

## OWERMOIGNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7:30pm  
in Owermoigne Village Hall

### MINUTES

**Present:** Councillors Charles Sandham (chair), Jo Chilcott, John Chilcott, Kim House, Nick Power, Paul Warren & the clerk.  
PCSO Alison Donnison  
Dorset Councillor N Ireland and 14 members of the public.

#### 1 Apologies for Absence

Apology for absence were received from Cllr Derek Bolt, however, as Cllr Sandham explained, Cllr Bolt had tendered his resignation with immediate effect. Cllr Sandham also confirmed that he (Charles) would not be seeking re-election since he is moving away from the area. The next Parish Council meeting would be his last.

#### 2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Warren declared an interest in Planning Application P/TRT/2024/00059 in that it related to his property.

#### 3 Police Report From PCSO Donnison

PCSO Donnison highlighted THREE main issues of relevance to the Parish.

1. Speeding on the roundabout on the A352 – mostly noted by people reporting the noise.
  2. Road Traffic Accidents due to flooding and trees
  3. Scams - which are getting more sophisticated and difficult to police.
- Slightly out of area but of very relevant interest is the increase in poaching and farm theft especially in the Piddlehinton, Piddletrentide and Cerne Abbas areas.

PCSO Donnison then invited questions from the Council and public.

Q What can be done about speeding on the Morton Road?

- > The Parish could set up a community speed watch, although the cost would come to the Parish. (Osmington, for example, has a thriving speedwatch group) It may be possible to loan the equipment initially. PCSO Donnison offered to speak to Traffic Safety about suitable locations for volunteers to stand.

Anecdotally, it was reported that volunteers in other areas were jumping out to take car speed readings; but if this was the case then they would be reported for this action.

Q Has anyone ever been prosecuted?

- > Not yet; for each speeding event a letter goes out and if 3 letters are received within one year, then it is possible to proceed with a prosecution.

Q Would a police presence occur if sufficient overspeeds are detected?

- > Yes, it can and does happen.

Q Is there still a drop in opportunity to speak to PSCO Donnison?

- > Yes. There are drop in sessions at Crossways, Puddletown and Broadmayne. PCSO Donnison was willing to do a trial hour at (say) the garage. The Parish could advertise and trial this.

**4 Public Participation**

No pre applications to speak had been received.

Cllr Sandham recorded the passing of Phil Bowditch. Condolences were offered to Denise and Verity.

With the opportunity to question PCSO Donnison, no specific Public Participation questions were put during this section, but questions were allowed by the chairman during subsequent items.

**5 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were confirmed as a correct record by all present, and were duly signed.

**6 Matters Arising**

2311.3.2 Cllr Sandham passed a list of footpaths to Cllr Ireland (closed)

2311.3.4 Ringstead Caravan Company – footpaths.

A diversion of the northernmost S34.18 footpath to coincide with the coast path was agreed to be the most practical solution.

The southern S34.19 is more problematic. One alternative might be via the timber steps from the NT land down to the groyne/beach. However, reinstating the footpath, perhaps with a minor diversion within the boundaries of the caravan site might be the most appropriate solution.

ACTION: Clerk to complete the pre-application form and explanatory letter.

2311.7.1 Grass Cutting contract. See agenda item 7 (ongoing)

2311.8.4 A352

Cllr Power summarised his note which covers the response.

Irrespective of the unenthusiastic response from Dorset Council, it was suggested that the Parish Council proceed with a request to lower the speed limit. (ongoing)

ACTION Clerk to make a formal application.

**7 Playing Field**

The current cost is £118 per month, but it was resolved to review the terms of the contract. Thereafter, once a new contract has been let or confirmed, a member of the Parish Council would check on the quality and if necessary, only pay after a satisfactory result has been achieved.

ACTION: Clerk to check on current contract and pass to Councillors to review.

**8 Moreton Road speed limit reductions**

To gather the necessary information, Cllr Warren suggested that a community speedwatch group might be an appropriate way forward. Cllr House asked about a "Slow Down" sign, although this would have to go through Highways.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Highways about both speed monitoring and cost of signs.

Cllr Warren asked the public as a form of straw poll whether there would be any volunteers for a such a speedwatch group. There was a sufficiently positive response to make it worthwhile taking this further.

ACTION: Clerk to publicise this on the Parish Council website and noticeboards.

**9 Tourist (Brown) Signage on the A352**

This was a suggestion to advertise the village as a "smugglers village" and references to Thomas Hardy. Given the cost of Highways-compliant signage, the Parish Council resolved NOT to support the PCC in this request.

**10 Planning**

- P/HOU/2023/06649 No Objection – Planning Permission has already been granted.
  - P/CLP/2023/07284 No Action – this is just a notification of a lawful use challenge.
  - P/TRT/2024/00059 No Objection – Approved.
  - P/FUL/2023/04574 No Objection – Approved.
  - P/LBC/2023/07529 No Objection – Approved.
- ACTION: Clerk to pass decisions to the Planning Authority.

