

MELBURY OSMOND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Venue: Reading Room

Date: 14th November 2016

Time: 19:30

Present:

Council: Michael Kowalewski (Acting Chairman), James Evans, Anna Roxburgh, Martin Smith, Pete Coverdale, Lindsay Reeve (Clerk)

Mary Penfold, WDDC Councillor, Matt Hall DCC Councillor, Paul Thatcher Community Highways Officer

Public: Four members of the public were present

1. Open Meeting:

Concerns about the sustainability of MOPC were raised by a resident. He felt that as the Government passes more responsibility and consequently expense down to town and parish councils the current precept might not be enough to cover this and perhaps the PC should look at merging with another PC in the area to facilitate cost cuts i.e. the Clerks role and other expenses. A lengthy discussion followed with another resident also expressing his agreement with this and he felt that Evershot might be a good choice as both are Estate villages. He also suggested that the PC should look into professional Clerks in the area to fill the upcoming vacancy. It was suggested that the precept needed to be increased sooner rather than later to build a fighting fund for any future extra expenses and that it should also take into account the governments proposed cap on precepts. Cllr Hall outlined the position on proposed changes with Dorset's County Councils and the possible reduction from 9 to two unitary ones and confirmed that nothing was decided as yet but he might learn more at a meeting he was having with DCC's Chief Executive on January 26th. He also agreed to look into other parish councils that MOPC might be able to merge with and the process involved.

Both Matt Hall and Mary Penfold confirmed that any changes would not happen until at least 2018.

It was agreed that there needed to be an 'Open Meeting' for the whole village to discuss the way forward for MOPC and the date of Monday February 6th was proposed and agreed.

The tennis club tree issue was raised by RC who said that the Village Hall had received permission to carry out works on Tree 4 and had got another quote for the work but it needed to be established who would pay. It was suggested that the expenditure could be split between the Village Hall, PC and Tennis Club but that the PC should go back to The Estate and see if they would be willing to help as well. MK said that this would go on the agenda for the next meeting.

2. Apologies:

Charles Swallow

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Approved

4. Matters Arising

The Clerk was asked to contact Ben Jones about the lane by the Dairy House which was overgrown

It was discussed that dog fouling issues were still a problem.

5. Chairman's Resignation – Vote for New Chairman and Vice Chairman

MHS proposed MK as Chairman which was seconded by PC and MK accepted.

No Vice Chairman was appointed.

6. Highways

Paul Thatcher the Highways Community Officer for the village gave a comprehensive report on DCC's 'Working Together' initiative and the possible extra expenses for the village. He felt that there would probably not be a great deal that the PC would have to pay for as pot holes and blocked drains would still be repaired. Hedges were the responsibility of the Estate and if gullies needed cleaning out because they were blocked they would still be done but things like leaf sweeping would be individual householder's responsibility. He suggested that it would be less expensive to work with other PC's if there was a need to hire a contractor for anything that might need doing.

He stated that the village would have the roads from the A37 up to the church and down to the Splash plus down to Holt Mill and then on to the A37 repaired/re surfaced next year but date tbc.

It was agreed that the damaged bollard at the entrance to the village would be mended if possible and not replaced.

7. Precept

After some discussion it was agreed three votes to two that the precept should be raised by 10%.

8. Caravan Club – Moved to next agenda/meeting

9. Expenditure - Moved to next agenda/meeting

10. Village Defibrillator

This was discussed briefly and agreed that the clerk would look into a grant and it would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting but in principle the PC was in favour

11. Departure of PC Alex Bishop

The PC offered a vote of thanks for all PC Bishop had done for the village

Date of next Meeting

16th January 2017