

ORWELL PARISH COUNCIL

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF ORWELL PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Orwell Parish Council was held in the back room of the Village Hall on
Wednesday 16th April 2008 at 19:30 hrs.

Present: Mr R Bryant (RB) – Chairman, Mrs K Reid (KR) – Vice Chairman, Mrs J Avery (JA), Mr J Chapman (JC), Mrs J Graham (JG), Mr M Kenyon (MK), Mrs M Lawton (ML), Mr R Primett, (RP), Mr W Talbot (WT), Cllr D Bird (SCDC), Mrs J Damant – Clerk,)

Action

1. **Apologies for absence:**
Cllr Kindersley (CCC)
2. **Declaration of interests: (for items on the agenda)**
There were no declarations of interests.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting: (19th March 2008)**
The minutes were agreed, proposed by RP, seconded by KR, agreed by all, they were then signed by the Chairman as a true record.
4. **CCC Report:**
Surface Water at Grove Farm – see SCDC Report
Surface Water at 19 Town Green Road – see SCDC Report
5. **SCDC Report:**
 - Pest Control -bait has been put down in boxes outside the bungalow at 16 Lordship Close. RB will look at the boxes to see if they have worked. **RB**
 - Surface water at Grove Farm - A meeting took place with Dennis Vacher and Mick Oakman (Highways), Dr Hamilton, Cllr Kindersley, and Cllr Bird. It was recommended that the diameter of the pipe should be increased to 300mm, it will run from Grove Farm, under the road to the drain on the school side of Hurdleditch Road and then go towards the brooke. To achieve this the pavement will need to be taken up and re-laid. At the moment there is little funding but Cllr Kindersley will try to get this prioritised **SK**
 - Surface water at 19 Town Green Road - Dennis Vacher (Highways) will get the waterboard to look at the problem of surface water as he does not believe that it is spring water which is causing the problems but that it could be a broken water pipe. Dennis Vacher will also clear the drains, which go down Town Green Road in the next couple of months. **Dennis Vacher**
 - SCDC/PC meeting on post offices – There is to be a meeting on 16th July; more details will be forwarded nearer the time.
 - Bus passes – These should now have been received by all those who have applied for them. JA did mention to Cllr Bird that in some villages the bus comes before 9.30am, so residents are unable to use their bus passes at that time as it clashes with peak travel time. Cllr Bird said that he would look into this. **DB**
 - Park & Ride fares are to be increased to £2.20.
 - The boundaries around Cambridge City are to be changed. This will not affect Orwell.
 - The recently issued Corporate Governance Inspection Progress Report stated that SCDC have been making good progress but there is still more that needs to be done. One of the findings was that there is a need to improve relationships with outside community groups.
6. **Financial Matters:**
April Financial Statement Payments as amended: Proposed by ML, seconded by RP, all in agreement
CPALC affiliation fee – It was proposed by RP and seconded by MK that the council continue to pay CPALC affiliation fee.
Insurance policy – Clerk, WT and KR will look through the insurance policy and also to make comparisons with the ORCA policy. **Clerk, KR, WT
Pg 514**

WT will look at the policy in connection to the required risk assessment aspect.
Additional payments: Proposed by WT, seconded by JA, all councillors were in agreement.
CPALC - £300.46; ASHTAV - £15.00; Meadow Nursery £200 and £140.00; Mr M Kenyon £24.77

RB is now an official cheque signatory.

Natural England has made an annual grant of £363.00 toward the maintenance of the Clunch Pit. This is half the normal because throughout 2007/08 it was not possible to graze sheep due to Foot and Mouth and Blue Tongue travel restrictions.

The prize money cheque recently received from the Community Magazine competition has to be returned as it was not made payable to the Parish Council. Mrs S Miller supplied the details to the Clerk.

