflation RPI current charge per bin per collection 23/24- £2.12.

Increase 24/25- £3.06. Increase 25/26- £4.00

It was requested that in-future these charges were brought to the towns and parish councils attentions in August to be included in with the budget setting. It was stated that December not helpful.

The annual subscription for Green waste collections will increase next year by £2 to £52 per bin, per annum. The number of subscriptions has reached 19,896.

6. Section 106 and CIL problems have been reported by a large number of towns and parishes, because of the frustration felt by clerks on the slow or non-existent trickle of this important resource.

This has been apparently due to the lack of staff. Council has agreed to new posts being created to try and overcome the problem.

c) Clerk

None

d) Offwell Neighbourhood Support Group

None

e) **Highways Matters**

1) **20mph**

None

2) **A35**

Nothing to report at present

3) **Bus Service**

DCC Cllr. Hartnell had advised the Clerk that he was yet to discuss the matter of the eastbound Offwell bus stop with Rachel Phillips at DCC and would advise further.

4) **Other Highways matters**

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Hartnell is still trying to arrange the site visit to look at the junction of the unnamed lane and Ramsden Lane with the A35. He is hopeful that this can take place before Christmas and he will contact the Clerk to advise the time and date.

Cllr. Hartnell had also advised that he would be meeting with Steve Kelly to look at and discuss the longstanding recurring pothole on Ramsden Lane and would advise further.

Cllr. Tristram advised that he had reported two Highways matters in Mill Lane to Cllr. Hartnell, one being a leaning tree alongside the lane and other being a blocked grip/easement preventing water draining away off the lane.

f) **Footpaths Report**

None

g) **Any Other Reports**

None

6. **Correspondence**

None

7. **Finance**

a) **Current Financial Position**

The Clerk reported that there is £3144.49 in the general account and £3137.82 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 of £238.48 for the Clerk's net salary after tax/NIC deduction for the month of December (30/11/2023 to 28/12/2023)

2) Payment to HMRC of £59.60

Payments proposed by Cllr. Norfolk., seconded by Cllr. Norris. All in favour.

d) **Change of Bank signatories**

Cllr. Norris returned his completed form. The Clerk reminded the other Councillors that he was still awaiting the return of the completed/signed forms from them.

8. **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 reported that further works had been done including the installation of signage on the building. He had again spoken to the Planning Officer who had advised that the applicants were still

in breach of the planning conditions and that the matter was still in the hands of the enforcement officer. Cllr. Norris said that nothing appears to have been done to enforce the planning conditions and ensure that the applicants comply and submit the required reports etc. In fact the applicants appear to be totally ignoring the conditions and planning as they have just carried on with further works over the 10 months since the Parish Council reported the breach of the conditions. He was concerned that whilst the planning enforcement officer may have warned them they are doing the works at their own risk, that planning may be left with a fait accompli when the applicants want to open the collection centre for business. Surely, by now the Enforcement officer should be prepared to take some firm action and stop any further works proceeding until the conditions are complied with.

The Clerk to email the Planning and Enforcement Officers expressing all the Parish Council concerns and also copy in our two Ward Councillors to the email.

- 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 advised that the application had still not been reinstated onto the planning website.

10. Electricity Sub Station

The Clerk advised that he had spoken to the sub station technician who had confirmed that they would remove the tree stumps but had referred the matter of the planting of a hedge to his superior. He will advise further if this is acceptable and any conditions etc which would be applicable.

11. Production of an Offwell Parish Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)

To be deferred to a future meeting in a few months.

12. Councillor Training – Wednesday 24th January 2024

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the new Councillor training session will be held in Kilmington at 6.30pm on the 24th January 2024.

13. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Budget/Precept

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed *J. Tristram*

Date **17/01/2024**