

# Melbury Osmond Parish Council

## Draft Minutes for the meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 7.30pm at Melbury Osmond Village Hall.

Present – Cllr Paley, Cllr Smith, Cllr Coverdale, Cllr Ward (acting clerk), 5 members of public, Dorset Council Cllr Penfold.

08.11.01 To accept apologies.  
Cllr Holtham.

08.11.02 Draft minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

- To discuss late amendments

No late amendments.

- To formally agree to minutes

Proposal to agree the minutes as a true record, proposed by Cllr Coverdale, seconded by Cllr Smith, signed by the chairman.

08.11.03 Open Meeting

***Following the Open Meeting the Public will be encouraged to remain but shall not take part in subsequent discussions unless expressly requested by the Chairman.***

1. The Post Office has not been open for the past four weeks, inconveniencing elderly Villagers, with no notice given.

**It was agreed that enquiries about the closure would be made.**

2. Recreation seating.

**A bench has been purchased and we are awaiting delivery (see 08.11.04 below).**

3. Highway progress (state of roads / drains etc)

**County Council officials have been informed of the issues, and MOPC are awaiting a response to requests for a site visit.**

4. It was proposed that a notice should be posted requesting that visitors do not park outside the Reading Room, as it potentially endangers road users and pedestrians around the blind corner (see 08.11.07 below).

5. It was suggested that notices placed on the village notice board should be no larger than A4, to allow a more efficient use of the available space (see 08.11.07 below).

6. A proposal was made to celebrate the coronation of King Charles, due to take place in May 2023, and that careful planning for any event was required.

7. The welcome pack for new residents in the village requires updating and distributing.

**Cllr Coverdale offered to progress this.**

Notices placed in the Chimes magazine welcoming new residents was also proposed.

8. Has the bridge on the footpath running from Holt Farm and Liberty Farm been repaired?

**Cllr Smith offered to check.**

9. The road beyond the ford is in a poor state of repair. The tarmac has collapsed on the right-hand side. Hedge cuttings are all over the road, due to the fact that the hedges are only cut bi-annually, creating more debris.

The road drains have been cleaned by Dorset Council, but unfortunately just before the hedges were cut. However, the drains currently appear to be functioning well.

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10. Barton Hill still floods on the northern side, due to a lack of drainage. It is difficult to alleviate the flooding because it requires cutting a drainage channel into private (estate) land.

**The dairy manager has been contacted regarding damage to grass verges caused by tractors, and a response has been requested.**

11. Flooding continues to occur across the driveway at "Oak Cottage" from the A37.

**It was agreed that Paul Thatcher, the county officer in charge of highways, would be contacted (again), concerning the state of the roads.**

Dorset Cllr Penfold reported on the "Dorset Community and Culture Fund", indicating that grants are available to support local communities in need. The grants covered local food projects, lunch clubs, sports or heritage projects. Ian Wells is the co-ordinating contact at Dorset Council.

A number of local roads are closed for resurfacing, and parishioners were encouraged to note the number plates of cars when occupants were witnessed littering the highways.

## 08.11.04 Matters to be discussed

Footpaths- Results of the Footpath Public Enquiry are due to be published next week.

The Meads footpath finger-post has been renovated and cleared.

**It was queried who is the current Footpath Officer.** Post meeting note – records indicate David Armstrong. Cllr Paley to contact.

Highways – County Council officials (Paul Thatcher) have been informed of the issues, and MOPC are awaiting a response to requests for a site visit. Councillor Paley to follow up, including issue at Oak Cottage raised above.

Play area – The employment of a part-time gardener for the maintenance of the ground around the playing fields play area (4 hrs/month) had been previously agreed, and a locally employed gardener has informally offered his services @ £17.50 per hr to take over from Wendy Wheeler. Cllr Smith will contact the gardener, and pass on his details to Cllr Coverdale.

Boules - A bench has been ordered for the Boules court at a cost of £687.44

Notice board - Both halves of the village notice board are now available for posting following finding and the cutting of new keys for the Council side. A request that there should be "no parking" in front of the Reading Room will be placed in the notice board.

Jubilee Copse - Cllr Paley indicated that 105 saplings have now arrived, and that they will be stored and ready for planting in the new Jubilee Wood at the western end of the playing fields. Cllr Paley to resume discussion with Estates Manager, Oliver Adderly.

## 08.11.05 Finances.

Cllr Paley now has access to the Lloyds Bank MOPC account, including electronic banking. Cllr Paley and Cllr Ward are busy processing various late invoices and finalising accounts from 2021/2022. Mr. John Senior has kindly offered to act as internal auditor when the accounts are completed. Balance brought forward from 2021/2022 was £4,364.31; balance of the account stands at £9281.08 as on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (including £6,500 from the precept for 2022-2023).

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It was agreed by the MOPC that Cllr Ward is to purchase for MOPC, a new laptop & Microsoft office & external hard-drive to allow backing up of data.

The Reading Room electricity bill has risen to approximately £200 per qtr (£800 annually). This will be queried with SSE by Cllr Paley, as currently the Reading Room is only used by the Post Office (when in session) for one morning a week.

## 08.11.06 Planning applications:

It was noted some planning applications were missed whilst the clerk was not active. These included further renovations to The Old Rectory, tree felling at Chapel Cottage and garage conversion into dwelling at Rock Cottage. It is hoped when we have access to the laptop and official e-mail account notification of planning applications will resume to normal. In the interim we intend to increase frequency of manual checks for planning applications.

## 08.11.07 Correspondence

Communication was received from Mr. P. Wells raising concerns that the draft minutes of the August parish council meeting minuting the neutral stance of the council for the public inquiry to the footpath to Furzy ground did not sufficiently reflect the historical record of MOPC who have previously supported access to the footpath. This view was acknowledged by current members of MOPC and it is noted those historical records are available on the council website and from the clerk.

Mr. Paul Norville, representing the Caravan Club, has requested an estimate of costs to accommodate the club on the playing fields during the summers of 2023 and 2024. The costs may include renting pitches, and also access to the Village Hall (via negotiation with the Melbury Osmond Village Hall Committee).

## 08.11.08 AOB – None.

## 08.11.09 Clarifying Discussions:

Communication with Post Office (Cllr RP)

Communication with Highways Officer (Cllr RP)

No parking notice (Cllr RP)

Welcome pack update (Cllr PC)

Holt Mill to Liberty Farm footpath bridge (Cllr MS)

Establish contact with Footpaths Officer (Cllr RP)

Meads footpath vegetation clearance (Cllr MS)

Contacting gardener for the play park (Cllr MS)

Contact with Estates Manager re Jubilee copse (Cllr RP)

Approved purchase of new laptop etc. (Cllr RW)

SSE Investigations (Cllr RP)

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Melbury Osmond Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 20:31

# *Melbury Osmond Parish Council*

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