

ORWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Unapproved Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the (back room) of the Village Hall on Wednesday 17th June 2009 at 19:30 hrs.

Present: Cllrs: R Bryant (RB) – Chairman, Mrs K Reid (KR) – Vice-Chairman, J Chapman (JC), Mrs J Graham (JG), Mr M Kenyon (MK), Mr R Primett (RP), Mr C Watson (CW), Mr W Talbot (WT)

In attendance: Cllr Kindersley (County Councillor), Cllr Bird (District Councillor) and Mrs J Damant (Clerk)

There was one member of the public in attendance.

41/6/09 Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Mrs J Avery

42/6/09 Declaration of interests for items on the agenda:

There were no Declaration of Interests declared.

43/6/09 Minutes of the last meeting: 20th May 2009

Following minor amendments it was proposed by RB and seconded by RP that the minutes of 20th May 2009, be approved as a true record, agreed by all members and signed by the Chairman.

Amendments: pg 563, item 35/5/09 – churchyard, should read Hypericum and Coping Stones and not as written.

44/6/09 Simon Edwards, Financial and Services Portfolio Holder (SCDC)

Cllr Edwards attended the meeting, at the request of the members to address items that were of concern to them. He gave an overview of his responsibilities as Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Staffing. In response to questions he spoke of past problems with the Council being capped and subsequently the very critical report from the Audit Board. He thought the Council had recovered from that state but were still being monitored by the Audit Commission to ensure the governance of the Council did not decline again. He stated the Governments growth agenda to build 28,000 houses by 2021, which includes Northstowe, Trumpington Meadows and other expansions on the fringes of the city had to be delayed due to the recession.

Work at Northstowe, due to start this year, may not now start for a couple of years. The delay had resulted in some over staffing in the planning department and a loss of income because they are not processing as many planning applications and land searches. He stated he was stunned by the result of the housing futures vote, the project cost about £740,000 and yet 70% of the 72% of people who voted had voted against it. The challenge would now be to establish how they could maintain the housing stock in an acceptable standard in the future.

Meeting Closed 8.10 for public to address Mr Edwards

Meeting Opened 8.13

Meeting Closed 8.15 Public to address the Parish Council

Meeting Opened 8.20

45/6/09 CCC Report:

1 – Condition of Footways

SCDC and CCC are to meet to discuss the poor state and repair of the Orwell footways.

2 – Junction on A603/Hurdleditch Road

David Lines (CCC Highways) is considering if painting double white lines on the A603 at this junction would help prevent incidences. Since there has not been any serious accidents report CCC believe it to be quite safe, a view not shared by Cllr Kindersley or the Parish Council. It has been suggested that a contribution by the Parish Council towards the work would be looked upon favourably.

3 – Grass cutting on the verge of A603/Fishers Lane

Clerk has contacted Mr D Vacher (CCC Highways) who is investigating whether another cut can be done.

4 – Lay-by on A603/Wimpole turning

Cllr Kindersley has approached Mr D Vacher (Highways CCC) to look into the matter of the lay-by on A603 and Wimpole turning. Highways are presently in contact with the Transport Authorities to find out if there is still a bus stop at this site. Cars are also being parked at this lay by and blocking in residents. Clerk has, on many occasions, contacted the bus company to have a bus stop sign installed.

Action: Cllr Kindersley

5 – Leaden Hill

Clear water continues to weep out of the drain cover at the junction of Leaden Hill and Hurdleditch Road. Anglian Water to be advised.

Action: Clerk

6 - Footway

The footway outside 7 High Street has been damaged by the contractors. Clerk to notify Mr D Vacher (Highways CCC)

Action: Clerk

46/6/09

SCDC Report:

1 - Housing Futures – see item 44/6/09

2 - Main Contact number

The telephone number will be changing to 03450 450 500 – calls will now be charged at the local tariff.

3 - Annual Meeting of the District Council has taken place.

The new Chairman is Charlie Nightingale and the Vice Chairman is Tony Orgee.

4 – Lordship Close

MK offered to spray the numerous dandelions in the verges around Lordship Close. It was suggested that authority from SCDC should be obtained in the first instance.

Cllr Bird to enquire.

Action: Cllr Bird

MK again reported that the sides of the drain on the land adjacent No. 1 Lordship Close are crumbling and are in need of repair. Cllr Bird will report this to the authorities.

Action: Cllr Bird

Gypsy & Travellers Sites

SCDC have prepared plans to accommodate additional gypsy and traveller sites within the district. Consultation period begins on July 10th and will run for 13 weeks. A series of exhibitions are being planned, residents are encouraged to submit comments by post, email or on-line.

