

Melbury Osmond Parish Council

Minutes for the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, 11 July 2023, 7.30pm at Melbury Osmond Village Hall

11.07.01 Present: Cllr Paley (RP), Cllr Ward (RW), Cllr Smith (MS), Cllr Holtham (KH),
DC Cllr Penfold (MP), 1 member of the public
Apologies: Cllr Coverdale

11.07.02 Draft minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2023 and 13th June 2023
were approved.

11.07.03 Open meeting

The siting and security of the new village hall bench was discussed, with proposals coming from the public and members of the PC. Final decisions will be made following a site inspection.

A request was made for an update on progress regarding maintenance of the highway to Melbury Osmond. MP informed MOPC of an ongoing consultation concerning dogs related restrictions in public places (closes 25th August). A copy of the consultation details can be requested on 01305 221000.

RW informed MOPC that concerns have been raised by Melbury Osmond residents concerning the increasing level of dog mess being found across the playing field and along the village roads. As the playing fields are privately owned by the estate, Dorset Council cannot put up signs to dissuade such practise. RW will investigate purchasing suitable private signs to display around the playing fields and village hall.

KH raised the issue of the lack of public transport available in villages and how this discriminates against the elderly as well as young adults, who tend not to have their own transport.

11.07.04 Matters to be discussed

- Footpaths update

The handrail and parts of the bridge over the stream in Pigs Lane is now potentially unsafe and in need of repair. Dorset Council will be informed (MS)

- Highways update

A vote was taken and the PC resolved that the Holt Lane salt bin will be replaced. A suitable position for the new bin will be investigated by RW and KH.

Following a request from a member of the public for response to historical requests for information and that Dorset Council should be pressed to improve drainage and other aspects of the main road through Melbury Osmond, RP listed the various correspondence between himself and Dorset Council concerning the highway through Melbury Osmond. RP invited the member of public to view minutes of meetings held in January, March and May of 2023 which minute ongoing action and progress for the road works that had been carried out by Dorset Council in Melbury Osmond in recent months, following Parish Council requests. RP also noted he would follow up with a letter to the individual concerned.

It was noted that works outside Oak Cottage to remedy the flooding from residual road drains had occurred in the past period. It is accepted that more repairs to the road are required and noted that this situation is likely to be ongoing in perpetuity.

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Paul Thatcher (Dorset Council Highways Officer) will be contacted again with regard to remedial work needed at the Townend part of the road following a serious amount of subsidence in the tarmac.

- Play area update

PC in absentia, provided a brief summary of imminent plans for playground maintenance this summer. MS suggested that the playing field could be left unmowed to allow it to become a wildlife meadow. Mowing would still be encouraged around the village hall, the tennis and boules courts and the play area to allow easy access for the public. This will be discussed further in future meetings.

It was noted that David Wheeler currently mows the area mentioned above in his own time, with his own equipment. RW proposed that the parish council could provide future support for maintenance of that equipment. This was unanimously agreed in principle by the council, to be confirmed as and when individual requirements arise.

- Village Hall outside furniture

It was resolved (proposed MS and seconded RW) that MOPC would provide the village hall committee with the sum of £1,000 to enable the purchase of outside furniture for the village hall. The village hall committee are invited to research suitable furniture.

11.07.05 Finance update

The Current financial statement was read out and checked by members of MOPC. The accounts were then signed by RP (Chairman) and RW (Financial Officer) following council approval.

11.07.06 Planning applications

None

11.07.07 Correspondence

See highways section (above)

11.07.08 AOB

The Wessex Morris Men have requested if they could use Melbury Osmond village hall for practise sessions during the winter months. It was suggested that the Wessex Morris Men should liaise with the village hall committee.

The Caravan Club have requested the use of the playing fields for camping from the summer of 2025. It was proposed that a charge of £12.50 per unit be made, to be reviewed at a future date.

11.07.09 To clarify decisions

RW to investigate the purchasing of appropriate dog clean up signs.

RW and KH to investigate positioning of new salt box on Holt Lane.

MS to investigate an appropriate breaker to remove concrete lumps in the childrens' play area.

RP to contact Dorset Highways regarding the remedial work required to

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fix the depression in roadway outside PC's house and the repair the Pig Lane bridge.

11.07.010 Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 12th September 2023

DRAFT