

OWERMOIGNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 7:30pm
in Owermoigne Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Charles Sandham (chair), John Chilcott, Kim House, Nick Power, Paul Warren & the clerk.
Dorset Councillor N Ireland and five members of the public.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Jo Chilcott and Derek Bolt (and Tessa Warren, who wished to present comments about the state of the footpaths, but whose letter was read out by Cllr Paul Warren at Agenda item 3.3)

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Public Participation

3.1 Cllr Sandham recorded the passing of Duncan Follis who regularly performed repair works for the Council. Thanks and condolences were offered to Alison and family.

3.2 Cllr Sandham noted that a new clerk had been appointed. (Mike James)
[contact is via the usual email address of owermoigne@dorset-aptc.gov.uk]

3.3 Cllr Warren read the letter from Tessa Warren about the state of the footpaths in and around Owermoigne. There are several which are not in good condition, and which the landowner(s) are not regularly maintaining. Six separate individual have reported trip hazards when walking the footpaths. The Rights of Way team have trimmed in some areas, but others are being ploughed over and farm slurry is allowed to accumulate on others.

ACTION Cllr Warren to contact Cllr Ireland with a list of problematic footpaths

3.4 The development of East Creek Caravan Site at Ringstead has resulted in a letter from them asking for support in re-routing two public footpaths which currently cross the site. (But which are not well signposted nor the route maintained). They are asking for the new routes to be coincident with (a) the path past the "front gate" and (b) the coastal path adjacent to the beach; which itself has access difficulties. The Council response was deferred.

4 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th September 2023 were confirmed as a correct record by all present, and were duly signed.

5 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the meeting held on 20th Sept 2023.

6 Planning

(errata at agenda item 6 (a) (a): The reference should be for OWL cottage not OAK cottage)
Planning Application P/HOU/2023/05366. No objections raised.

Planning Application P/FUL/2023/05362. This is a new application converting a barn into a 4-bed dwelling + extension. No objections raised.

ACTION: Clerk to pass decisions to the Planning Authority.

7 Playing Field

ACTION: Cllr Sandham to review the scope of the grass cutting contract with a view to modifying the current contract.

ACTION: Clerk to request the grass cutting contractors to let the Clerk know each time a cut has taken place.

HOP (Helping Owermoigne Park) are looking into

- repairing the wheelchair accessible trampoline
- installing a permanent goalpost
- picnic bench
- creating a sensory garden

However, with regards to the first two items, there may be a safety issue which needs to be proven so that insurance cover is not compromised.

ACTION: Clerk to contact HOP about what safety considerations have been taken.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Dorset Council about the need (or not) for playground equipment planning permission.

8 A352 safety issues

8.1 Motor Cycle speeding – no response from the PCSO. (Attendance requested following the July meeting.) A discussion took place about the speed limit through the village, and it was suggested that a 40mph limit should be requested.

ACTION: Clerk to forward Cllr Power's report to Tony Burden of Dorset Council.

ACTION: Clerk to request attendance by PCSO for their report.

8.2 Some of the signage has been completed, but one side is being held up by lack of staff. A request was made by the PCC for the Parish Council to put up a Brown "tourist" sign along with the speed restriction signs. This needs further consideration since visibility may be restricted and it seems unreasonably expensive. Postponed for further debate.

8.3 The drains have been cleared.

ACTION: Cllr House to inspect the works carried out to clear the drain.

9 Moreton Road safety proposal

Cllr Sandham provided a report on safety issues.

Damage is occurring to the road and edgings; potentially because of increased rural / delivery traffic and because it is the development of a narrow old track with insubstantial foundations. Anecdotally, driving standards are poor.

The Parish Council is considering supporting lower speed limits.

ACTION: clerk to add to agenda for next meeting and separately to invite the Dorset Council representative to visit. (see agenda item 10)

10 Hollands Mead pavement conditions

Dorset Council's Phil Goodland will be invited to visit to view the state of the pavement and to further discuss those of Morton Road, Kit Lane and the dropped pavement curbs.

Action: Clerk to invite Mr Goodland for discussions as above.

11 Village Hall land purchase

Cllr Sandham reported that this was progressing, but the process could be eased if the Parish Council rescind the limit of £5000 as a maximum allowable donation. The Village Hall committee have several grants that they also may be able to call on towards the £14,000 cost for the project.

The motion was formally: "to rescind the £5000 limit and replace it with the ability to grant monies based on merit after appropriate due diligence with a review in 1 year's time". Proposed Cllr Sandham, Seconded Cllr Power: Accepted 4 for, 1 abstention.

12 Dorset Councillor's Report

12.1 Council Leader is continuing discussions about devolution

12.2 There is currently a £13M overspend in the budget and this is likely to get worse.

The School Transport budget alone is £8M overspent. This is reflecting that Dorset Council is 2nd largest employer in Dorset.

12.3 In '24-'25, the council will inherit a budget gap of £22M. This includes the maximum Council Tax rise, which is equivalent to £60 per resident. Fixing the budget is not achievable with cuts.

12.4 There is no revenue support grant and poor support from Central Government.

12.5 The staff pay rise is around 5% and recruitment is still difficult.

13 Finance

The latest financial information is not available because of IT issues. However, a recent invoice has been submitted:

Grounds Maintenance & Tidy up £527.60

ACTION: Bank signatories to pay.

14 Date of next meeting

This will be on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 7.30pm.

Signed: *C Sandham* Chairman

Date 17th JANUARY 2024