

OWERMOIGNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2021 at 7.30pm at Owermoigne Village Hall

1 Present: Cllrs Andrew Buckingham, Jo Chilcott, John Chilcott, Kim House and Tony Wormald, Dorset Councillor Nick Ireland and ten members of the public

2 Open Forum

The chair read out an email from Ms Tripp, which suggested that whoever had responsibility for the upkeep of the defibrillator in the village also maintained a register of first responders, and possibly provided first aid training. Derek Woodward was strongly of the opinion that it would take too long to contact a first responder, and the defibrillator should be used first. The chair explained that the ambulance service would be on hand to talk people through the process of using the defibrillator by phone in an emergency. The ambulance trust would provide further training when the batteries etc on the current defibrillator were replaced in October. The chair of the village hall committee agreed to publicise any training in the magazine. Dorset Councillor Ireland explained that there is an 'alerter' app ([Get GoodSAM Alerter - Microsoft Store en-GB](#)) for smartphones which allows the user to identify the nearest first responder.

Clerk

The chair then invited Mr Durose to speak about his proposal for a 3-metre wide dual use cycle path between 25b Moreton Road and Sandyholme Holiday Park. He explained the ecological, health and amenity benefits of this, and suggested that Dorset Council was now in a position to fund the capital works. He also felt that Wessex Water could contribute, as a new sewer pipe could accommodate surface water to reduce flooding. There was a discussion about the volume of traffic along Wareham Road, and the size of some of the vehicles using it, as well as the issue that it is a very narrow road, and the path could be infringed upon by agricultural vehicles. Councillors were supportive in principle (subject to a review of any detailed proposal), and Dorset Councillor Ireland agreed to take the issue forward.

DC
Ireland

Mr Follis then spoke about the need to improve habitat areas for wildlife in the village. He suggested that working with a group of residents, certain areas could be made more wildlife-friendly, by either sowing native species, or leaving particular plants to grow. It was suggested that something was put in the village hall magazine inviting residents to contribute to the project, and the parish council would work towards a broad range of ecological projects.

Clerk

3 Apologies: Cllr Warren. The chair welcomed Cllr Jo Chilcott to her first meeting

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

5 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14 July 2021, as previously circulated, were agreed as a true record. Proposed Cllr House, seconded Cllr John Chilcott

6 Matters Arising

The clerk gave a short verbal report updating all present on progress on issues raised at the last meeting:

- Wessex Grounds Maintenance had been commissioned to undertake 4 grass cuts annually to the verge in front of the church, the triangle and around Chilbury Gardens, to augment the two cuts that Dorset Council had committed to
- The handyman had taken up his duties; bus shelters had been cleaned, and one treated with preservative and road signs had been cleaned.
- The noticeboard by the church had been rubbed down and stained
- The contract to rub down and repaint swings had been let to the handyman
- The speed camera results for the bank holiday weeks had been requested from Dorset Council

DC Ireland added that the council tree officer would be on site checking the trees along the A352 (raised at the previous meeting) on 16 September.

7 Finance

i) The following payments were agreed:

• Wessex Maintenance (Jul & Aug)	205.76
• Wessex Maintenance (Initial cut and collect)	194.40
• Mr D Follis (first half year retainer payment)	425.00
• Mr D Follis (sand and stain noticeboard)	150.00
• Owermoigne Village Hall rent (amended from agenda)	21.00
• Stationery (to clerk)	5.00
• D Malley (payroll half year fee)	54.00
• Wicksteed (playground inspection)	72.00
• Alvian (resurfacing around roundabout)	1,188.00
• Clerk's salary (15 Jul – 14 Sep)	487.39
• HMRC (PAYE)	121.80
	2,924.35

Clerk

ii) The request from St Michael's Church (letter previously circulated) for grant funding was agreed to be considered at the council's May 2022 meeting, where councillors would make decisions about how to allocate any budget underspends

Clerk

8 Dorset Councillor's Report

DC Ireland gave an overview of the financial and operational issues at Dorset

Council. He explained that the council was just coming into the budget period, and finances were challenging, not least because of the government's decision to raise national insurance, which would impact significantly on the council as one of the area's biggest employers. He felt that the council would be unlikely to benefit from the proposed government investment in social care, as the bulk of the money is likely to go to the NHS. He said that most larger meetings were still being held remotely, and that although some people were coming back to work in County Hall, South Walks House had been closed (except for the library).

