

Osmington Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Mr N Ireland (Chairman and DC Councillor), Cllr. Mrs H Ballard, Cllr Mrs F Groves, Cllr Mr B Kuflik, Cllr Mr C Merkle, Cllr Mrs S Miller and Cllr Mr V White.

Also in attendance: Miss Leigh Johnson (Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

12/24 Public Participation Time

- 12.1 The landowner of the White Horse introduced himself and informed members that he was happy to answer any queries regarding the landmark.
- 12.2 A resident requested an update regarding an Article 4 directive for the whole of Ringstead. The Clerk would provide an update when further information was received.
- 12.3 A resident asked about ownership of the steps leading down to Ringstead beach. The Chairman informed the resident that the steps were the responsibility of the National Trust and there were plans to make repairs this year.

13/24 Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

14/24 Declarations of Interest and Grants of Dispensation

There were no declarations of interest or grants of dispensation.

15/24 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16/24 Matters arising from the minutes

7.3 – The landowner at Ringstead had now closed the entrance that had been created and removed the culverting. It was confirmed that no camping would take place at this location.

8.3 – The trees on the playing field had been felled. Once the ground had dried out the branches would be collected and shredded.

17/24 Planning Matters

The following planning decisions were noted: -

- 17.1 **P/VOC/2023/05368** – The Sunray, Main Road, Osmington, DT3 6EU – Change of use and conversion of existing buildings to residential, change of use of land to domestic curtilage with new boundary walls, associated parking, opening a pedestrian access onto Preston Road and associated works to wall fronting highway. Alterations to the public house including demolish an area of flat roofing and associated walls, demolition of a northern ground floor bay, the replacement of the dilapidated orangery, extension to the terrace, the relocation of the patron entrance to the public house. Provision of a new pedestrian exit onto Preston Road (Without compliance with condition 3 of the planning permission P/FUL/2023/01223 – to install Timberlook uPVC green windows – **Refused**.

It was noted that the applicant for this planning consultation had undertaken a survey of the drainage due to water run off from the site. It was hoped that a connection could be made with the drain at Chapel Lane, however it was subsequently identified that this drain was the responsibility of Dorset Council and as such, no private development would be able to connect to it. Alternative solutions were being sought.

17.2 None.

18/24 Parish Amenities

18.1 Members discussed the grass and hedge cutting quotes for 2024/25. Whilst the last contractor had provided a good service, it was agreed to appoint the contractor with the lower quote.

It was **resolved** that Halcyon Landscapes be awarded the contract for 2024/25.

18.2 The Playing Field Officer provided a brief update regarding the playing field and play area. Some minor defects had been identified in the operational annual check and a quote would be provided by Weymouth Town Council for the repairs.

Cllr White had approached Playsafe with regards to possible upgrades to the play area equipment. It was agreed that a specification and cost for a multi-play unit be sourced.

18.3 It was **resolved** that the Annual Spring Clean be scheduled for Saturday 27th April 2024.

18.4 Dorset Council had asked if the parish council would make a 50% contribution to the spraying of the White Horse. The landowner informed members that he had previously offered a 50% contribution to the rangers for this and was happy to stand by that offer.

It was **resolved** that the parish council decline the offer to contribute and thanked the landowner for his willingness to contribute.

19/24 Highways and Rights of Way

19.1 A report regarding the blocked drains in the village was pending from Dorset Council.

19.2 Members discussed the water run off at Glebe Close which had been exacerbated by the installation of a sleeping policeman. Dorset Council was due to meet with PGL and an update would be provided at a future meeting.

19.3 A resident had reported water being discharged from a property onto the main road. This would be investigated by Dorset Council.

19.4 Cllr Miller reported blocked storm drains on the back path/cow path at Osmington Mills. Despite a digger being deployed to discharge the water the situation remained the same.

