

MELBURY OSMOND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Venue: Reading Room

Date: 9th November 2015

Time: 19:30

Present:

Council: Jon Burden (Chair), James Evans (Vice-Chair), Anna Roxburgh, Michael Kowalewski
Martin Smith, Charles Swallow, Lindsay Reeve (Clerk)

WDDC Mary Penfold, Cllr from Frome Valley Ward

Public: Three members of the public were present

1. Open Meeting:

The Transparency code was raised by Roger Caesley and the fact that the PC, not a third party, had to enter details onto the website to comply with the code. It was proposed, and agreed, that RC would liaise with AR and the Clerk to find out about grants available for a dedicated council website.

2. Apologies:

Pete Coverdale, PC Alex Bishop and Michael Bevan

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes were amended to correct **bio digester** to **bio digester feeder** and were then approved unanimously and signed by JB.

4. Matters Arising

The bridge discussed at the last meeting has been repaired by WDDC

Dog fouling issues were raised with the dog warden who visited the village and said he would return at different times of day to monitor the situation. A notice was placed in The Chimes and on The Pump House notice board, also letters have been sent to holiday home owners asking them if they would perhaps leave a supply of "pooh bags" in their property.

JB asked the Estate if they could ensure that farm vehicles complied with the agreed traffic system and Ben Jones for the Estate said he would re-iterate this to the farm manager, Robbie Taylor, who said he would remind the tractor drivers.

Ben Jones arranged for the green road sign for the units in Townsend Lane to be cleared of overgrowing branches to improve its visibility to traffic.

5. Village Hall Donation

In view of the financial implications that repairs and maintenance to the village playground will place on council funds it was proposed that discussion on any donation to the village hall be postponed until the playground issue was resolved. It was acknowledged that the village hall plays a vital part in village life and does need to be supported.

6. Playground

The disparity between the May ROSPA report on the condition of the playground, and the independent one carried out in October needs to be resolved. ROSPA stated that the playground had some issues needing attention but was in a fit state to be used but the independent report said the whole playground was near the end of its life, that the fort was beyond economical repair, and that with the other repairs needed it would cost over £4,000 plus vat. It was proposed that the

ROSPA inspector be contacted again by PC and asked to do another inspection and that the PC should comply with their recommendations.

It was also proposed that Sue Haskett be approached and asked to regularly weed the playground at the PC's expense.

7. Highways Report

JE reported on three issues

1. Pot holes on the road near the tennis court –
2. Two holes in the road by Tepee in Drive End.
3. The surface by the road at the A37 junction was washing away

Highways were already looking at the last issue and they were to be notified of the other two

8. Tennis Club Tree Response from the Estate

JB read out the letter of response from the Estate, which had been e mailed to councillors already, and also showed them the tenancy agreement between the Estate and PC for the ground the court is on. This agreement clearly shows that the trees causing the root problems fall within the demised letting to the Parish Council.

It was proposed that as the trees had been regularly pruned but they were causing increasing problems, including some damage to the village hall, the best course of action was to remove them subject to consultation with the WDDC tree officer and the Estate.

It was proposed that JB would contact BJ at the Estate and ask whether he objected to the trees being felled at the PC's expense.

9. Closure of Holywell Farm

JB was invited to a meeting with BJ and RT at the Estate to discuss the possible closure of Holywell Dairy.

It was agreed that once, the planning application had gone in from the Estate Ben Jones would be invited to present to the PC so that he could answer concerns relating to traffic, noise and the existing infrastructure

10. AOB

a) CS believed there was a missing bollard on the corner of the junction with the A37 – JE to check and report to the Highways dept.

b) CS raised the issue of debris left by contractors after hedge cutting particularly the branches left on land near the bridge at the bottom of Barton Hill. JB said that as it was on private land (the Estate's) so it was not an issue the PC could deal with.

c) CS raised the issue of the white van parked on the verge by the A37 junction blocking visibility and a member of the public agreed– Clerk to contact PC Alex Bishop again to raise concerns.

d) CS asked if Michael Bevan had contacted the Estate, as he agreed to some months ago, to discuss the verge destruction by farm vehicles. JE agreed to contact MB to check the status.

e) AR investigated, but with no joy, the possibility of a grant for the village hall. Cllr Penfold gave her another contact to approach at WDDC – Mike Thornley in the Leisure and Tourism department.

f) It was suggested that the PC do a mail shot to all residents explaining the issues with the playground with the view of gauging their support for the continuation of the facility.

13. Date of Next Meeting

11th January 2016