

Melbury Osmond Parish Council

Draft Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th September 2023, 7.30pm at Melbury Osmond Village Hall

- 19.09.01 Councillors present: Cllr Paley (RP), Cllr Ward (RW), Cllr Smith (MS),
Cllr Coverdale (PC), DCC Cllr Penfold (MP)
Councillors absent: Cllr Holtham
- 19.09.02 Draft minutes of meeting held on 11th July 2023 approved by PC and seconded by MS
- 19.09.03 Open meeting
MP informed the PC that public consultation concerning future housing requirements is open and will close on the 2nd October 2023 (see Dorset Council website for details).
MP also informed the PC that round four of the household support fund is now available for low-income families to apply for.
Correspondence received from Mrs Lindsay Reeve and Mr J Senior concerning the gate at the Meads end of the public footpath has detached from its hinges and cannot be opened. The finger post near the village hall is damaged and also requires replacing.
The footpath leading to Lewcombe is closed at the bridge.
The handrail on the bridge over the ford down Pig Lane requires repair or replacement.
- 19.09.04 Matters to be discussed
- Footpaths / highways update
Timber work on the pack horse bridge handrail might be replaced by plastic. A concerned resident has contacted the conservation department of Dorset Council and the Highways Department have also been consulted.
- Various works have been completed (sunken manhole, filling potholes) by Dorset Council to remedy certain issues with the road running through Melbury Osmond. However older patches require re-covering if they are to survive the winter months. Highways have been informed about this issue. Roland Skeets is a new contact at Highways. The dip in the highway outside cllr Coverdale's house has been highlighted by Highways and is on their list for work to be done.
- Play area update:
Dave Woollacott (garden maintenance) is working well to keep the area tidy. Dave Wheeler is also cutting the grass on the playing field.
- Hiring a breaker to pare down prominent concrete blocks followed by a re-barking of the play area is now a priority. The tower slide is now a potential hazard and requires repair, removal or replacement. The planned refurbishment of the play area is behind schedule owing to past illness of cllr Coverdale, who has now fully recovered. The next playground safety inspection will take place in May 2024.

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

- Post Office services
PO services have visited to assess the possibility of replacing the now ceased outreach service in the Reading Room with a mobile service under a new provider. Unfortunately, there was no opportunity for local representation during the visit. Two sites were investigated, outside the church and on the village hall car park. It is hoped that the second option is chosen and that PO visits can be arranged to coincide with the current Thursday morning coffee gatherings at the hall. Thanks to Mr. Caesley for liaising and forwarding.
- Reading Room
A new smart electricity meter has now been fitted. The Reading Room is very underused and the major part of the energy bill is the standing charge. This will be investigated to see if a cheaper alternative is available on the market.
- Jubilee Copse
The copse (105 trees from the Woodland Trust) will be planted at the western end of the playing field in autumn/winter – dates for ground preparation and planting to involve the village community and to be confirmed. More robust guards and stakes than those supplied free will be required. RP has approached Oliver Adderley (Ilchester Estates) to discuss potential restoration of the overgrown pond in the NW corner of the playing field, as part of the Jubilee/Coronation project. The Estate has approved. RP will approach organisations specialising in pond restoration for advice (UCL, WWT) before any action.

- 19.09.05 Financial update
Current account balance is £9,310.63. Two large payments for the play area and community project (bench for village hall) remain pending. Part 2 of the precept is due 30th September.
- 19.09.06 Planning applications
Bridge Cottage – taking down two trees and crowning another.
Manor Farm Cottage – crowning a Lime tree on land opposite the cottage.
- 19.09.07 Correspondence
(see open meeting notes – above)
Kim Sanky, an architect working on School Cottage, is seeking information about the history of the old school, school cottage and the village hall.
- 19.09.08 AOB None
- 19.09.09 To clarify decisions
MS to investigate new signage and the meads gate.
PC to contact Caledonian co. regarding repairing or replacing the tower and slide on the playground, and also to make safe and to rebark the play area.
RP to investigate the plans that the PO have for serving the village.
RW to investigate changing electricity supplier.
- 19.09.10 Date of next meeting
Tuesday, 14th November 2023

Meeting ended at 2045.

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