19.5 It was noted that the condition of the Roman Road continued to deteriorate. Residents were looking at solutions and Cllr Kuflik informed members that he had made two reports to Dorset Council regarding the run-off of debris from the bridleway.

19.6 The Chairman provided an update regarding the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and the numerous speed limit related changes that could be implemented and which had been approved by Dorset Council's Road Safety Officer.

The Clerk provided an overview of the financial position, including reserve funds.

The cost to implement all the changes would be in the region of £21,300 which would need to be wholly paid for by the parish council.

Three options were presented to members for consideration and these were discussed and debated in detail.

After much consideration The Chairman proposed that Options 1 and 2 be approved at a cost in the region of £17,600. This was seconded by Cllr Ballard.

A counter proposal was made to consult residents at the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Kuflik.

A recorded vote took place and it was **resolved** 5:2 that Options 1 and 2 be approved.

Options 1 and 2 included implementation of the following;

30mph – Mills Road and the road to Ringstead - £6,700
50mph – Poxwell to Osmington - £3,300
30mph extension – Western end and Eastern end combined - £3,100
40mph extension – Poxwell to past Ringstead turning - £700
SIDS work - £800
TRO costs - £3,000

The following part would not be included;

20mph – Chapel Lane and Church Lane - £3,700

20/24 Finance

20.1 The cashbook balances, budget report and bank reconciliation were received and approved.

20.2 It was **resolved** to approve the following payments: -

Dorset Council – Grass and hedge cutting 2023/24	£4869.26
Leigh Johnson – salary/expenses – January/February	£817.96
HMRC Tax – January/February	£113.80
Osmington Village Hall – Hire for January 8 th 2024	£20.00
DAPTC – Training events	£92.00

It was **resolved** to retrospectively approve the following payment/s made in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.1.

Hugo Fox – website fee for February	£11.99
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20.3 Members considered a number of documents prepared by The Clerk in readiness for the annual audit of the financial year 2023/24.

It was **resolved** that;

(a) The Council's Risk Assessment be approved for consideration by the Internal Auditor;

- (b) The Council's Asset Register be amended as discussed/ approved for consideration by the Internal Auditor;
- (c) The Internal Controls be noted; and
- (d) Paula Harding of Barker Fix be appointed as Internal Auditor for the financial year 2023/24.

21/24 Council Matters

21.1 Cllr Kuflik provided an update as the DAPTC Area Representative. He had attended a Zoom meeting which was not very well attended. It was noted that the parish council was in a minority as every councillor place was filled and there were many parish councils which were barely quorate. Cllr Kuflik informed members that there were some useful videos on the DAPTC website regarding standing as a councillor in the forthcoming elections. A meeting would take place in April to consider achieving a companies limited guarantee to reduce liability. The next meeting was scheduled for May/June.

21.2 Members noted the dates of future ordinary meetings and agreed that the Annual General meeting be held on Monday 13th May. It was **resolved** that all future ordinary meetings be held in The Constable Room with a flexibility to move to the main hall for large attendances by residents. The AGM would be held in the main hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting date was agreed as the 9th June, however the Clerk informed members after the meeting that the meeting needed to be held by 1st June. Members agreed that the APM be held on Sunday 28th April.

21.3 It was noted that the newly installed gate at Church Lane was left open most of the time. Cllr Miller informed members that this was only closed when cattle were in the area.

21.4 Cllr Groves informed members that the coastal path at The Smugglers was overgrown and this would be reported.

21.5 Cllr White reported that the footpath near to Craig's Dairy was overgrown and this would be reported.

21.6 Cllr Kuflik reported that the list of councillors was not up to date on some platforms. The Clerk informed members that she was aware of this and would update the necessary sites.

21.7 Cllr Kuflik asked if the defibrillators in the village were registered as they did not appear on a google search. The Chairman informed members that they were both registered with the South West Ambulance Trust and the Clerk offered to research registration on other sites.

The meeting ended at 8.34pm.

Chairman

Date