**11 Electric Car Charge point**

The offer of partly subsidised Electric Car charge point was rejected.

**12 Flooding on Moreton Road & the A352**

It was announced that Dorset Council's Community Highways Officer Phil Goodland has a planned visit on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The intention is to visit and/or discuss the sites of flooding on Moreton Road and the A352. Discussion of this agenda item was postponed until after the visit, although a member of the public did comment that the flooding situation had improved since the worst conditions which occurred early January.

**13 Request to place bollards in front of a house on Moreton Road**

Not discussed pending the visit of Dorset Council's Phil Goodland.

**14 Hollands Mead pavement conditions**

Not discussed pending the visit of Dorset Council's Phil Goodland.

**15 Village Hall land purchase**

At the last Parish Council meeting, it was resolved to support the purchase of the land forming the Car Park, Pollards Lane and the parcel of land known as Pollards Pit. The application is for £14,000, which forms 50% of the cost of land purchase and professional fees. It was stated that a decision was needed at this meeting since the land owner is looking for certainty.

A member of the public offered the view that the purchase was questionable and a waste of money. A member of the Council was concerned whether supporting the purchase of the road was inappropriate. A vote was taken:

- Cllr Sandham formally proposed that the Council should support the purchase
- Cllr Warren seconded

The proposal was carried with 4 For and 1 Abstention.

ACTION: Clerk to start the process of transferring the money from the Community Benefit Fund.

**16 Dorset Councillor's Report**

Cllr Ireland gave his report of activities pertaining to Dorset Council and made some observations relating to other items on the agenda.

Dorset Council intend to take the full Council Tax possible, just a fraction under 5%. Our Council Tax is just outside the top 10 highest in England.

Speed limits reduction on Moreton Road: Dorset Council will do nothing to support this until the Parish Council provides relevant data. This needs to be via simple rubber speed detection strips (at £250 per location). A radar-based Speed Indication Device (SID) does gather data (which is useful for Parish Councils) but it's not accepted as evidence by DC. They do, however, slow down traffic effectively. The cost is a SID plus post installation (assuming that an existing post cannot be used) and solar kit – about another £800. The SID has to be a DC approved SID. The PC has seen quotes of up to £2000 for a SID. Broadmayne, Warmwell and Osmington have active community speed monitoring teams and their data can be used as evidence. He was asked about whether the yellow safety jackets influenced the car speeds, but anecdotally, it does not. Osmington spent around £6000 on speed prevention, but the efforts resulted on Dorset Council support to approve 30mph limits on the A353 and 20mph on Chapel Lane. However, the signage costs came to around £21,000. This formed a significant proportion of Tony Burden's (DC) road safety budget.

Ringstead Footpaths: The groynes and slipway are maintained by the Coastal Defence team. Dorset Council will pay 50% towards the maintenance of the steps over the groyne, with the National Trust paying the other 50%. Unfortunately, the National Trust have not been paying their contribution of late. The steps up to the National Trust land to the east of Ringstead Caravan site are wholly the responsibility of the National Trust, but these are not being maintained either.

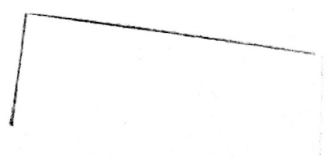
**ACTION:** Clerk to contact the National Trust about refurbishment of the steps.

The land adjacent is permitted to provide a "pop-up camping" site which covers tents, yurts, motorhomes and caravans. The SSSI sites and scheduled monuments are protected. The cafe at the start of Fishers Place is being taken over, but no significant changes have (yet) been applied for.

**17 Election 2024**

Cllr Sandham will stay on the Council for one more meeting. Cllr Bolt has already left it.

**ACTION:** Clerk to advertise the vacancies on the website & notice boards and other appropriate locations.



**18 Finance**

18.1 The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, presented the figures which were not available in the November meeting and also the figures for December and January

Parish Clerk	Nov-Dec	£617.48
Payroll	Jun-Dec	£120
DAPTC	Apr-Dec	£232.54
Wessex Gdn Services	Jun-Dec	£645.90
Village Hall	Nov mtg	£16
Parish Clerk	31/01/24	£433.20
HMRC	22/01/24	£305.70
Postage for Cheques due	04/01/24	£5.70
Printer Paper	22/12/23	£8.99
Village Hall Hire	17/01/24	£16.00

18.2 The Precept bid was discussed and the preliminary figures amended so that the Parish Council will be submitting the sum of £14500. The implication for Band D Council Tax payers in Owermoigne is that it adds approx. 12p per month.

18.3 The Mandate Variation Resolution request for the Parish Council's current account was signed.

**19 Date of next meeting**

This will be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm.

Signed: ..... *C. Sandham* ..... Chairman

Date ..... *20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024* .....