

MELBURY OSMOND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2016

Venue: Village Hall

Date: 20th June 2016

Time: 19:30

Present:

Council: Jon Burden (Chair), Michael Kowalewski (Deputy-Chair), Peter Coverdale, James Evans, Martin Smith, Charles Swallow, Anna Roxburgh, Lindsay Reeve (Clerk)

Others: Cllr Mary Penfold (WDDC Councillor)

1. Apologies: Alex Bishop, Matt Hall (Dorset County Councillor)

Public: Ten village residents were present

2. Previous Minutes: Passed & Signed

3. Matters Arising – A4 notices were still being put on the village notice board and the PC were asked to place a reminder that all notices should be A5 or smaller.

4. Chairman's Report- JB gave his annual report. He summarised the number of times the council had met in the last year, the current council members and their roles of responsibility plus the appointment of a new clerk to replace MK now deputy chair. He confirmed that the WDDC Councillor remained as Mary Penfold and that a new Dorset County Councillor, Matt Hall, replaced Michael Bevan who had retired. JB outlined that due to transparency laws the Parish Council had commissioned a new website and thanked the clerk, AR and resident Roger Caesley for their efforts in implementing this. He also personally thanked Steve Galliver who had built and maintained the old website and who was so helpful during the transition to the new one. He stated that all aspects of the Parish Council's affairs required by law to be in the public domain would be available on the site www.melburyosmond.co.uk i.e. minutes, agendas, financial information.

JB went on to the financial position of the parish council and expected future costs, including work to the playground and a re-established annual donation to the Village Hall running costs. (£250). He confirmed that the council had agreed to increase the clerk's salary to £600 p.a. to reflect the extra effort in maintaining the website. He stated that the PC voted to increase the precept by 10% to cover extra expense such as the village hall donation, clerk's salary and to address the long term fiscal position of a budget deficit in 5 years.

JB summarised council affairs in the last year including planning, highways, relationship with Ilchester Estates and the Clean for the Queen initiative which the PC hoped to make an annual event.

5. Public Questions - Roger Caesley suggested the PC should look into merging with another council like Evershot to reduce costs. JB asked MP if she could suggest which might be the suitable options and she said perhaps Cattistock/Frome St Quentin as well as Evershot. She suggested having a meeting with Cattistock to explore the idea. JB said this would be put on the agenda for the next PC meeting in September. Clean for the Queen was raised and CS said a lot was achieved but that more could be done with additional volunteers and that it should be an annual or more frequent event.

6. Parish Finances – MS summarised the current financial position, expenditure over the last year (details of which are on the website) and the expected expenditure for the rest of the year.

7. Village Hall Reports

Melbury Osmond Garden & Show Society – Michael Kowalewski delivered the report outlining the events of the year, entries to the annual show and finances.

Parochial Church Council – Helen Preston presented the Church wardens report. She said that church attendance was down, the team rector's role was still empty until October and that had caused income to fall and that without the help of The Friends of St Osmund's and donations they would find it hard to survive as a church. She stated that there was still only one church warden so the PCC members were to be thanked for their help and support. She thanked everyone who volunteered to keep the church and its surrounds maintained including JE who continued in the role of church maintenance inspector. He has a list of maintenance jobs that are needed which will cost in the region of £4000 and that there could possibly be more when the quinquennial inspection results were known.

She observed that the celebrations for the Queen's anniversary were poorly attended and asked that more people support this and other village events.

Village Hall – Chairman Barbara Waine presented the report and stated that it had been a quiet year for hire of the hall and consequently less income. She said that some functions had been well attended and some not again effecting income. She expressed concern that the Artsreach shows were not well attended and made a passionate plea for people to attend them otherwise they might be lost.

The Quiz Night, Curry Evening and monthly coffee mornings were well attended so helped the halls' maintenance finances.

The kitchen project continued with a new combi-boiler being installed in July.

Anna Roxburgh had replaced Paul Wells as secretary.

BW said they were looking for new younger members for the committee with new ideas to increase attendance to events and consequently income.

Homewatch – Co-ordinator AR confirmed the Ward co-ordinators as

Pimperne – Martin Smith - 83453

Barton Hill/ Barley Close – Ron Hutcheon – 83719

Drive End Farm – Vanessa Ebworth 83408

Drive End – Roger Waine 83265

Upper St – Anna Roxburgh 83745

Lower St - Steve Galliver

Towns End- Wendy Wheeler – 83475

Estate Properties – Kerry Leggett at Estate Office 482200

She confirmed the membership of the MONW was updated with most residents joining and she would keep them up to date with any warnings such as scams. There had been no crime reported in the immediate area.

She thanked the Ward – co-ordinators for their efforts and residents for helping neighbours.

Friends of St Osmund's - Chairman Peter Preston presented the report stating that a contribution of £510 had been made in the last year to the PCC with some £25,500 in hand for future support.

The "100 Club" brought a regular £100 into the funds but it required new co-ordinators to continue and asked for volunteer(s)

£320 was raised by a talk in January given by Roger Caesley and Nick Kettlewell.

He re-iterated the Friends condolences to the family of John Fisher who died in 2015 and was a stalwart supporter of the church and a Friends' committee member.

He confirmed Barbara Harris of Charity Cottage had taken over a Membership Secretary and thanked David Hobbs for six years of hard work raising subscriptions and donations.

Tennis Club – Chairman Ros Senior presented the report stating overall membership had dropped but annual subscriptions had remained at the same price to make the Club affordable to all.

She expressed concern over the tree issue and the tree officer's advice which she felt left the one tree, in her opinion doing the most damage, likely to continue over the years damaging the court with ongoing expense. Regarding the cost of any tree work she felt the responsibility did not lie with the Tennis Club, as a subcommittee of the PC, but with the Estate as the owners of the trees. RS said the Tennis Club did not have the money to do the work and it might mean the end of the Club.

RS confirmed that there would be tennis coaching for children again in the summer holidays.

RS thanked the small but efficient committee and two honorary members for their work

Footpaths – the footpath officer Sophie Nash was unable to attend so a brief discussion took place about the paths that needed clearing including the one behind the football field and one towards Holt Mill and one behind Mrs. Hague's house.

United Charities – JB read out a report supplied by Trustee of the charity Martin Easement which included the Annual return. There had been £92 income and £90 paid out in 2013. Income in 2014 was £92 and a similar in 2015 leaving £ 184 in hand to be paid out but no decision to whom. No progress had been made winding up the five charities as no communication had taken place with Hon. Charlotte Townshend re securing assistance from her solicitors.

Playground - Pete Coverdale presented a report and confirmed that the recent ROSPA report had not stated anything that needed urgent attention so the repairs the committee had already had quotes for would be carried out and AR was liaising with Bob Blandamer who had agreed to do them at a lower price than a local company. The long term future depended on what grants were available to repair/replace equipment and the committee were still investigating these.

8. AOB - The Tennis Club tree issue was raised again and RS wished the PC to take the matter up with the Estate and JB suggested that the club write to the Estate as they had been kind enough to donate to the Playground fund when it was installed. It was suggested that the Tennis Club could also try some fund raising initiatives to cover the costs which had been successful for building the playground. JB said that if the tennis club put in a formal application to the PC for a donation it would be discussed at the next PC meeting when the clerk would have a quote for the work.

RC stated that the Village Hall was probably not covered by insurance for the subsidence damage the trees were causing which meant that they were unable to meet their obligations under their lease from the Estate i.e. to maintain the building.

Barbara Waine asked the clerk to look into insurance for a possible charity Fun Day on the village playing field which would include a dog show.

Next APM in 2017 date suggested Monday June 12th