

Melbury Osmond Parish Council

Draft Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2023, 7.30pm at Melbury Osmond Village Hall

- 14.03.01 Present: Cllr Paley (RP), Cllr Ward (RW), Cllr Smith (MS),
Cllr Coverdale (PC), Cllr Holtham (KH), DCC Cllr Penfold (MP); Three members of the public.
Apologies: Roger Waine
- 14.03.02 Draft minutes of meeting held on 24th January 2023 approved – proposed by PC
and seconded by MS
- 14.03.03 Open meeting
MP informed the meeting that consultation remained open for a few more days concerning
improved safety for pedestrians using Dorchester market (closing date 17 March).
DCC continues to lobby central government for fairer funding for Dorset, and to
reduce the tax burden for its residents. There is continued concern voiced about the
growth of second homes in Dorset.
- It was noted that some of the village grit bins are debilitated, and a few seriously
damaged or empty and thus not in use. Council to work out with Paul Thatcher (DCC
Highways) which belong to village and propose to replace or repair the damaged bins and
request council to refill as necessary.
- It was reported that a drain cover had been left off the drain on the verge near Mrs
Oaksford's house on the main road, and would be referred to Highways.
- The removal of dead vermin at the bus-stop was also requested.
- 14.03.04 Matters to be discussed
- Footpaths / highways update
RP reported that following the outcome of the Public Enquiry, the proposed public footpath
from Melbury village to Lower Holt will not be adopted.
MS reported that the footpath over the meads is clear and accessible. However the
footbridge to the west of Higher Holt has been swept away and another report of its loss
and request for update has been sent to Highways on 12/03/2023 - it was noted that
reports had also been sent concerning this matter in 2021 and 2022.
RP commented upon the continued erosion of the road surfaces in the village, due to
adverse weather effects and the continuous usage by heavy farm vehicles. RP informed the
meeting that several damage reports have been made via the online system to the
Highways Agency for repair. It was also reported that Mr Thatcher had declined an open
invitation for a site visit.
Paul Wells has also reported verge damage along the main village road, to the dairy
manager and Roger Caesley has also reported one of the potholes to the Highways agency.
RP also noted that an earlier comment to the council from a member of public was being
followed up - regarding that the A37 to Yetminster had been repaired over time, part-
funded by the abattoir, in recognition that some of the erosion had been due to heavy
vehicle traffic servicing the plant.

Contacts: Clerk (temporary): Mr Robert Ward – Pimperne Cottage, Melbury Osmond, DT2 0LX
robertaward57@gmail.com
Chairman: Richard Paley, 1 Greenwood, Melbury Osmond, DT2 0ND
spillerpaley@gmail.com

Melbury Osmond Parish Council

- Play area update

Mr Dave Woollacott is now employed to tidy the ground around the play area (2hr-4hr per month, depending upon the time of year). PC indicated that there was likely to be a need for more woodchip to be spread for safety reasons, probably after the ROSPA report which is due in May. PC suggested July/August for more woodchip. PC also indicated that the climbing tower would probably require restilting. MOPC has funds ring-fenced to cover the cost of repair/replacement.

- Post Office services

No further information from the PO has been received to date regarding the restoration of the village service. Chris Loder MP has been contacted concerning the lack of PO services in the village, and has responded to say he will follow up. Outreach legal issues appear to be continuing.

- Reading Room

A new smart electricity meter is due to be supplied and fitted by Southern Electricity on Friday, 27th March 2023. This will enable the PC to keep a more accurate record of electricity usage. RP reported that the MOPC account had received a rebate – presumably as part of the Government's scheme to help out with energy bills.

- Jubilee copse and Coronation

RP has attempted to contact Oliver Addeley (Melbury Estate manager) to confirm the planting of the Jubilee wood on the western end of the playing field. RP has received 105 trees from the Woodland Trust for this purpose.

The Village Hall requires more residents to volunteer to join the committee. A new chairman and treasurer have been recruited, but the VH still requires a cleaner, a maintenance person and a booking officer.

It was suggested that the village could have a "pub night" with celebratory food to mark the Coronation on May 5th.

- Website articles

The web-master received a complaint about the reposting of articles that have been previously published in The Chimes magazine. It is requested that in order to avoid any future issues, individuals wanting such articles to be posted on the website also contact the web-master directly to give their permission for re-publication on the Melbury Osmond website.

RP voiced his personal thanks for all the tremendous work that the Lyndsay does for the village with the website, and the rest of the council also expressed their sincere gratitude. KH suggested that the village might like to consider a presence on Facebook or other social media, and proposed that she look into such a possibility.

Contacts: Clerk (temporary): Mr Robert Ward – Pimperne Cottage, Melbury Osmond, DT2 0LX

robertaward57@gmail.com

Chairman: Richard Paley, 1 Greenwood, Melbury Osmond, DT2 0ND

spillerpaley@gmail.com

Melbury Osmond Parish Council

14.03.05 Finance update

- Current financial statement and proposals for MOVH donations
MOPC currently has £7,480.40 in the Lloyds current account.
The council approved the annual S137 donation of £450.00 to MO Village Hall funds (proposed by RP, seconded by MS).
RP also proposed that the PC make additional funds available for the Village Hall to purchase replacement sets of picnic tables and chairs for use outside the hall at approximately £500 each set. The possibility of purchasing longer lasting heavy duty plastic sets will be investigated.
- Proposal to renew website subscription
Vision ICT currently charge £279.60 to renew the website subscription.
RP proposed that this ongoing service was maintained, seconded by PC - accepted.

14.03.06 Planning applications None

14.03.07 Correspondence Poor state of the highway including pot-holes and verge damage – Chris Loder MP and DCC Highways Officer have been contacted.

14.03.08 AOB PC reported that the village Welcome Pack (10 pages) has been updated and will be pinged around to Councillors. It was proposed that a digitised version could be placed on the Melbury Osmond website, and that a small number of hard copies could be printed for new residents in the village.

14.03.09 To clarify decisions RP to follow up Highways contact and to investigate picnic tables. PC to source woodchip for the playground and to ping the revised Welcome Pack around to Councillors. KH to investigate placing a village presence on social media.

14.03.010 Date of next meeting MOPC meeting & AGM – Tuesday, 9th May 2023 in the Village Hall Annual Parish meeting with reports from various MO Committees – Tuesday, 6th June 2023 in the Village Hall.

Meeting ended at 21:00.

Contacts: Clerk (temporary): Mr Robert Ward – Pimperne Cottage, Melbury Osmond, DT2 0LX
robertaward57@gmail.com
Chairman: Richard Paley, 1 Greenwood, Melbury Osmond, DT2 0ND
spillerpaley@gmail.com