47/6/09

Financial Matters:

1 – June Financial Statement

Proposed by RB and seconded by RP, all agreed that the financial statement was correct, this was then signed by the Chairman.

RP stated that the income from the Bulletin advertisements was very good and suggested that that the Council write to Mrs J Whiteoak expressing their appreciation.

Action: RB

2 - Payments and Additional Payments for June

Proposed by RP and seconded by RB, all agreed. Cheques were then signed by RB and JC. Additional payments are shaded.

Payment to Allianz was done after the meeting (see item 25/5/09)

Name	Cheq	Amount	Desc	Power
Allianze Insurance	1419	£583.70	PC Insurance	LGA 1972 s 226
J Damant	1420	£370.01	Salary	LGA 1972 s 112
Inland Revenue	1421	£104.42	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s 112
J Damant	1422	£ 9.52	expenses	LGA 1972 ss 9/10
Melreth PC	1423	£ 60.93	office rent	LGA 1972 s 226
Hales Printers	1424	£705.00	Printing	LGA 1972 s 142
Meadow Nursery	1425	£300.00	grass cut 5 & hedge cutting	OSA 1906 ss 9/10

LGA – Local Government Act, OSA – Open Space Act

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48/6/09

Planning:

85 High Street, S/0631/09/LB – Alter pitch of rear lobby roof and install slate

Parish Council Recommendation: **Approval**

85 High Street, S/0582/09/LB – replacement of 5 upvc windows on front elevation with timber casements (regularisation of unauthorised work).

Parish Council Recommendation: **Approval**

Malton Farm, S/0473/09/F – conversion of outbuildings to self-contained annexe and domestic changing rooms. Modification to garage roof

Parish Council Recommendation: **Approval**

Malton Farm, S/0474/09/LB – alter and convert outbuildings to self contained annexe, changing rooms, offices and garaging following changes to roof

Parish Council Recommendation: **Approval**

SCDC Decisions:

59 High Street, C/11/40/075 – Approval granted for requested tree work.

Affordable Housing Update:

Application forms were put onto the website and has resulted in a further 5 applications being made. The total is now at 11, thus making it a more viable proposition. The article in the bulletin, may also generate further interest. It was agreed that the extension of the application period should be closed at the end of June. RB will inform Cambridgeshire ACRE.

Action: RB

49/6/09

Community Grants:

1 – Combined grant for play equipment and outside gym update.

Grant application is being progressed. The play equipment repair work will be done separately quotes are being obtained.

2 – Play Pathfinder grant application

Mrs Connie Beasley attended the meeting held by Play Pathfinder, she has also agreed to help WT with putting together the grant application.

50/6/09

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

SCDC – textile bank

Clerk to contact SCDC to register the Parish Council's interest in this programme.

There is room at the Village Hall car park to put a Textile bank. Proposed by MK seconded by RB all agreed.

Action: Clerk

CPALC – free web training on 23rd June

'Low Carbon Living for All' Tuesday 23rd June 4 – 8pm at the Guildhall Cambridge

Correspondence circulated:

ORCA minutes for 3rd June 2009, Cambridgeshire Transport Commission, SCDC

Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey Results, COPE, letter sent to Mrs Ward

concerning the state of the front wall, Funding for new posts, Police Panel Notes from

the 22nd April 2009, PPP Report from Workshop held on 28th April, Standards Board –

Review of Standards Framework, What is an 'exception site', Sutcliffe Play Equipment,

Councillors Bulletin, Housing Transfer Ballot, South Cambs magazines

51/6/09

Parish Plan

1 - Parish Plan progress report

Ready to send to SCDC. RB to establish who at SCDC should be the recipient.

Action: RB

The Biodiversity officer can no longer support the scheme but it is hoped the LNR officer will be able to do so.

52/6/09

Financial Standing Orders (Financial Regulations)

1 – The Financial Regulations have now been completed; the Financial Risk

Assessment will be circulated for Councillors comments for agreement at the next meeting.

Action: All Cllrs

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53/6/09

Village Maintenance:

1 – Insurance update for damaged bench in recreation ground.

It was proposed by RB and seconded by MK that the benches given by the Shelford Tennis Club be repaired. One will be placed near the tennis courts to replace the bench damaged by fire, and the other location is open to suggestions. MK to contact Glebe Joinery (Mills & Douglas) the quote has already been agreed by the council.

Action: MK

2 - Meadowcroft Way bench – still awaiting Mills & Douglas to complete

It was proposed by MK and seconded by CW to arrange with Meadow Nursery to paint the bench, this can be done on their hourly rate. The cost will then be deducted from the repairs to the benches see item 52/6/09.1

Action: MK

3 – Remainder of benches in the recreation ground – to be painted.

