

OWERMOIGNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 14 July 2021 at 7.30pm at Owermoigne Village Hall

- 1 Present** Cllrs Buckingham, Chilcott, House, Warren and Wormald, the clerk and 10 members of the public
- 2 Open Forum**

A question was raised about the path that leads from the top of Kit Lane to the garage – overhanging foliage was making it very difficult to pass. The clerk confirmed that that it had been reported to Dorset Council in May, but no action had yet been taken. To be followed up. **Clerk**
- 3 Apologies:** Cllr Bolt, Dorset Councillor Ireland and PCSO Donnison
- 4 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor House declared an interest in planning application WD/D/20/003198, and the chair declared an interest in item 13b)
- 5 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2021 were agreed as a true record. Proposed: Cllr Buckingham, seconded Cllr Warren
- 6 Matters Arising**

Cllr Chilcott asked if the planning condition relating to the access to Watercombe Farm had been completed, and it was confirmed that the applicant had not yet carried out the works. To be followed up by the clerk **Clerk**
- 7 Election of co-opted councillor**

JC stated that as a member of his family was standing for election, he would abstain from voting. Councillors agreed to vote by a show of hands.
First application: Mr P Scull. In favour: Cllr Warren
Second application: Mrs J Chilcott. In favour: Cllr House, Cllr Buckingham
Mrs J Chilcott was approved as the new councillor for Owermoigne Parish Council. Cllr Warren asked if Cllr Bolt's wishes should be taken into consideration: however, he had been sent the information in advance and not notified of any preference when he sent his apologies.
- 8 Finance**
 - i) The following payments were read out and approved (proposed **Clerk** Cllr House, seconded Cllr Chilcott)

Wessex Grounds Services (May and June 21)	£201.72
Dorset Council (dog signs)	£15.00
BHIB (annual insurance)	£410.38
DAPTC (subscription)	£173.40
Clerk's salary (15 May – 15 July)	£487.30
HMRC PAYE	£121.80
Chess (website hosting fee)	£6.00
DAPTC (Councillor booklets)	£27.00
Village hall rent	£18.00
Village hall COVID cleansing	£20.00
Total	£1480.60

ii) New signature for Lloyds Treasurer's (no 1) account (for decision): it was agreed that Cllr Buckingham should become a signatory to the council's main bank account. Proposed Cllr House, seconded Cllr Chilcott **Clerk**

iii) Grants to be made from last year's underspend:

- St Michaels Church, Owermoigne £100
- St Catherines by the Sea, Holworth £100
- Adam Jones Charity £100

Proposed by Cllr Buckingham, seconded by Cllr Warren **Clerk**

9 Dorset Councillor's Report: No report

10 Report from Dorset Police: the chair read out a short report from PCSO Alison Donnison (see appendix item 10)

11 Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr House reported that she had received a complaint from a resident regarding a bridleway at the top of Gallows Hill. A field had been planted but no definitive bridleway had been reinstated with 14 days as required by law. The clerk confirmed that she had spoken to both parties to try to resolve the issue, but the bridleway remained inaccessible. Clerk to report to Rights of Way officer **Clerk**

Cllr Warren reported that he hoped to form a group of people who are interested in environmental improvements for the village in the autumn. He went on to say that the gully that had been installed in Wareham Road had not coped with the recent rain, filling up very quickly and then flooding. Clerk to report. **Clerk**

Cllr Warren then updated those present on progress regarding the trees along the A352 that had been earthed up. He had spoken to the tree officer, but the matter had not been followed up. Clerk to report to **Clerk**

12 Planning

- i) The Parish Council planning team has received and dealt with 2 planning consultations since the last meeting:
- WD/D/20/003198 (Dwelling at N Holworth Farm DT2 8NH – change number of bedrooms) – no objection
 - P/HOU/2021/01444 (Court Cottage Moreton Rd DT2 8HY – erect two single storey extensions) – no objection

13 Professional Services

To consider ex-gratia payments for:

- a) the independent examination of the council accounts (opinion presented at May's meeting).
- b) the mandatory annual review of website accessibility. See appendix item 13

The clerk confirmed that the independent examiner was usually given a £25 gift voucher. Proposed by Cllr Chilcott, seconded by Cllr Buckingham. All in favour. She then explained the work that had been undertaken by Mrs Susan Coombs in reviewing the parish council website to confirm that it complied with statutory accessibility requirements. Cllr Buckingham proposed an ex-gratia payment of £100, and this was seconded by Cllr Chilcott. Cllr Buckingham stressed that this amount should be included in next year's precept.

