

Melbury Osmond Parish Council

Minutes for the meeting held on 16th January 2017 at the Reading Room.

Present:

Council:

Councillor Kowalewski (chairmen), Councillor Roxburgh, Councillor Smith, Councillor Coverdale, Councillor Swallow, Councillor Evans, District Cllr Mary Penfold, County Cllr Matt Hall.

Public: 3 members of the public were present.

1. Opening Meeting:

A question was raised about the traffic bollards stuck on the greenery, the council have contacted Highways but have had no response regarding this. It has been suggested that we move and store them.

The mess around the Meads and the footpath (dog faeces and overgrown hedges) were brought up by a member of public, they had asked if this will be sorted and if so by whom The estate has been asked about this but have informed everyone that if they would like to rectify this can they please clear the debris and that they will not do this. A working party was suggested for this work. The dog warden has been to the village regarding the dog faeces and has put up a notice, also all villagers to be informed that if they see anyone who has allowed their dog to mess and not been a responsible owner and picked it up they can contact the dog warden and report this matter. This matter will be put on the agenda for the next meeting to follow this up.

A question was raised about the future of the Parish Council, Mary Penfold has informed everyone that there was a meeting on the 26th of January to discuss this but at present there is no change to any Parish Councils. If they decide to make changes these will not happen to at least 2019. There are currently no plans to pass down any responsibilities to Parish Councils as West Dorset District Council have a budget until 2019. Parish Councils will be kept informed of any changes and if the Parish Council have a chairman, a clerk and most councillors there is no need to think about dissolving or changing the council. This will be followed up at the next meeting.

Regarding the Working Together Document, we have been advised to contact other local parishes to ask about sharing the cost of this. All residual networks will still be maintained. There will be a meeting in February with Matt Hall, Mary Penfold and the councillors to discuss this further.

Apologies:

No apologies were made.

Minutes of the last meeting:

There were several changes to be made: it should read the Tennis Club and Village Hall regarding the tree works and BR should not be written in these minutes. The amended have been approved and signed.

Matters Arising:

There will be a meeting regarding the Working Together Document and the future of the council, date to be discussed.

Welcome to new councillor (Sonam Kowalewski):

Michael had informed us that Sonam is not able to step up as a new councillor so there is still a vacancy.

Welcome to new clerk (Jodie Carter):

A welcome was said to Jodie, the clerk must have a copy of the standing order, Councillor Evans will do this.

Tennis court/Village Hall tree quote: (please note this has been moved from 9. To 7. on the agenda)

The Village Hall have decided splitting the bill three ways would be the fairest option. If this does not happen, they will continue to have the work they need done (1 tree) and pay for this section of work. The tennis club are happy with this suggestion that it is split 3 ways. The full amount of the work to be done is £1850.00 which if split 3 ways will be £617 each, the council have not decided on their contribution, there must be a further meeting to discuss finances and the decision will be made then.

Expenditure procedure:

Please note Councillor Smith has stepped down as financial advisor and Councillor Evans has taken on this role.

Proposed to limit unauthorised spend to £50:

Councillor Evans has proposed that every transaction over £50 is to be discussed and approved at a meeting. Councillor Roxburgh had suggested an amendment that we can discuss this via email instead of a meeting but still for the same amount. The Chairmen had suggested that we change it to any expenditures. It was voted and passed that any amount to be spent was discussed via email/meeting beforehand, the was put to a vote and had passed.

Proposal to reintroduce financial statement at every council meeting:

It has been proposed by Councillor Evans that a financial statement is to be reintroduced at every meeting so the councillors have more of an understanding of the finances. There will be 5 key factors:

1. Present funds held
2. Current committed spend
3. Anticipated spend to end of financial year

4. Anticipated funds at end of year
5. Estimated over or under spend

This has been motioned and passed.

Purchase of a new laptop:

Councillor Evans had suggested that the Clerk use her own laptop but she does not own one as she uses her mobile phone. All the councillors have granted authorisation for a new laptop, the value should be around £180 + VAT.

Defibrillator:

The grant for the defibrillator has been granted and should be in the Parish Council account by 19/01/17. The defibrillator is of the value of £2200 which has been granted by the councillors to buy, this is the Defrin Model. The cost of insurance and maintenance is still to be followed up. Councillor Swallow, Councillor Coverdale, Councillor Roxburgh and Councillor Evans have all volunteered to attend a training course for this, so has Sonam Kowalewski.

Caravan club visit 2018:

A figure of £12 per night per caravan has been proposed by Councillor Smith and Seconded by Councillor Roxburgh. There is a separate figure that has been discussed with the Village hall.

Any other matters:

1. A report has been requested for finance for the playground future.
2. Parish Council have sent a letter to Ben Jones at the Estate requesting the points in Holt Lane to be cleared, this is Dorset Highways responsibility.
3. The Estate has cut down hedges and nobody knows why, can this be investigated.
4. There is no parking sign outside the Reading Room, this needs to be sorted.
5. The bus time tables must be placed around the village, Michael is to do this.
6. The see-saw is still to be fixed.
7. There is still a problem on the verges but the ground is too wet at present.
8. One bollards to be repaired, as we run the risk of people parking there again if they are removed. The cost will be around £20 to fix this.

Date of next meeting:

The date of the next meeting will Monday 13th March 2017.

Meeting ended at 21.37.

