

MELBURY OSMOND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Venue: Reading Room

Date: 12th January 2015

Time: 19:30

Present:

Council: Jon Burden (Chair), James Evans (Vice-Chair), Peter Coverdale, Martin Smith, Charles Swallow, Michael Kowalewski (Clerk)

Cllr Michael Bevan

Public: Seven members of the public were present

1. Open Meeting:

A query about leaving out dustbins was raised. CS relied that official policy was no bins on highway, but ambiguous what constitutes highway – eg open drive.

Public noted reduced levels of traffic, but concern over state of verges.

A request to consider cameras at entrance to village was made.

2. Apologies:

Alex Bishop, Tony Frost, James Read

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes were approved unanimously after a correction and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

Red lines at A37 junction. Highways had responded that red lines not proven to reduce accidents. Cs commented on constant dangerous overtaking on hill by Rest & Welcome. Enforcement cameras had never been situated there – perhaps a ‘no overtaking’ sign would work. Michael Bevan offered to walk around the village to check this and other issues including drains and verges as raised by James.

Phone box. Clerk had written to Council to emphasise need to maintain working phone box as insurance requirement for public buildings. To write again.

Night traffic. Ben Jones had responded to queries about night traffic. Traffic was timed for feeding hours. Feed was mixed at the site. Night delivery would minimise traffic during the day. He will respond further to village queries.

Salt to be delivered soon.

5. New Councillor

Anna Roxburgh co-opted and introduced to other councillors.

6. Footpaths Officer and Neighbourhood Watch volunteer

Jon Burden confirmed Sophie Nash as footpaths officer and Vanessa Ebsworth as Neighbourhood watch officer. Request for another person as NW officer to replace John Forrest.

7. Traffic Issues

James Evans discussed Council work to clear drains including verge-cutting. Many drains still blocked – he had carried out a survey. Also noted deterioration of verges by tractors’ going over them. Highways dept had checked drains with camera and found blockage by tree roots at East View. There was also a continuing problem at the bridge with water cascading across the road from the drain on the way to the park.

With regard to problems of verges, Chairman to write to Ben Jones about making good tractor damage.

8. Finance and Precept

Hard expenditure commitments of £1,500-2,000 would be covered by current reserves and anticipated precept, therefore precept could remain same, given general reductions in money for local councils. Clerk to submit precept unchanged at £1,711 (including LTC grant)

9. Standing Orders.

JE prepared to look at relevant materials and compile set of Standing Orders. Looking at DAPTC site. JE thanked for his proposal.

10. AOB

Martin Smith asked whether any retrospective planning permission had been requested for a frame around the biodigester he had noticed. Clerk had not seen any.

Dog fouling up to the park had been noted. Clerk replied very efficient dog warden had checked the Meads which was now clear but had not checked Park.

The verge at Barton Hill had been badly eroded and boulders were now visible. Jonny requested MB to help with the general problem of erosion. MB offered to make an inspection on Sunday with JE and CS. MB warmly thanked for all his efforts for the village.

11. Date of Next Meeting

10th March 2015. Will need to fix date of Annual Parish Meeting and AGM.