Meadow Nursery to be invited to paint the one remaining bench in the Recreation Field at their hourly rate.

Action: MK

4 - Clearance of brambles along the ditch on Hurdleditch Road

Mr D Vacher (Highways CCC) does not believe that the land is managed by Highways, RB is not convinced will arrange another meeting.

Action: RB

5 – Tree at Pearman's Close/Stocks Lane

Clerk has contacted Mr D Vacher (Highways CCC) and Mr A Grimmer (Tree Officer SCDC), both state that the tree does not come under their jurisdiction. Clerk has enquired from Mr Grimmer as to who would be responsible for the tree, awaiting his response. KR will also enquire from the householder, if their deeds include the strip of land where the tree is located.

Action: Clerk/ KR

54/6/09

Forward Planning – (Replacement of the Village Hall):

1 – What (May agenda) – results from feedback

Results are as follows:

Access for disabled	75
Village Museum	68
Meeting room	66
Community Centre	65
Car park for 50+cars	63
Parish Office	58
Library/Archives	56
Hall for sports etc	44
Licensed bar	41
Large Hall seating 250	40
Community/Ecumenical centre	22
IT Centre	35
Medical provision	31
Fitness Room	30

2 – When (time schedule)

The primary school has two class rooms out of action due to flooding. The Diocese of Ely has agreed to underwrite the future building works needed. It is hoped that the school will have a plan of works by September 2009, when completed it will be possible to see if any of the above can be dovetailed into that plan. RB to invite Mrs Amanda Tuck (Head Mistress) to the meeting in October so this can be discussed.

Action: RB

RP suggested that the refurbishment of the Village Hall should be continued for at least the next two years. The decision concerning the future of the village hall could be very much dependent on the school development.

Next item to be discussed is: **Where** (Potential Sites)

55/6/09

Committee Reports and Areas of Responsibility:

In future could Councillors please submit a report if they wish to discuss an item, these will then go out to all Councillors with the agenda.

Action: All Cllrs

Village Hall

Nothing to report as they have met to discuss the Surveyors report.

The Clerk has been contacted regarding transferring the £16,000 which was given to the Village Hall for refurbishment. As the owners of the Hall it is acceptable for the money to go into the Parish Council's account and to be 'earmarked' for Village Hall projects.

Clunch Pit

The sheep are now grazing the field.

ORCA

Minutes have been circulated.

Police/Neighbourhood Watch

Next Police Panel meeting is on 22nd July.

KR will enquire why there has been police helicopters circling the village recently.

Action: KR

The Neighbourhood Watch booklet has been put in the circulation pack.

Churchyard/Burial Ground

Weeds are coming through the paths, it was proposed by JG and seconded by MK that Meadow Nursery treat the weeds. The benches, in the churchyard, are in need of some attention, JG will enquire if the Unpaid Workers will undertake this along with the work required on the grave stones. MK believes that he may have enough wood to repair the damaged bench in the burial ground.

Action: JG/MK

Glebe Field

There is a lot of vegetation in the area of the lower kissing gate, which the sheep are not grazing, could Meadow Nursery trim the area. It was agreed for MK to enquire.

Action: MK

Allotments

There was concern raised at the previous meeting about the size of the land being put aside for allotments. There is 0.26 acres to be divided into 8 plots = .03 of an acre (132 square metres). Plots at Fishers Lane are 152 square metres so they will be slightly smaller.

Jenny Clerk (SCDC) is awaiting response from the landowner. There was concern raised about the access route and that it might be detrimental to Chapel Orchard.

Youth Club

There is now 35 youths attending the Youth Club.

56/6/09

Councillors' Reports:

WT

Clerk has given WT the contact details for Meldreth Parish Council to discuss the possibility of purchasing a new computer system.

MK

The soil has been removed for the foundations for a new dwelling being built adjacent to No 7 High Street and has been placed at the top of the plot. This is causing concern because of the possibility of water run-off into neighbouring gardens and the damage being done to trees by soil being placed half way up their trunks.

SCDC have been advised.

RP

There is continued concern with regards to the hedge encroaching onto footpath No 5 (at the side of the church). It was agreed that RB write to Andy Stimson (CCC) suggesting that legal action needs to be considered as all previous communication has not resulted in any action being taken.

Action: RB

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30pm

Next meeting: July 16th

For the avoidance of doubt the only legally acceptable version of the Minutes of Orwell Parish Council are those signed in Public Meetings by the Chairman. They are available for public inspection from the Clerk.

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