

Melbury Osmond Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, 14 January 2025, 7.30pm at Melbury Osmond Village Hall

14.01.01 Present: Cllr Paley, Cllr Ward, Cllr Smith, Cllr Coverdale.
Dorset Cllr Kippax, one parishioner

14.01.02 The draft minutes were approved for the PC meeting that was held on 4th December 2024.

14.01.03 Open meeting

A question was raised regarding the possibility of the main road to Melbury being resurfaced following all the pot-hole filling. This was felt to be unlikely, given that it's only a minor road coupled with Dorset Council financial constraints. However, parishioners were encouraged to continue reporting on the state of the road, especially any deterioration, to Dorset Council Highways department.

RP has written to thank the Dorset Highways Officer and the team for all the work that was put into repairing the pot-holes in the village. Advice was also sought concerning re-enforcing the verge at the junction with the A37 to help prevent erosion of the verges when large vehicles attempt to pass each other.

It was reported that the drain cover on the A37 verge near to Mrs Oaksford's house has been replaced and made safe.

Dorset Cllr Kippax gave outline information about a devolution proposal for local government in the tri-county area covering Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire, that is due to be announced by Central Government. Although no details are known at this stage, he suggested that a conversation should be encouraged at a local level with the aim of achieving an early adopter for the area which in turn could lead to the benefit of any early funding that will accompany any proposed changes.

Proposals include central government's strong preference for all rural areas to have a local mayor similar to some of the larger urban areas. A provisional timetable could see local mayoral elections for the Wessex region taking place as early as 2026, and certainly by 2027. There will be a consultation period prior to the elections for members of the public to air their views. Speculation about what powers and services might be devolved to parish councils by Dorset Council in the future are yet to be announced. Strategic authorities might also be set up to focus upon local economic growth and its potential effect upon climate change.

Melbury Osmond Parish Council

14.01.04 Matters to be discussed

- Footpaths update
RP will write to Melbury Estate with regard to fixing any decayed footpath stiles.
- Highways update
Potholes have been filled, but there is still some concern about the vehicular damage that has been caused to some of the grass verges coupled with the erosion of the tarmac on the edges of road in sections of the highway in the village.
The finger post directing traffic to the village hall and Holt Mill is being manufactured and should be ready for installation soon. Thanks to Roger Caesley for organising.
- Reading Room update
None.

14.01.05 Finance update

- Current financial statement is the same as the previous meeting as no funds have been spent. RP will pursue British Plastics with regard to the purchase of benches for the playing field area.

14.01.06 Planning applications

None

14.01.07 Correspondence

See the devolution press release of the Dorset Council internet site.

14.01.08 AOB

Melbury Village Hall is 100 years old this year. To mark this occasion a centenary appeal has been launched with a target of raising £25,000 for renovating and enhancing the village hall. An application has been made to Dorset Council for a grant of up to 20% of the proposed target. It is hoped that parishioners will be supportive of this effort in recognition of the vital part played by the village hall in hosting the community events that take place there for the benefit of the village.

14.01.09 To clarify decisions

14.01.010 Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 11th March at 7.30 pm in the village hall

Meeting ended at 19.56