Clerk

Clerk

14 Grass cutting

The chair outlined Dorset Council's position on grass cutting (see appendix item 14). The council is going from 7 to 2 (max 3) cuts per annum. The chair asked councillors if they felt that the parish council should pay for additional cuts via a contractor. There was a discussion about road safety, accessibility and the potential to replant certain areas with a grass substitute. Cllr Buckingham proposed that quotes should be sought for the areas outside the church, the triangle and around the edge of the green in Chilbury Gardens. A member of the public asked if the area along Moreton Road could be considered. Cllr Chilcott seconded Cllr Buckingham's proposals, all were in favour.

Clerk

15 Parish Handyman report

The clerk explained that as the previous handyman had decided not to continue, she had been obliged to seek alternative interest in the contract for handyman. She confirmed the names of the handymen / organisations that she had contacted. Three contractors had been contacted and had decided that they were not interested, and Mr D Follis had submitted a quotation of £850. Councillors agreed that he should be given a 12-month contract, with a view to considering him for

Clerk

additional works, subject to satisfactory Public Liability Insurance and a signed agreement to the terms and conditions outlined on the schedule. Schedule detailed in appendix item 15.

16 Question from Mr P Scull

'I would like to know why the Parish Council feel it is acceptable to allow vehicles to drive through the village at speeds in excess of 90 mph. Also why it is not prepared to doing anything further when the data clearly shows that on average each day 27% of vehicles exceed the 50 mph limit.'

Councillors discussed the issue of what more they could do, given that Dorset Council had been adamant during 2020 that the speed limit would not be reduced. Cllr Buckingham felt that the parish council should keep the situation under review. There was a discussion about the analysis of the figures, and all agreed that certain vehicles drove too fast on the road, and it was very noisy. Cllr Buckingham suggested that the 50mph limit could be moved back to Newgate Cottage, though that might lead to backing up. Cllr Warren concurred that traffic speeds have got worse over the last 2 – 3 years, and it was suggested that the original statistics were misleading. The most recent speed survey was undertaken in October, which was not really representative of the worst periods.

Cllr Buckingham felt that at least four councillors had a pecuniary interest in the matter, and should step back. The parish council confirmed that it supported the reduction of the speed limit, and the chair explained that a SID machine would be expensive, both as a one-off cost and annually. He confirmed that the Highways Authority did not support a reduction in the speed limit, and the parish council had no powers to force the issue. He then went on to suggest that the full council met with the Highways Authority, although Cllr Warren highlighted the lack of knowledge within the council, and suggested that an expert should be present. Cllr House suggested that a survey be sent to all residents. The chair agreed that the subject be kept on the agenda, and the clerk should ask for statistics from the existing speed recording box. Cllr Chilcott proposed that statistics for the whole of August be requested. All were in favour.

Clerk

17 Parish Council use of Social Media

There was a discussion about the use of social media. Whilst many were in favour of continuing the status quo, Cllr Warren felt that putting information on the village Facebook page would send a signal that the parish council wanted to engage. It was suggested that ad-hoc information could be put on the Facebook page, though councillors present felt that the OPC website presence was enough (with one abstention)

18 Defibrillator

Councillors agreed to fund the replacement of the defibrillator (at a cost of £1,800 plus VAT), though continue to seek grants (Cllr Chilcott to send details of Oakland Park Grants Fund to the clerk). Cllr Chilcott proposed, seconded by Cllr House. **Clerk**

19. Community Benefit Fund Application

The application from Owermoigne Village Hall (for a contribution towards works to the rear access and meeting room) has been reviewed and a grant of £4,600 is recommended to council. This related to the remodelling and refurbishment of the back rooms and rear access for the village hall. Village hall expenditure had been approximately £9,200, and the parish council agreed to fund 50% of that sum, £4,600. All in favour, though Cllr Warren asked if council could be informed earlier of projects. **Clerk**

20. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 15 September 2021 at 7.30pm

Appendix: reports accompanying the Agenda

10. Report from Dorset Police

Crimes/Incidents Reported 19/05/2021 – 13/07/2021:

19/05/2021 Attempt theft of Catalytic Convertor (Wareham Road)

20/05/2021 Suspicious Incident – Mark on Road (Wareham Road)

Other:

There have been reports of “Rogue Traders” in Dorchester, please note the following:

Rogue traders will approach a property and offer services such as gardening work, gutter clearing, window cleaning or other house maintenance. They may claim that this work is necessary for their own safety, or that a local council has authorised the work. They carry out unnecessary or overpriced work, at a cost often higher than originally quoted.

NEVER accept work from anyone who offers it over the phone or at your door

NEVER go to the bank with a tradesperson or give them your account details

NEVER let anyone into your property unless you know them

REMEMBER that representatives from utility companies, local authorities or the police will always happily show their identification, wait for a trusted family member or friend to join the homeowner, or move to a different location before conducting any necessary business.

DO NOT accept a phone number they have provided to verify the individual. Use central office numbers from the internet or your local directory to find the legitimate number. You can also keep your account numbers handy and ask the person to provide this number. Ultimately though, if you are unsure: do not let them into your property.

Distraction burglars and rogue traders can target anyone, but the elderly and vulnerable are the most likely to be victimised.

Doorstep criminals may watch houses to establish properties belonging to older people, people living with a physical disability or with mental ill health.

Dorset Police works closely with Trading Standards, Local Authorities, banks and businesses, local organisations and charities to raise awareness of this issue. To make sure advice reaches as many people as possible, particularly those most at risk, the Force needs the help of the whole community.

One of the most important things you can do is to simply talk about doorstep crime.

Doorstep criminals often leave their victims feeling foolish or embarrassed, so people may be less likely to report the crime and important conversations may not take place.

- Encourage friends and family to familiarise themselves with our advice.
- Identify someone nearby who your friend or family member trusts, who they can call for support if they would like to verify someone's identity.
- Remind them that if someone they do not know is at their door, they have no obligation to let them into their property. If someone will not leave: call the police on 999.
- Start a discussion about their home security. Help them to complete a home security self-assessment and put measures in place, for example adding a safety chain to their front door, to help them feel safe. Find this form and more information about home security [here](#).

Poster Link below:

[a4-poster-doorstep-crime-poster.jpg \(1241x1754\) \(dorset.police.uk\)](#)

Doorstep Crime Report Leaflet link below

[doorstep-crime-dl-leaflet.pdf \(dorset.police.uk\)](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance with any police related issues.

Alison Donnison 6500

Police Community Support Officer

13. Professional Services

Website Accessibility Evaluation 12.07.21

owermoignepc.chessck.co.uk was evaluated page by page using a combination of web accessibility evaluation tools to WCAG 2.1 standard.

Accessibility issues identified/Evaluation results as follows.

Page name	Error *	Contrast error **	Alerts ***	Structural elements ****	Feature *****
Home	1		21	2	2
Accessibility			21	2	1
Parish Councillors	1		23	6	1
Facts & Fiction	2		1	1	
News	3		24	6	1
Accounts			39	2	1
Agenda & Minutes	1		21	2	2
Annual Notices		1	25	2	1
Annual Parish Meeting			26	2	1
Asset Register			23	2	1
Code of Conduct	1		21	2	2
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests			22	2	
Insurance Documentation			27	2	1
Planning Apps			21	2	1
Standing Orders	1		21	2	1
Website Privacy	1		21	4	
Community Benefit Fund			27	2	1
Links			23	2	1
Contact Us	1				

Error * refers to redundant or empty headings.

Contrast error ** not enough contrast between text and background – 77 issues from last year resolved.

Alerts *** no page regions, suspicious link, underlined text, redundant title text – tested pdf links – no major issues found.