He went on to talk about how all council services were struggling to meet targets, because of Covid, staff shortages and lack of funds. Planning services are very slow, planning officers are difficult to attract, especially as house prices in Dorset have soared recently. Enforcement services were also finding it difficult to keep up with demand.

He then addressed the waste collection issue – restricted collections, mostly recycling, were being missed as a result of not enough drivers and vehicles. The council found it difficult to attract drivers as pay rates were not attractive enough, and it had lost several vehicles in a recent fire and couldn't afford to replace them. He spoke about South Walks House, saying it was likely to be converted to flats.

He mentioned that a councillor colleague, Cherry Brooks, had been told that a house was being built in a barn at Holworth. Cllr House confirmed that as far as she was aware, there was no house in a barn there.

Cllr Buckingham expressed disappointment that the waste collection service, which had performed so well during Covid, had now deteriorated. He suggested that senior staff at the council were paid extremely well compared with operational and manual workers. He also felt that it would be appropriate for South Walks House to be used as affordable housing, which received support from those present. Dorset Councillor Ireland confirmed that the Liberal Democrat party had proposed that to the council but had received no support. The chair asked DC Ireland to relay that the parish council supported the Liberal Democrat's position on South Walks House

9 Report from Dorset Police

PCSO Donnison had been away, so no report was available

10 Parish Councillors' Reports

The chair spoke about Cllr Jo Chilcott acting as the lead and contact for younger people in the village and taking the lead role on the playing field (from Cllr Buckingham). He also mentioned that there had recently been a film crew at the bus shelter, making a piece about the difficulties faced by young mothers and wheelchair users when using public transport.

11 Planning

Cllr Buckingham spoke about the following planning applications that had been considered since the last meeting:

- P/HOU/2021/02546 20 Moreton Road Owermoigne. Erect wooden garage, demolish existing porch and rebuild. No objection, although the planning group were unhappy about the quality of the plans
- P/VOC/2021/01787 Land north of East Farm Lane. Approval of reserved matters: no objection
- P/FUL/2021/02216 Watercombe House. Extension of agricultural building: under consideration, but the parish council would like to see all planning conditions from the previous application met before consent granted
- P/COU/2021/02105 Land N of East Farm Lane. Change of use, 2 flats to 1 dwelling: under consideration
- P/HOU/2021 /02729 11a Kit Lane Owermoigne. Erection of single storey conservatory: under consideration

The chair raised that Dorset Council had stopped sending out neighbour notifications for planning applications, as it was not a statutory obligation. Dorset Council also expected applicants to display site notices themselves. He suggested that if the parish council strongly objected to the cessation of neighbour notifications, it should contact Dorset Council.

There was a specific question about planning permission from a member of the public, but no one felt qualified to answer without checking details and reviewing legislation.

12 Playing field inspection report

Cllr Buckingham discussed the most recent playing field inspection report. He highlighted that although most of the findings were the same as last year, since it was undertaken the area around the spirowheel has been resurfaced, a contract to repaint the swings had been let, maintenance of the paths had been transferred to the handyman's schedule and work on the swing chains would be undertaken in the next few months.

13 Dedicated email addresses for councillors

The chair had already circulated an email from Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils which explained that if councillors used their private email accounts for council business, any legal challenge could mean that private emails on those accounts could be viewed by the police and the courts, as well as council ones. He encouraged councillors to use a dedicated email account for all council business

Cllrs

14 Dorset Council Community Governance Review

The chair explained that this review gave members of the public and other bodies the opportunity to consider town and parish boundaries, numbers of councillors and other governance issues. He suggested the councillors complete the online questionnaire, and the clerk convey to Dorset Council that Owermoigne Parish Council was happy with no change to its arrangements. DC Ireland confirmed that the review was a statutory obligation and was overdue by some time as a result of the recent

Clerk

restructure. He also mentioned that residents of Ringstead were considering forming a parish meeting (which does not raise a precept or employ a clerk), and that Osmington Parish Council, which covered a part of Ringstead, did not object to this.

15 Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 20 October at 7.30pm (closed budget meeting)

Wednesday 17 November at 7.30pm (open public meeting)

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