

Melbury Osmond Parish Council

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

- 14.11.01 Welcome and apologies
Present: Cllr Richard Paley, Cllr Robert Ward, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Pete Coverdale, DC Cllr Mary Penfold. Absent: Cllr Katrina Holtham
- 14.11.02 Draft minutes of the MOPC meeting held on 19th September 2023 were approved.
- 14.11.03 Open meeting
Cllr Penfold notified the PC about the upcoming elections for County Councillors and the position of Crime Commissioner. She also informed the PC that a new round funding from the Community Grant, supporting arts, sports and youth projects, was now open for bids from local communities (see DC website for details).
Cllr PC will investigate the possibility of receiving a grant to support the proposed MO playground initiatives (see below). Correspondence received (see below)
- 14.11.04 Matters to be discussed
- Footpaths update
The damaged footbridge over the river in Pig Lane reported by L Reeve has been inspected and repaired (with thanks) by DC and the countryside rangers team.
 - Highways update
The subsidence in the village road outside Cllr PC's house has been rectified by the DC Highways team. Cllr RP has informed Highways of other issues currently affecting various MO roads including potholes and the general poor state of certain areas of tarmac that are deteriorating. Roland Skeats (Team Leader) and Ian Styring (Community Highways Officer) have now taken over from Paul Thatcher in charge of such matters at DC. It was noted that many of the road drains are currently clear of debris and appear to be working well. Two blocked drains have been reported.
 - Play area update
After much discussion about the possibility of refurbishing the existing tower and slide, it was decided that the best course of action would be to replace the entire structure with a new one. Cllr PC presented the council with a variety of options from different companies to do the work, including costings.
The council resolved for a new tower to be installed by Darren's Dens at a cost of c.£5,500. This charge might increase if extra equipment (specifically a climbing net) is added to the order. Extra costs have also been factored in, such as the removal of old concrete foundations from the playground for reasons of health and safety.

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- Post Office services update
PO services will resume in Melbury Osmond with a new weekly service starting on Wednesday 22nd November 2023. A PO van will be parked outside the village hall from 14:15 to 15:15. The parish council wish to express its thanks to Mr. Roger Caesley for his efforts in this regard.

14.11.05 Finance update

MOPC Lloyds account has a balance of £12,280.03

The proposed budget for financial year 2024/25 was outlined and reviewed by all parish councillors, with final approval taking place at the next PC meeting. Cllr RP will submit the paperwork to reclaim eligible VAT paid in the past three years in the next period.

14.11.06 Planning applications

School Cottage planning application has been reviewed and approved by councillors and no objections raised, so no comment is required by MOPC.

14.11.07 Correspondence

A concerned parishioner has informed MOPC about the disturbing level of overnight noise currently being generated by the bio-digester operation at the Melbury Dairy (assumed to be the bio-digester operation). The reversing hazard warning bleeper coupled with the rattling of the fill bucket is loud and occurs throughout the night. MOPC will raise the issue with the Melbury Estate farm manager and ask if potential resolutions to minimise the disturbance overnight can be found.

From the previous open meeting;

The finger post by the Melbury Dairy entrance junction has been damaged by hedge trimming and the fingers need replacing. Cllr MS reported this to Highways and was informed that these are no longer DC Highways responsibility. Information and guidance on materials, stockists, providers and useful contacts on refurbishing fingerposts were provided. Grants may be available, in which case specific methods and materials must be used. Following a cursory viewing, estimated costs may be in the region of £150. Cllr MS will continue following up with the aim of repairing or replacing the sign.

14.11.08 AOB

None

14.11.09 To clarify decisions

PC to acquire a detailed quote from Darren's Dens for replacing the playground tower and slide etc.

MS to investigate the Melbury Dairy finger post repair / replacement.

RP to contact the dairy manager re the noise and progress the VAT claim.

14.11.010 Date of next meeting is 9th January 2024.

Meeting closed at 20:45