

# MELBURY OSMOND PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

**Venue:** Reading Room

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016

**Time:** 19:30

**Present:**

**Council:** Jon Burden (Chair), Anna Roxburgh, Martin Smith, Charles Swallow, Michael Kowalewski, Pete Coverdale, Lindsay Reeve (Clerk)

**WDDC** Mary Penfold, Cllr from Frome Valley Ward

**Public:** 4 members of the public were present

### 1. Open Meeting:

Barbara Waine thanked the council on behalf of the Village Hall committee for the promised donation. Roger Caesley commented on the danger to drivers of the hedge opposite the Reading Room which required cutting back. JB summarised the legal status i.e. that it could not be cut back till the summer when nesting birds would have gone and suggested the Highways Dept. could be contacted for their advice.

### 2. Apologies:

James Evans, PC Alex Bishop.

### 3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

### 4. Matters Arising

The Chairman thanked everyone for their efforts in the Clean for The Queen initiative proposed by Charles Swallow.

The council were informed that the Clerk was exploring the possibility of changing insurance companies, as cover might be cheaper, and that this could have a bearing on the proposed gymkhana at the Village Fete. However AR said the gymkhana might not now happen.

JB informed the meeting that the new website was now live. He asked that all councillors look at the content and make any comments and in particular the policy documents so that the council could officially adopt them.

### 5. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

According to protocol JB resigned and Chair was taken by Lindsay Reeve (Clerk) in JE's absence. The Clerk asked for nominations for the role of Chairman JB was re-elected, proposed MK seconded MS. MK was elected Vice-Chairman proposed MS, seconded CS.

### 6. Tennis Club Trees

It was agreed that it needed to be established who was paying for the work and MK suggested that the tree root issue might be covered under the PC's insurance. PC on behalf of the Tennis Club stated that they did not have the funds. The Clerk was asked to confirm with the Estate that their contractor would do the work if required but not at their expense

## **7. Playground**

AR summarised the current position and said that Bob Blandamer had kindly agreed to fix both the seesaw and fort in June at a nominal cost.

The long term future of the playground depended on the next ROSPA report and the Clerk was asked to check when that was as it was usually May/June. Depending on what they said a decision would be made on searching for funding to replace with new equipment some/all of the items currently there.

## **8. Highways**

JB said that the letter sent by the PC to the Dorset County Council Highways Dept. had received the expected response of no funds to do the work asked for. However it was noted that repairs had been made to the potholes.

Cllr Michael Bevan of DCC has resigned and it was agreed that a new dialogue would be started with his successor.

## **9. Audit Papers**

Inspected and approved by council to be signed by Chairman and MS (Finance Officer) for submission to auditors.

## **10. Any Other Business**

JB read out the e mail he had received from JE regarding the expenditure for the village cleaning (Clean for the Queen). JE asked for his comments to be minuted namely that he felt the expenditure of some £180 to be excessive, as were the number of new bollards. He also commented that he did not feel CS should have threatened the council with resignation if the PC did not endeavour to get the Highways Dept. to do repairs to the road.

CS itemised the costs and stated that he had purchased just 3 new bollards, plus a used one found damaged, to replicate the number of bollards on the other side of the village entrance which had been installed by the Highways Dept. The new ones being purchased from the same company that supply many council highway departments throughout the UK – so fit for purpose.

PC agreed with CS that the costs involved were realistic and AR said that now she had been given a full breakdown she also agreed.

MK asked that a vote of thanks be given to Vicky Wells for kindly watering the verges. CS seconded this.

MS asked what should be done with the cheque kindly given to the PC By Mrs Courage of Bridge Cottage for the playground .It was agreed that it should be returned with a letter thanking her and explaining that there had been no decision yet on what should be spent to secure the long term future of the playground.

The Clerk was to check the Public Liability insurance cover for the Tennis Club on the PC's policy.

CS proposed that the village have a yearly "Clean Up". JB suggested it be discussed at the AP.

MS had received a letter from SSE regarding the PC's electric tariff and the Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to them and agreed to remain on the existing one as it was the best financial option.

**Next meeting - APM** to be held Monday June 20<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall at 7.30pm