

# Osmington Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllr Mrs S Miller (Chair), Cllr. Mrs H Ballard, Cllr Mr N Ireland (Dorset Cllr), Cllr Mr M Johnson, Cllr Mr B Kuflik and Cllr Mr J Little.

**Also in attendance:** Miss Leigh Johnson (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

## 46/25 Public Participation Time

- 46.1 The Chair of the village hall provided a copy of the lease – deed of variation along with a covering letter from their solicitor and updated plan. He confirmed that the trustee names and CIO number had been updated.

The Chair of the parish council stated that an informal meeting would be held for members of the parish council to review the amended lease, after which feedback would be provided at a future meeting.

A resident asked why the meeting would only be open to members of the parish council and the Chair responded that this would enable participants to read and study the proposed lease openly and transparently.

Another resident commented that it was necessary for all democratically elected members to have the space to discuss the lease properly.

Cllr Johnson informed the meeting that there was an option to have a closed meeting to discuss legal matters such as contracts. He understood the concerns raised and reassured residents that the outcome of discussions would be reported to the next meeting.

- 46.2 The Chair of the village hall referred to draft minute 44/25 of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and asked The Village Hall Officer who he was being transparent to.

Cllr Johnson stated that as Village Hall Officer, he would openly portray his view and opinion on matters as his own view and not that of the parish council.

## 47/25 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Medrecki.

## 48/25 Declarations of Interest and Grants of Dispensation

There were no declarations of interest or grants of dispensation.

## 49/25 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 30<sup>th</sup> May and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to an amendment to the 9<sup>th</sup> June minutes as follows;

**44/25** – Paragraph 7 – “Cllr Johnson informed members that it was his intention to hold an informal get together with all trustees of the village hall. The newly created role of Village Hall Officer was both necessary and important to provide an independent focus for communication and to work together with the village hall trustees to resolve

immediate issues regarding the lease now and develop a good working partnership in the future.”

## **50/25 Matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## **51/25 Planning Matters**

The following planning decisions were noted: -

- 51.1 **P/HOU/2025/02004** – Cliff House, Access to church, Holworth, DT2 8NJ – Enlarge first floor dormer on south elevation. Install fibre-cement cladding to the south aspect gable wall and west aspect external wall – **Granted**.
- 51.2 **P/Ful/2025/01845** – Land off Shortlake Lane, Osmington, Weymouth, DT3 6HN – Demolish existing stable and stores. Erect new stable building – **Granted**.
- 51.3 **P/HABR/2024/06156** – Ringstead Farm, Ringstead, Dorchester, DT2 8NF – Notification of intention to hold temporary camp site from 23 May to 9 June and 22 July to 1 September 2025 for 60 days – **Granted**.

The following planning application was considered:-

- 51.4 **P/FUL/2025/03152** – Ringstead Farm, Ringstead Dairy, DT2 8NF – Refurbishment and change of use of redundant dairy barn to private function building for private parties, farm and educational meetings. Small social events including wedding and birthday parties and to provide a private “village hall” [Sui Generis Clas Use].

It was **resolved** to support this application.

## **52/25 Parish Amenities**

- 52.1 In the absence of the Playing Field Officer, The Chair provided an update regarding the play area project, funding and grass cutting. It was proving difficult to obtain quotes for the new swings although contact had been made with several different suppliers. It was noted that the Chair had spoken to the CEO at Waterside and there may be an opportunity for help.

The grass cutters had done a good job and the field and surrounding area looked well maintained.

The Chair asked the Clerk to follow up the play area inspections and obtain copies of all the inspections that had taken place.

The Clerk informed members that the bid for a small capital grant from Dorset Council had been successful and an award of £9,700 had been approved towards the purchase and installation of the new swings.

- 52.2 Cllr Kuflik provided an update on some points that he had raised with Dorset Council and other village matters.

The overgrown hedge from Rowans to Northill Manor Lodge had been reported. It was noted that this was the responsibility of the landowner, not Dorset Council. Dorset Council had contacted the landowner regarding this although no work had taken place to date.

The overgrown hedge at The Sunray would be cut back by the owners.

Although a good job had been done to address issues on Roman Road, shale remained on Village Street and needed to be swept away.

The path to Craig's was still overgrown and inaccessible to pushchairs and buggies. The Dorset Council Rangers had cut a path on the opposite side of the road in error and this was now also overgrown.

Cllr Kuflik and his neighbour had tackled the brambles that were overhanging the thatched bus shelter. There was still some weeding to do around the area and it was suggested that a local gardener could undertake this work on a regular basis.

52.3 The Chair informed members that Mr Taylor would be happy to clean the bus shelter at Plough Close when required.

52.4 The village hall lease had been discussed during public participation time and there were no further updates to add.

52.5 Cllr Little reported that the public meeting held to discuss the Community Emergency Response Plan had been well attended and several volunteers had been recruited for administrative tasks. Further volunteers would be needed for deployment tasks during an emergency. It was noted that Cllr Little had joined the Local Resilience Forum which was very helpful.

52.6 The Clerk provided an update regarding a replacement bin at the Pixon Barn layby and a 1100L bin at Osmington Mills. After consideration of the costs, it was agreed that as an interim measure, a 1100L bin be placed at Osmington Mills from 18<sup>th</sup> July for a period of 6 weeks. A resident offered to speak to Hall and Woodhouse regarding possible supply and sponsorship of this bin as a more permanent feature in the future.

52.7 Cllr Little asked members if they felt the need to review and update the Osmington Community Plan as it was outdated and it may be beneficial to make some changes.

Cllr Ireland informed members that Community Plans held no weight in planning terms.

Cllr Ballard thought it would be useful to ask residents for their input into the plan.

It was **resolved** that the Community Plan be reviewed over the coming year and ideas for changes be welcomed.

52.8 A request had been received from a resident to update/replace the Jubilee plaque situated at the play area due to the passing of the Queen.

Members considered the request and agreed that as this was an historic plaque it would not be appropriate to replace it.

### **53/25 Highways and Rights of Way**

53.1 The speed limit roundels had been implemented.

53.2 The SID had been fixed and a new security box housing installed.

53.3 Some strimming had taken place along the Right of Way from Sutton Poyntz to Osmington.

- 53.4 It was noted that the fence that was erected from Ringstead to The Smugglers Inn for the cattle had been cut several times.

#### **54/25 Finance**

- 54.1 The cashbook balances, budget report and bank reconciliation were received and approved.
- 54.2 It was **resolved** to approve the following payments: -

Leigh Johnson – salary/expenses – May and June (includes backdated pay increase given by the parish council)	£1177.82
HMRC Tax – May and June	£233.00
Osmington Village Hall – Hire for June and July	£40.00
Paula Harding – Internal Audit	£125.00
DAPTC – Annual subscription and email account	£367.60
Dorset Council – SID screen protectors and security box	£381.86
Dorset Council – SID solar and bracket- newly commissioned site	£336.00

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

Hugo Fox – website fee for June	£11.99
Unity Trust bank charges for June	£6.00
Hugo Fox – Annual website fee (from July)	£143.86

#### **55/25 Council Matters**

- 55.1 The Chair of the village hall informed members that he had arranged three dates to hold surgeries for any resident who may have been concerned regrading the village hall lease and governance. No appointments or enquiries had been made.
- 55.2 Cllr Ireland stated that the Dorset Council Local Plan consultation would commence shortly. He encouraged members to submit individual responses as well as a parish council submission.

The meeting ended at 7.47pm.

Chairman

Date