

Melbury Osmond Parish Council

Minutes for the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, 14 May 2024, 8.00 pm at Melbury Osmond Village Hall

- 14.05.01 Present: Cllr Paley (chairman), Cllr Smith (dep. Chairman),
Cllr Ward (temp. clerk), Cllr Coverdale
Apologies: Dorset County Cllr Kippax
Five members of the public were also present.
- 14.05.02 The draft minutes of the meeting held on 09 January 2024 were approved by all councillors.
- 14.05.03 Open meeting:
The poor state of various roads and lanes in the village was highlighted and should be reported to Dorset Council Highways Department. RP responded that this was done regularly by MOPC, but that individuals should also contact DC highlighting any transport problems that are caused by the parlous state of some of the highways.
The Meads footpath has become overgrown and is now difficult to traverse. As this footpath crosses Melbury Estate land, then the estate office should be informed.
Traffic delivering materials to Townsend businesses continue to miss the left hand turn off the main road towards the yard, although the sign is clearly visible. This is probably due to drivers following SAT-NAV directions. Another request will be made to the businesses to investigate how the companies can send out more specific direction guidance to their delivery drivers.
A request was made that all annual reports produced by various village committees should be posted on the village website.
- 14.05.04 Matters to be discussed
- Footpaths update: The water splash fence and the footbridge over the river down Pig Lane have now been repaired. (see above for the Meads footpath issues).
 - Highways update: The repair of finger post by the village hall has been devolved onto the MOPC and research into appropriate firms able to carry out the repairs are currently being investigated.
 - Play area update: Darren Greenslade has been employed to dismantle the old tower, to remove any old concrete supports and to erect a new

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tower and slide. It has been suggested that the old bark chippings currently under the swings should be replaced with ground mats to mitigate against the rising cost of the annual renewal of the bark. MOPC have agreed in principle that this should be done pending details of the cost. The playground facilities are due to be inspected by ROSPA in May.

- Play area gardener: David Woollacott continues to manage the playground weeding. A request will be made for him to check that the fire door in the village hall is kept clear of foliage that may hamper its use.

14.05.05 Finance update

- Current financial statement: Following DC precept payment of £ 3,400 (29th April 2024), the MOPC account currently stands at £ 10,535.90. A second instalment of £ 3,199.50 (plus an additional c.£ 360 for matting is due to be paid to Mr. Greenslade on completion of the playground tower work. This will leave approximately £ 6,975.00 in the MOPC account.
- Website funding renewal with Vision ICT for 2024/25 at a cost of £ 279.60 was proposed by MS and seconded by PC and approved by all councillors.

14.05.06 Planning applications None

14.05.07 Correspondence:

Footpath by the church: The ownership of the fence that borders footpath leading to the newer part of the churchyard is to be investigated to ascertain the party responsible for its maintenance. The rent and lease details were required for the Reading Room (rented from the Melbury Estate @ £ 51.00 per Annum) by the Valuation Office Agency. RP actioned.

14.05.08 AOB

MOPC would like to send its heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Dorset Cllr Mary Penfold upon her retirement.

RW requested that consideration be given about the ongoing cost of the Reading Room and whether it provides value for money for the village community. There is an acknowledgement that the Reading Room carries an historical sentimental value to a section of the community, however increasing electricity costs (MOPC have paid around £ 822.00 between July 2023 and April 2024 plus rent of £ 51.00 for a building that is rarely used) are becoming unsustainable.

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14.05.09 To clarify decisions:
RP to contact business at Townsend regarding delivery instructions:
to continue reporting potholes; to continue investigating fingerpost
repair; and to investigate churchyard footpath liabilities

14.05.10 Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 9th July 2024 in MO village hall.

Meeting closed at 20:52

DRAFT