Clerk

7. Planning:

C/11/40/075, Cherry Tree in the Churchyard

All the relevant documentation has now been received and the work may now proceed. After the blossom the tree will be heavily pruned to make it safe. If it then looks unsightly or unsafe it will be removed. WT will inform the Diocese of Ely.

WT

S/0526/08/F, 21 Stocks Lane – Extension

The Parish Council can see no reason why this application cannot proceed.

Recommend: Approval

S/0534/08/F, 25 Town Green Road – Chalet Bungalow

It was proposed by ML and seconded by MK that the Parish Council does not submit any recommendation to this application due to the Council's Planning Committee being unable to gain access to the site. Nevertheless they wish to make the following observations.

The existing plot is of substantial size and appropriate to the scale of the existing dwelling by its location and design however the proposed development would be prejudicial to the setting of the property in the street scene.

The tree screening to the front of the site should be retained as far as possible.

The Parish Council has reservations about the location of the new access in such close proximity to the existing access to No. 31.

Voting: 6 for, 2 against and 1 abstained.

Further, attention be drawn to there not having been a notice of the proposed development posted near the site and only the neighbour at No.31 had been given written notice.

S/1149/07/F, Land adj to 7 High Street – House and garage

Has been agreed at appeal.

S/0072/08/F, Land adj 60 High Street – Mobile Home

SCDC have refused, as they believed the mobile home was not in keeping with a conservation area, it was too upmarket. SCDC are now in discussions with the residents. RB asked Cllr Bird if he would look into this matter as it sounded a little bizarre and if it went to Chairman's Delegation Committee would he please attend.

8. Community Grants: Children Play Equipment

KR has spoken with SCDC. They have requested that evidence is produced that the playground is needed and the equipment needs repairing. Need to send 3 quotes with the application.

9. Standing Orders:

RB has completed the first draft, will now go to the working party to discuss.

RB, KR, JC

10. Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

Dog bins – RB has written to SCDC who are looking into the matter, since the system changed they have been overwhelmed with requests. A site visit to be arranged.

Printer (home use) – has now broken and is not worth repairing. The office equipment is supplied by Meldreth Parish Council

All other correspondence has been circulated.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Mrs S Miller voiced her concerns over the placing of a dog bin at Chapel Orchard. The best position would be to the right of the footpath near the hedge and not in a frontage position.

Meadow Nursery have reported that the earth mound at the recreation ground is now being used by dogs, which is causing problems when they strim/mow the area.

Pg 515

Meeting open at 9.10pm

11. Parish Plan update:

A meeting is to take place on 17th April. Mr Phil Grant has agreed to go onto the Steering Group, his [planning](#) knowledge will be invaluable to the group.

12. Village Maintenance:

Fire Damaged bench – MK has requested more brochures as previous one's are not adequate. Village benches in recreation ground – benches are due to be finished this week. The bench at Meadowcroft Way will be painted.

Photographing of village furniture – KR has photographed most of the furniture and proposed filing them together with [the](#) furniture history.

19 Town Green Road - Dennis Vacher visited the site with RB, it was agreed to direct the water beneath the road to the nearest drain. He would mark up the requirement for an estimate to be made and also jet the drains lower down Town Green Road.

13. Annual Village Meeting:

Mr Andrew Lansley sends his apologies, as he will be unable to attend the meeting.

It was proposed by RB and seconded by KR that only reports from SCDC, CCC, Schools and Colbach and Hooper will be given as all other organisations either report regularly in the Bulletin or hold their own Annual General Meetings. [A report will be given on the Parish Plan.](#)

Input from the electorate: affordable housing, village self-generating power, to be discussed.

A notice will be put in the newsletter; RB will send the information to Mr Robert Bull.

14. Committee Reports & Areas of Responsibilities:

Village Hall

A meeting took place on 8th April. The village hall is often complemented on but an observation is that the entrance is not very attractive on the street scene and the committee is now looking at ways of improving this along with relocating the storage cupboard.

Health & Safety report suggested that chemicals should be stored in a lockable cupboard this has now been done.

