

Melbury Osmond Parish Council

Minutes for the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, 13 May 2025, 7.30pm at Melbury Osmond Village Hall

13.05.01 Present: Cllr Paley (chairman), Cllr Ward (temp clerk), Cllr Smith, Cllr Coverdale. Plus three parishioners

13.05.02 Draft minutes approved for the meeting held on 14 January 2025

13.05.03 Open meeting

RP announced that the date for the Annual Parish Meeting due to take place on 20th May will need to be postponed until 27th May.

It was proposed that the dates of future meetings should be advertised more widely utilising more notice boards in addition to the official reading room notice board and posting on the MO website.

A parishioner proposed investigating joining with Evershot PC to pool resources, as a number of local PCs appear to have done. This might also allow for savings to be made by sharing Parish Clerks. It was agreed that information should be sought from parishes that have combined to assess the viability of the proposal.

Cllr Smith relayed a complaint that he had received regarding the excessive speed that at least one milk tanker travels to and from the Melbury Dairy. Concern was expressed as the tanker has to negotiate a blind bend that is regularly used by villagers both in vehicles and on foot and the dangers of an accident occurring are increased.

It was proposed that the farm manager would be contacted regarding the routes taken by tractors transporting silage and whether the agreed one-way system through the village is being employed to reduce traffic congestion.

13.05.04 Matters to be discussed

- Footpaths update
Recently noted footpaths, styles and bridges in the village appear to have been repaired and fully functioning.

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- Highways update
- The farm manager was informed about the damage to the telegraph pole and breaking of the telephone line at the junction of the village road and the A37, due to a tractor colliding with it last weekend. BT have informed RP that the line should be fully repaired within 48 hours. (post meeting note – this was extended to 23rd and then the 29th May). There will be BT vehicles at the entrance of the village road, and possible temporary closure to facilitate the work.
RP has contacted DC highways regarding the ongoing damage to verge at the entrance to the village for repair and possible options to reinforce and reduce future occurrences. As it is not a safety concern, DC highways will not act in its current state. Investigations into options are ongoing.
- Reading Room update
It is understood that the Melbury Estate have tasked its maintenance department with renovating part of the Reading Room, including the checking the security of the exterior electricity cabling.
- Request to consider public electric vehicle charging point has been made by a parishioner. There are nine households in the village without driveways. There are county council grants available to support. RP proposed that the Village Hall car park is the only area in the village that is viable to erect a charging point and as such the matter should be forwarded to the Village Hall committee with regard to its viability and cost. Ilchester Estate as the landlords would also need to be consulted should anything be taken forward.

13.05.05 Finance update

- Current financial statement stands at £7,756.06
- Acceptance of the website renewal invoice of £282.00 was proposed by MS and seconded by RP.

13.05.06 Planning applications – none

13.05.07 Correspondence

- Road embankment erosion and verge repair at the top of Barton Hill. The damage has been photographed by RP and DC Highways and the Melbury Estate office have been contacted regarding the issue.
- RW raised concerns about the further considerable erosion of the road on Brakes Hill (this has been repaired in the recent past) and also the road edge erosion on the hill leading to the estate near Park View Cottages.
- Correspondence has been received from a resident regarding the reduction of the trees on the corner opposite Barton Hill cottages by the Estate. The affected area has unfortunately been left covered in debris and requires tidying up.

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- It has been noted that tractors and lorries servicing the village farms are cutting into the verges on exiting the village road. It was proposed that some of the erosion may be alleviated by fitting Hexmesh. This will be investigated by RP & MS.
- Potential Parish Council merger (see Open meeting notes - above).
- Notice regarding Caswell Energy Park is available to view on their website. It is proposed that the new solar farm will cover up to 13 fields. RP attended the public meeting in Yetminster and reported that the project does not seem to have local support. There will be a meeting on 28th May 2025 of Yetminster PC where a representative of Caswell Energy will attend and present the scheme. This is open to all.
- Hire of reading Room was requested by the MO Tennis Club for their annual meeting and also by a wedding party (24th to 27th July 2025) to enable the storage of wedding gifts. RP felt that permission for this should be sought from the Melbury Estate as landlord of the Reading Room. There was also a question of liability and whether the insurance would cover loss or damage of any articles left in the Reading Room. RP to investigate.

13.05.08 AOB

PC questioned how and when Dave Woollacott was paid for his gardening work around the Village Hall and the playground. PC will contact Dave Woollacott to confirm current arrangements.

RP proposed that a vote of thanks from the MOPC should be noted to Anna Roxburgh who has resigned as the Melbury neighbourhood watch co-ordinator after ten years' service in that role.

13.05.09 To clarify decisions

RW to send copies of Southern Electric bills for the Reading Room to MS to enable him to check the details of the account with them.

RP to contact Melbury Dairy about the speeding tanker in the village.

RP to contact the Melbury Estate office regarding tidying up the tree debris near Barton Hill Cottages.

RP & MS to investigate the cost and application of Hex-mesh to protect the verges at the junction with the A37.

13.05.010 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 27th May 2025 @ 7pm for the Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 15th July 2025 for the next standard MOPC meeting

Possibly another meeting required for AGAR discussion (to be decided)

Meeting ended at 20:45