**Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on**

**Wednesday, 4th December 2024 at Melbury Osmond Village Hall**

04.12.01 Present; Cllr Paley, Cllr Ward, Cllr Smith, Cllr Coverdale, Dors Cllr Kippax.

 Plus one member of the public

04.12.02 The draft minutes of the meeting held on 10th Sept 2024 were approved

 by all councillors

04.12.03 Open meeting

 It was reported that the salt bin by the Courage’s cottage has been refilled. However,

 more vegetation is needed to be cleared to allow better access to the bin. It was also

 reported that there is currently a lot of mud covering the road in the same location.

 Cllr Kippax drew councillor’s attention to “The Big Conversation”, a document

 setting out Central Government’s targets for house building in Dorset. It is estimated

 that up to c.52,000 new houses will be built in rural Dorset (excluding Bournemouth

 and Poole) over the next 7 years.

 Cllr Kippax requested that Parish Councillors make their views known to him with

 regard to any future planning applications that are proposed within their parish so

 that he can get a feel for local opinions.

 Cllr Kippax reported that it is likely that the proposed National Park scheme for

 Dorset will not be supported by Central Government.

 The Dorset Plan, following consultation, will be confirmed at the DC meeting on

 Thursday, 5th December. It covers matters such as housing, developing communities,

 growth, leadership and the approach to climate change including action to be taken

 and its effectiveness within the Dorset regional context and priorities.

 Links to various proposals for Dorset may be viewed via the Dorset Council website.

 Melbury residents are also encouraged to contact Cllr Kippax directly to share their

 views and to highlight any concerns.

04.12.04 Matters discussed

 The footpath sign by Monmouth Cottage has been broken and requires mending.

 The stile at Townend is very unstable and requires mending.

 Highways have given notice that Barton Hill will be closed for repairs on the 19th

 and 20th December between 0930 and 1530. Residents are advised to use Holt Lane

 for access to and from the village. A notice will be posted on the village notice board

 to inform residents.

 Southern Electric need to be contacted to clarify the current state of the electricity

 charge levied on MOPC. Although a smart meter has been fitted, MOPC appear to

 still be receiving estimated bills. Cllr Smith will be contacting Southern Electric to

 clarify the situation.

Provision of funds for village hall & community projects. It was resolved (proposed by RP and seconded by PC) that MOPC provide c.£1,800 to the Village Hall to allow the purchase of another bench and picnic table.

04.12.05 Finance update

 The Current financial statement; MOPC has £6,689.92 in its account.

The proposed budget for FY2025/26 was approved by all parish councillors.

04.12.06 Planning applications; none

04.12.07 Correspondence; see above

04.12.08 AOB; none

04.12.09 Clarifying decisions;

 RP to address the issue of the fallen finger post, decayed stile.

 RP to contact the Melbury Estate with a proposal for them to allow

 villagers’ access to the estate road as an alternative route out of the

 village during the road maintenance work being carried out by the

 Highways department on 19th and 20th December.

 MS to contact Southern Electric to clarify the issue of the Reading

 Room.

 RW to place the roadworks notice on the village notice board.

04.12.010 The next MOPC meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14th January 2025.

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm