

Annual Parish Meeting 20th June 2016

MOPC Chairman's Report

The Council

Your Parish Council has met 6 times (4 meetings, 1 AGM, 1 EGM) in the past Year.

- There has been no requirement for election to the Parish Council in the past year.
- During the Past year Michael Kowalewski resigned as the Parish Clerk and Lindsay Reeve took up the role.
- Michael was Co-opted, with his consent, on the council to fill the vacancy of 1 seat.
- At the AGM last month, I was re-elected as Chairman and Michael Kowalewski elected as Deputy Chairman.

Your Council currently comprises:

Jon Burden	Chair
Michael Kowalewski	Deputy Chair
James Evans	Highways Officer
Anna Roxburgh	Playground Committee
Pete Coverdale	Playground Committee
Martin Smith	Financial Officer
Charles Swallow	Without Portfolio
Lindsay Reeve (Clerk)	

- Mary Penfold remains as our district councillor.
- Matthew Hall has recently been elected as Dorset County Councillor for Sherborne Rural replacing the retired Michael Bevan.
- Due to a change in government legislation which requires complete openness in the affairs of the parish council the Melbury Osmond website, which up until recently has been maintained by Steve Galliver, has now been re-hosted and is entirely run and maintained by the parish clerk. This transition took a considerable amount of effort by a number of people but I would personally like to thank Steve Galliver for his efforts on the website prior to the changeover and his help and advice during the transition. I'd also like to thank Roger Caesley for his advice and assistance, Anna Roxburgh who provided support and Lindsay Reeve who implemented the changeover and now manages the website.

The website now delivers full access to all aspects of the parish council's affairs, including finances, assets minutes etc. The web address remains the same and can be found at www.melburyosmond.co.uk.

Finance

- The financial position has been posted on the web site. As of end of last financial year (March 2016) we have £2365.34 in the bank but we are anticipating quite heavy outlays over the next few years, for example on the playground.
- We have re-established an annual donation to the Village Hall to help with the running costs. This donation was agreed by the council as it is considered that the Village Hall is a community asset which the whole parish can benefit from. This year the PC donated £250.

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- It was agreed that the Clerks salary should be increased to reflect the increase in effort required in maintaining the village website. The clerk's salary was increased by £100 a year to £600.
- The PC voted to increase the Precept by 10% for the current Fiscal year. This was to cover extra expense, such as village hall donation, increasing clerk's salary and to address the long-term fiscal position of a budget deficit in five years.

Council Affairs.

- Planning. Ilchester estate applied to West Dorset District Council to close the Holywell dairy and move the operations to the Melbury dairy. Ilchester Estates gave an informal presentation to members of the council so that they would be fully informed during the extraordinary planning meeting. Although planning permission was granted for the change Ilchester Estates have decided to postpone the move in light of uncertainty over the EU referendum and a continued depression in the price of milk. There have been several domestic applications made which have had no objections raised from the council.
- State of the Highways. James continues to do a great job on getting potholes fixed properly with the help the West Dorset Highways department. Many thanks..
- Our relationship with Ilchester Estates is good with regular correspondence between the PC and Ben Jones.
- Thank you to Charles Swallow for heading up the Clean for the Queen initiative and to everyone who assisted and we now hope to make this an annual event.