OWERMOIGNE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF OWERMOIGNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2026 IN THE VILLAGE HALL. THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 7.30 P.M.

Public Open Forum

A representative of St Michael's Church had submitted a letter earlier in the day regarding a request for an increase in funding towards churchyard maintenance. The Parish Council was thanked for its previous grant of £200 towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

It was reported that the annual cost of maintaining the churchyard was £1,650 and that the Church's annual income and expenditure showed a deficit of £3,240. The Church was currently looking at ways to address this and increase its income. An event was being held on 28th November as one way of raising additional funds, although it was acknowledged that there was limited scope to increase income.

A further letter from the Rector was also shared. It was noted that Broadmayne Parish Council provided £1,500 towards churchyard maintenance. The churchyard was described as a community facility, including for burials, and it was explained that additional financial support would be needed to maintain it to its current standard. It was hoped that the Parish Council would consider increasing its funding contribution towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

In response, it was noted that this was not an agenda item, but that it had been helpful to hear the concerns directly. It was agreed that a copy of the letter would be scanned and circulated to all Councillors. It was also suggested that a brief breakdown of the Church's running costs would be helpful to enable the Council to better understand the quoted annual expenditure of approximately £18,000.

The meeting opened at 7.35 p.m.

Attendance: Cllr Paul Warren (Chair), Cllr Andrew Buckingham, Cllr Jo Chilcott, Cllr John Chilcott, Cllr Kim House and Emma Evans (Clerk).

Two members of the public.

1 Co-option of Councillor

It was proposed by Cllr Jo Chilcott , seconded by Cllr Kim House and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-
That Howard Jones be co-opted as a Councillor of Owermoigne Parish Council for 2026-27.
Howard Jones and the Clerk signed the Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Howard Jones was welcomed to the Council and provided with a copy of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. It was noted that the Clerk would ensure Cllr Jones had access to DAPTC for training such as Code of Conduct and was provided with a Parish Council email address as soon as possible.

2 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies on this occasion.

3 Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

No declarations were made on this occasion.

4 Draft Budget and Precept 2027-28

To consider and review the draft budget and proposed precept request for the financial year 2027–28

Members considered and reviewed the draft budget and proposed precept request for the financial year 2027–28.

It was noted that £200 had been spent from the underspend carried forward from the previous financial year in respect of grants. It was also noted that grant applications would usually be considered in May, following the start of the new financial year.

Members worked through the individual budget headings, including the Clerk's salary. The projected salary increase was discussed, together with a review of the pension contribution, and adjustments were made to the draft budget.

The payroll arrangements were also discussed, including a check of the tax and employer liability requirements. The Clerk would contact payroll to clarify these matters. VAT reclaim arrangements were also noted.

Further items requiring clarification included:

- The date of the tree survey and the schedule of future surveys, including those relating to the playing field and trees.
- The salt bin and arrangements for delivery, to be checked with Dorset Council.

It was **AGREED:-** That Cllr Buckingham would make the necessary amendments to the draft budget and that the Clerk would review the payroll arrangements to be brought back to the next meeting.

5 Investment and Reserves Strategy

To consider the adoption of the draft Investment and Reserves Strategy

Members considered the draft policy and the contents were agreed. Thanks were given to Cllr Buckingham for his work on the policy.

It was **AGREED:-** That the word 'Draft' be removed and the final version would be brought to the next meeting.

6 Date of next Parish Council meeting: Wednesday 18th November 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.