

Melbury Osmond Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 30th August, 7.30pm 2022 at Melbury Osmond Village Hall

Present: Cllr Paley, Cllr Smith, Cllr Coverdale, Cllr Ward (acting clerk), Dorset Cllr Penfold, 3 members of the public.

30.08.01 Apologies; Cllr Holtham

30.08.02 Cllr Ward agreed to take on the role of temporary clerk and responsible financial officer.

30.08.03 Minutes of meetings held on 11th April and 23rd May 2022 were unanimously approved by members of the PC.

30.08.04 Open meeting:

Report from Dorset Cllr ~~Penfold~~Penfold.

Dorset has been selected as part of a pilot scheme to trial various locations of electric car recharging points.

The Tour of Britain cycle race. On Saturday 10th September (Stage 7) will take place from West Bay to Ferndown, passing through a number of Dorset villages around Dorchester. See Dorset council website for details including temporary road closures.

Parishioners expressed concern about the poor state of some the roads running through the village, especially the highway that runs to the junction with the A37. Concern was also expressed over water collecting at the bottom of Brakes Hill. Land drains require attention and cleaning. Highways have been contacted about this matter. It was decided that an inspection by the Highways department was required.

The issue of the hedge by the reading room encroaching the road was raised, and with new owners due to take possession of the property concerned, it was considered a good opportunity that, via the estate's agents, they should be made aware of the dangers posed by hedges encroaching the highway.

30.08.05 Matters discussed

Footpaths update;

Reference correspondence received. Cllr Smith has spoken to the estate regarding clearing overgrowth and nettles along the Meads footpath, and will notify Dorset Council of the need to repair or replace the broken footpath sign. Options for the surface of the footpath repair either by re-tarmacking or gravelling will be assessed.

Correspondence was addressed regarding the upcoming public inquiry to be held on 20th September at Melbury Osmond village hall, concerning the footpath that runs from Fuzzy Grounds, Melbury Osmond, to Higher Holt Farm. Concern has been expressed about the position that the PC

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will be taking regarding the public enquiry. Cllr Smith read out a “statement of intent” from Dorset Council that they will remain neutral regarding the forthcoming inquiry. The council are not leading the current drive for inquiry into retaining the footpath from Holt Mill. In respect of action the council is neutral (agreed by all councillors). Mindful of a desire to maintain a serviceable and positive relationship with Velcourt Ltd and Ilchester Estates the council is nevertheless supportive of access to as many public rights of way for the use and enjoyment of local residents as is possible.

Highways update;

See section 30.08.04 (above)

Play area (and ground maintenance);

There is a requirement to find somebody to mow and weed the area around the playground. An advert will be placed in the Chimes and on the village website. It was suggested that professional gardeners working at various properties in the village could also be approached with the offer of extra work to keep the area around the playground tidy. Cllr Coverdale to prepare advert and investigate this.

Bench for the boules court;

A bench should have been ordered about three months ago. Cllr Paley to check the status of this matter with the outgoing parish clerk.

Council notice board;

Attempts will be made to open the lock using various keys, and if this fails then the lock will be cut out and replaced.

Jubilee copse and potential water feature restoration;

One hundred and fifteen mixed native trees have been ordered and are due to be delivered mid-November. A working party will be set up to organise the location and the planting of the trees at the western end of the playing field.

30.08.06 Update on finances;

The PC was solvent as of the end of March 2022. No accounts have been produced by the outgoing parish clerk from that date. This is being chased.

30.08.07 Planning applications;

None

30.08.08 Correspondence;

Correspondence received from John Senior and Steve Galiver (see section 05 above)

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30.08.09 AOB;

A welcome pack for new villagers has been received (latest version available is March 2021). This will be updated and placed on the village website.

Cllr Coverdale congratulated the organisers of this year's village show and expressed gratitude to the people involved for all their hard work.

30.08.10 Clarifying decisions;

Cllr Smith to contact Dorset Council regarding repair / replacement of the footpath post. Cllr Smith has also offered to approach a professional gardener regarding playground work.

Cllr Coverdale to place advert in the Chimes and on the village website in the near future for a person to maintain and weed the area around the playground.

30.08.11 Date of the next meeting;

Thursday, 22nd September 2022; (To be held in the Reading Room). Extraordinary meeting to approve finances.

Tuesday, 8th November 2022 (To be held in Village Hall). Regular MOPC meeting.

Meeting closed at 20:14