The weight of the village hall roof is pushing out the east wall. A structural survey has suggested that 5 steel tie bars need to be fixed across the hall to prevent the wall from moving any further. It is estimated that the work would extend the life of the hall by 20 years. Three quotes have now been received and it is anticipated that the work will be undertaken in August 2008.

The letter from the Parish Council stating that there would not be a grant from the precept this year was accepted.

The Hall appears to be financially sound. Hirer revenue was up by 13% but had been neutralised by the cost of utilities. The Committee are mindful of the need that it may be necessary to raise charges in the future.

The owner at No 34 High Street has stated that the overgrown Llandii is to be removed and a new fence installed.

Clunch Pit

Natural England grant money has been received (see item 6). RB reported that a partially filled green wheelie bin had been thrown off the top of the Clunch Pit. Police have been visiting the area as personal belongings had been found ie sleeping bag etc. However, it appears that some teenagers have been camping in 'the cave'.

ORCA

KR tabled a paper seeking members' views on ORCA's present constitution; funding issued, committee representation and the charges made. RB stated that it was up to the ORCA committee to resolve these matters and where changes are made to advise [the](#) Parish Council. Regrettably the only money available this year was that set-aside in the precept as the Parish Council are still [paying](#) off the loan for the refurbishment of the pavilion. Charges to all users need to be reviewed.

The AGM is set for the 30th April.

The police have followed up a case of vandalism [in the pavilion](#), which caused some flood damage.

Footpaths

JA will arrange a meeting with Andrew Stimson (P3 representative)

Police

Neighbourhood Police Panel to be held at Wimpole Village Hall on 23rd April. Two of the PCSO will also be attending the next WI meeting on 10th May 2008.

Two trailers have been stolen one from Stocks Lane and the other from Hillside.

One of the PCSO's is now trained as a Wildlife Crime Officer.

There have been speed checks carried out in Great Gransden and Hatley

Tree Warden

There had been some activity in the High Street, trees were being heavily pollared, MK reported this to SCDC but has not received a response. The Parish Council should have been notified, as it is a conservation area.

Burial Ground/Churchyard

The first grass cutting has taken place and 3 graves have been grassed over, weed killing has also been carried out. A meeting is to take place concerning the churchyard wall; WT will organise and inform RP and JG when it is to take place.

The yew tree needs to be taken out, as it is now dead.

Glebe Field

Cowslips are now coming through.

Allotments

A new shed has been erected.

Website

Eastspace has been started.

Meeting closed 10.20 pm

Chapel Orchard

There is to be a working party to plant bluebells and the pond needs some attention as it keeps silting up also an information board is to be erected. A free booklet will be available giving the history of Chapel Orchard along with relevant recipes. The school is very active in its use of Chapel Orchard, which is most encouraging.

A picnic/party to celebrate the 2nd anniversary is scheduled for 13th July.

Meeting opened 10.23pm

15. Councillors' Reports:

RB

Attended a meeting of the Housing for Older People Advisory Group at SCDC. This was to evaluate the changes to the Sheltered Housing Scheme since 2005 in order to make the scheme more efficient and to reduce the overall costs. With the exception of a few wrinkles it seems to have gone well and an annual saving of £1/2 million has been made. The residents of Orwell appear to be satisfied with the new arrangements and are most appreciative of having Brenda Charter as their Sheltered Housing Officer.

WT

WT requested that the risk assessments be included in Areas of Responsibilities.

Metal railings on the right hand side of the steps to the church are in need of repairing, as they appear to be very unstable. KR had mentioned this some time ago that if/when these railings needed to be replaced that it would be a good idea to keep them the same as the railings in other parts of the village.

KR

Has received her certificate from CPALC for attending the Professional Councillor Course.

ML

Has experienced cold callers at her door asking for money. KR has reported it to ECOPS, the police are aware of the situation.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.35pm.

Next meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 21st May 2008

