

MELBURY OSMOND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Venue: Reading Room

Date: 14th September 2015

Time: 19:30

Present:

Council: Jon Burden (Chair), James Evans (Vice-Chair), Anna Roxburgh, Peter Coverdale
Michael Kowalewski (Clerk)

WDDC Mary Penfold, Cllr from Frome Valley Ward

DCC Michael Bevan

Public: Six members of the public were present

1. Open Meeting:

Comment that the wooden bridge over the stream at end of Pig Lane in need of repair/dangerous – JB to contact Ben Jones (Agent for Ilchester Estates) and ask if repairs can be made.

Complaints that dog fouling is getting worse in the village (The Meads and The Street) – letter to be sent to owners of holiday lets, notice in The Chimes and the Dog Warden to be contacted.

Farm vehicles not complying with traffic one way system– Ben Jones to be contacted

Council asked to comply with transparency code and to ensure that the required details (Parish accounts and minutes) are on the website by the next meeting.

2. Apologies:

Charles Swallow, Martin Smith and PC Alex Bishop.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes were amended to correct a statement about concerning budget surplus and were then approved unanimously and signed by JB.

4. Matters Arising

The Estate has confirmed that the cover on the bio digester feeder is temporary but no time set for removal.

A small error on the website entry for finance has been corrected.

The annual grant from the council to the village hall under review and it was suggested grants may be available from WDDC. Affordability of PC contribution to be debated annually given other commitments on PC funds.

Repairs and maintenance to the playground need to be reviewed – item 10 on agenda.

Only A5 notices to go on the Parish Notice Board

Ben Jones has agreed to look at the signage for Townsend Lane as large vehicles miss the current one and go through the village in an attempt to reach Townsend Buildings.

5. Audit & Finance

Completed audit approved by BDO. Pointed out the need for internal auditor to check assets and investments. Notice of Completion of Audit to be displayed and £36 audit fee approved.

6. Clerk's resignation – new appointment

Michael Kowalewski offered his resignation as Clerk to the Council, JB thanked him for all his hard work during his tenure. Lindsay Reeve was appointed as new Clerk.

7. Co-option of Councillor

Michael Kowalewski was co-opted as a new Councillor. Proposed JE seconded Pete Coverdale.

8. Traffic Issues

Most holes filled in and bollards replaced. Problems with BT box at Chestnut Lodge resolved. There are various issues that need to be raised with WDDC but they are currently interviewing for a Community Development Officer who would be the point of contact. MB agreed to take up points such as verge repairs and the extension of the white lines on A37 with the new Community Development Officer but stated that there was little money available for road improvements.

9. Standing Orders

Standing Orders presented by JE approved as a working guide.

10. Playground

New bark ordered, laid and paid for. The playground needs funds for repairs and maintenance – it was agreed that the Leisure Development Officer at WDDC, Mike Thornley, would be contacted to see if any grants were available.

The current ROSPA report says the playground falls within legal requirements. PC suggested that a company specialising in playground maintenance is engaged to ensure the playground remains safe. JB suggested that the ROSPA report, which is produced annually, should be used as the guide for ongoing maintenance.

11. AOB

Future funding for the Village Hall was raised and agreed it was an item to go on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Tennis Club had expressed concern about the beech trees which over hang the court. JB had approached Ben Jones who replied that minor maintenance could be carried by the club but any major work may unbalance the trees. However the issue now seems to be the roots growing up through the court. JB to pursue with the Estate. PC to check on responsibility for the grounds.

13. Date of Next Meeting

9th Nov 2015