Structural Element *** layout issues, heading layout & unordered list.

Feature ***** Null or empty alternative text area, 18 issues resolved – not a problem now.

The website contents may be read aloud by using Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome’s inbuilt apps.

Contents may be magnified by changing the users’ accessibility settings and info on using these is widely available.

Being picky -Remove photographs as images not always accessible to everyone.

Upload PDFs or other docs as pages then readable so no need for link/download

Updated Links and checked HTML -

Aid residents with accessibility issues individually if additional benefit would result.

Annual review

[Please note that redirection from owermoigne.pc.btck.co.uk will stop after 28.02.2022.](https://www.owermoigne.pc.btck.co.uk)

The WCAG 2.0 and 2.1 provide a detailed set of guidelines for making web content more accessible to people with a wide variety of disabilities. It is comprehensive but incredibly detailed.

The four principles

WCAG is broadly broken down into four principles — major things that web content **must be** to be considered accessible.

Perceivable: Users must be able to perceive it in some way, using one or more of their senses.

Operable: Users must be able to control UI elements (e.g., buttons must be clickable in some way — mouse, keyboard, voice command etc.).

Understandable: The content must be understandable to its users.

Robust: The content must be developed using well-adopted web standards that will work across different browsers, now and in the future.

14. Report on Grass Cutting from the Chair

REPORT ON HIGHWAY GRASS CUTTING BY DORSET COUNCIL

As a result of the information received from Dorset Council on future highway grass cutting within the Parish (email previously circulated to Members) the Chairman and Vice Chairman met with David Ackerley, Senior Ranger, responsible for this work.

As a result of that meeting it was agreed that he would refer our concerns as to the reduction of cuts from six to two per year particularly the area in front of the Church, including the triangle and the green in Chilbury Gardens to the Head of Place Services. As a result of his meeting Dorset Council have now informed the Parish Council that it will 'do our very best to do three cuts in the Village this year'

The Chairman asked if Dorset Council were prepared to do extra cuts if requested by the Parish Council for the areas referred to above and what the likely cost would be. Dorset Council have replied that if they were to be asked to do extra cuts the cost would be £200.00 plus VAT per day for one man and machines. A further reply has been received saying that it would take two men at least half a day to do the work. Also they have indicated that they would be unlikely to do any extra cuts requested due to shortage of manpower and limited spare time. Any likely request would firstly be agreed and the cost and a price agreed before any cut was made.

The new policy of grass cutting will reduce the fertility of the verge and this will encourage more wildflowers and insects to move in and also reduce the carbon footprint of the mowing operation. Whilst supporting this policy it is felt that the areas in front of the

Church are a focal point and attracts many visitors to the village. Its untidy appearance would give the impression that the Parish Council is not caring.

If the Parish Council wishes to cut these area, then it will have to fund it from Precept. Provision has been made over the past few years to ring fence money for such work having been told that Dorset Council may be looking to Parish Council to take over responsibility.

Council is asked what action, if any, should be taken.

15. Parish Handyman Annual Retainer

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF WORKS 2021 - 22

1. Bus shelters – every other month, clean and trim back adjacent vegetation as necessary. Treat with preservative timber shelter once a year.
2. Village pump – strim grass during growing season every two/three weeks, to ensure a tidy appearance.
3. Village Notice Boards – check and clean quarterly.
4. Seats outside Church – inspect, clean and weed around concrete base quarterly.
5. Footpath to Playing Field – inspect and cut back vegetation to keep clear, twice yearly (late spring and late summer).
6. Clean road signs within village including Homewatch signs twice yearly.
7. Inspect memorial stone at entrance of Village every other month

Other works as required –

Additional works not forming part of the above schedule, as and when requested by the Parish Council, shall be paid at the rate of £15 per hour, or by acceptance of a fixed price quotation.

All materials required to undertake any of the works (both retained and additional\) should be charged separately to the Parish Council and do not form part of this schedule.

Conditions -

The retainer is paid subject to the contractor having satisfactory public liability insurance in place and having provided the Parish Clerk with a copy.

Provide Parish Clerk with a schedule of when works undertaken together with duration of time.