

Melbury Osmond Parish Council

Minutes for the meeting on Monday 9th March 2020, 7.30pm at the Reading Room

Present – Cllr Wells (Chairman), Cllr Caesley, Cllr Smith, Cllr Coverdale, Richard Paley, Jodie Carter (Clerk), Dorset Council Cllr Penfold, 5 members of public.

09.03.01 To accept apologies
None.

09.03.02 To approve the draft minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th January 2020.
Approved and signed by the chairman.

09.03.03 To co-opt Richard Paley
Motion to approve, proposed by Cllr Wells, seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed unanimously.

09.03.04 Open Meeting
Following the Open Meeting the Public will be encouraged to remain but shall not take part in subsequent discussions unless expressly requested by the Chairman.

It was noted the Reading Room fire extinguisher has been checked and certified for another year – thanks go to the Village Hall Committee for organising this.

Mr Evans confirmed he had sent a letter to the council – the chairman thanked Mr Evans and it was agreed that the chairman would respond on behalf of the councillors.

VE Day – is now off the ground, a notice is going into the Chimes for April. Start at 6pm at the village hall with film footage, voluntary donations to British Legions, all ages welcome.

Barton Lane to the A37 – a comment was made that this is in a terrible state, and it was noted the council has extra funding to look after highways. **The parish council will inform highways of this issue.**

Footpaths – thanks extended to the Estate for repairing a stile that has been broken for many years. It was noted however, there is a stile over the bridge, towards the barn which is completely smashed down now. **To be raised with the Estate.**

Dorset Cllr Mary Penfold – noted that over 59% of our waste in Dorset had been recycled. BT phone box reinstatement - no further progress has been made.

09.03.05 Matters to be discussed:

- To receive an update on VE Day Anniversary May 2020 (PW/RC)

Previously discussed in open part of the meeting. **It was noted that £100 has been earmarked to 'kick-start' this and it was agreed to give this direct to the village hall.** Many thanks to all involved.

- Village hall entrance repairs update (RC)

There has been a meeting with Oliver Adderley from the Estate which had been attended by Mrs Waine (Chair MOVH Committee) and Cllr Smith and was very positive meeting. For reference it was noted that the area was somewhat larger than originally thought - approximately 50sqm. **Cllr Caesley to get 3 quotes and come back to the Village Hall Committee and the PC.**

- Coronavirus - To agree any specific PC action (PW)

Everyone is aware of the developing situation. With no clear recommendations from Government at this time with the exception of social distancing and handwashing the suggestion is that council-

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lors become a point of reference for the village residents should we know of people who have been taken ill or are housebound.

- Removal of Telephone Kiosk – (PW)

The PC informed the local authority by email that it did not want the telephone kiosk to be removed and this was recorded on the Dorset Council website. It was again noted that the telephone kiosk was the only emergency communication for some residents and is also the designated 'Life Safety' communication for the Village Hall and the Church, both of which do not have fixed 'phone lines. Although received by Dorset Council the statement from the PC was not passed on by them to BT – the kiosk has now been removed. The chairman had contacted Dorset Council and BT with a request that the kiosk be reinstated ASAP and awaited a response. **PW to continue to chase.**

- To receive an update on website administration and discuss further– (PW/JC)

It was noted that the website was currently without an administrator and there was a need to update various items on it which was proving technically difficult. In addition to appointing a new administrator the council would explore another website hosting company which is more user-friendly. **Councillors to investigate alternative hosting company and bring their thoughts to the next meeting.**

PMN - It is with thanks that we note that Lindsay Reeve has again agreed to administrate the current website. We are particularly grateful for this during the current Covid-19 crisis.

- To receive an update DAPTC Mail-Box Capacity – (JC)

This has now been resolved, the clerk has set up an email address via outlook for internal use. **Link to be forwarded to all councillors.**

- Footpath Update – (RC)

Following the closure of the path by the Estate through Fuzzy Hill some years ago, it was considered by council at the time that this was unacceptable and to support the efforts of Cllr Caesley, as a private resident, to have the path added to the definitive map.

Following an appeal to the secretary of state in 2019 two of the deposits made by the Estate were rejected and therefore were not valid. Last month it was confirmed that the inspector had found in favour of Mr Caesley and that the path should be added to the definitive map.

Signs will be placed within the next two months confirming this.

- Playground Maintenance

Cllr Coverdale to obtain a quotation for regular maintenance of the playground from a specialist firm. **PC to give update to the PC at the next in May.**

09.03.06 Finance

- To note the financial statement

Noted.

09.03.07 Correspondence

- DAPTC E-Newsletter No. 21 - February 2020
- New DAPTC website will go-live this coming weekend

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- Information - Coronavirus handwashing poster
- Correspondence from Mr J Evans
- Melbury Osmond PC Website
- Confirmation of places available at DAPTC Conference on Monday 30 March
- DAPTC E-Newsletter No. 22 - Late February 2020

09.03.08 To clarify decisions made during the meeting
Highlighted in bold.

09.03.09 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting had been scheduled for 11th May. However, it was agreed to move this to later in the month.

Dates agreed as follows:

Wednesday 27th May – Parish Council Annual General Meeting at The Reading Room.

Tuesday 23rd June – Annual Parish Meeting, 7.30 at the Village Hall.

Meeting finished at 20.47

PMN - Following UK Government advice all Parish Council Meetings have been suspended. Day-to-day communication between councillors is being dealt with by email. Public Information from the Parish Council will be communicated via the website – in light of COVID-19, the dates of the meetings to be held in May and June are subject to change. The celebrations for VE Day have been cancelled.

The Parish Council would like to thank Anna Roxburgh (Home watch) and Lindsay Reeve (Website) for their efforts in maintaining communication with residents together with all of those who have volunteered to collect shopping / prescriptions etc for vulnerable residents at this time.