

ORWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Unapproved Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the (back room) of the Village Hall on Wednesday 15th April 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 W Talbot (WT)

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

There were no members of the public or press in attendance.

1/04/09 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Mr C Watson and Mrs J Avery

2/04/09 Declaration of Interests for items on the Agenda:

There were no declaration of interests declared.

3/04/09 Minutes of the last meeting:- 18th March 2009

It was proposed by RP and seconded by WT that the minutes of 18th March 2009, be approved as a true record, agreed by all members and signed by the Chairman.

4/04/09 CCC Report:

.1 – How much money is spent on maintenance within the village?

This information is not available as there are too many variables to contend with it is not possible to break it down.

.2 – Flooding at the bottom of Leaden Hill – update

Cllr Kindersley has still not heard from the relevant departments but will make further enquiries.

.3 – Litter picking on the A603 – has it been done?

This has now been done.

.4 – Gritting review results

It would appear that the results are favourable and that the county achieved what it could under the circumstances. There was, however, concern with the lack of gritting on the pavements especially in vulnerable areas such as Sheltered Housing.

The day centre at Toft will not be closing.

Guided bus – Cllr Kindersley attended the launch from Cambridge Regional College to Park Lane, Histon. Cyclists have been using the Guided bus track, but this will be rectified once the cyclists lanes have been installed alongside the bus track.

Cemex – The rail track is no longer being used but questions have been raised about using it for cyclists to go from Barrington to Foxton. It was thought this would be unlikely to be of any benefit to Orwell residents.

Regional Development Plan 2013 – There will be 287 houses built near Addenbrooks. The Addenbrooks access road will be completed later this year.

Neighbourhood Police Panel - 23rd April 2009 at Gamlingay Village College.

The roads in Orwell have been swept and some pot holes have been filled in.

5/04/09 SCDC Report:

.1 – Will there be any rent subsidy for council house tenants?

The District Council have not heard anything further since the initial announcement made by Margaret Becket.

Council tax will be set at 4.5%.

Interim Executive Director for Corporate Services will be Mr Alex Colyer, he will be working part-time with SCDC until a permanent person can be found. Mr Colyer is also the East Cambs Executive Director for Financial Services.

Housing Futures – There is to be a full council meeting on 20th April 2009.

Speeding – The National Road Safety conference being held in London on 22nd April will be recommending a reduction of all speed limits currently at 60mph to 50mph.

Question raised by a parish councillor 'what economies are SCDC taking to reflect the current financial situation'? Cllr Bird will enquire.

Action: Cllr Bird

The present SCDC Housing staff will have the opportunity to transfer to the Cambridgeshire Village Housing Association should the housing future vote be in favour of a change over.

Pg 554

6/04/09 Financial Matters:

.1 - April Financial Statement

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

.2 - Payments and Additional Payments for April

Proposed by MK and seconded by RP, all agreed. Cheques were then signed by RB and KR.

.3 – Allocation and definition of reserves

RP suggested that the terminology 'reserves', as appears on the monthly balance sheet, should be distinguished from general reserves by labelling them 'premium reserves'. Members were not particularly receptive to this suggestion and so requested that the Clerk refer the matter to the Internal Auditor.

Action: Clerk

.4 – Financial Risk Assessment

RB to look over the draft version, this will then be circulated to all councillors.

.5 – RPA grant money

It was proposed by RP and seconded by JG that once the money was received from the Rural Payment Agency (RPA) it should be given to the Orwell Clunch Pit Management Trust as it is money received from grazing, all agreed.

Name	Cheq	Gross	Vat	Net	Desc	Power
J Damant	1402	£365.61	0	£365.61	Clerk's salary	LGA 1972 s.112
J Damant	1403	£ 3.84	0	£ 3.84	Clerk's expenses	LGA 1972 s 9/10
Inland Revenue	1404	£113.97	0	£113.97	PAYE & NI	LGA 1972 s 112
Meldreth PC	1405	£ 60.93	0	£ 60.93	Office rent - April	LGA 1972 S 226
ASHTAV	1406	£ 15.00	0	£ 15.00	Membership	LGA 1972 s 143
Clunch Pit Management Trust	1407	£225.00	0	£225.00	Insurance	OSA 1906 ss 9/10
Meadow Nursery	1408	£420.00	0	£420.00	Grass cutting, bench and tree planting	OSA 1906 ss 9/10

LGA – Local Government Act, OSA – Open Space Act

7/04/09 Planning:

S/0356/09/F, 4 Chequers Close, extension

Parish Council Recommendation: APPROVAL

Extraordinary Planning Meeting minutes of the 30.3.09

S/1730/08/CAC and S/0188/09/F, 62 High Street

It was proposed by JC and seconded by RB that the minutes of 30th March 2009, be approved as a true record, agreed by all members and signed by the Planning Chairman.

SCDC Decisions:

There were no decisions.

8/04/09 Community Grants:

.1 - Update of support material from ORCA in order to proceed with grant application for the play equipment and outside gym.

WT has still not received the information required to process the grant application. The accounts need to be completed for the ORCA AGM once this has been done the information will then be sent to WT. WT also suggested looking at obtaining grants via the Youth Club under 'sports funding' needs further information.

.2 – Grant money received from SCDC for anti-vandalism measures. JC, WT and RB met to discuss how the grant money could be best spent, it is proposed that the following is the best option.

Lighting for the Chapel £263

Lighting for the Pavilion £303

60 ltrs of anti climb paint £300

3 anti climb signs £ 12

Total £895

Grant was for £969, leaving £74.00 in the accounts.

The costs are the result of internet price comparisons and reflect the costs of buying and installing.

It assumes involvement of volunteers from relevant organisations to complete the tasks, WT has already approached the Guides, Scouts and Youth Club who are all willing to help. The Methodist Chapel and ORCA will be required to submit invoices to the Parish Council along with certification of electrical work undertaken. Clerk will order the items.

9/04/09 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

CCC – Mineral and Waste Consultation comments by 12th May. There were no comments from the members in regards to the consultation paper.

Cambridgeshire Play Pathfinder – Funding for play spaces

This item to be discussed at the next meeting.

Youth Club – The suggestion that the last Youth Club when it closed down gave money to the Parish Council for safe keeping, has yet to be confirmed, further investigation is required by KR and the Clerk.

Action: Clerk, KR

Allotment questionnaire given to RB.

Action:RB

All other correspondence has been circulated.

CCC, Cambridge & Peterboro Minerals and Waste additional sites

CCC, Weatherthstorm

CCC, Cambridge & Peterboro Minerals and Waste consultation 31.03.09-12.05.09

CCC, Pathfinder project (grant money)

SCDC, Weekly bulletin

SCDC, Standards Board agenda and decisions

SCDC, Changes to business rates

CPALC, Various items

Information Commissioners Office (ICO) – includes DVD

10/04/09 Village of the Year 2009/10 application:

It was agreed not to participate this year, but the Parish Council will be looking for a champion to organise a 2010/11 entry. The matter to be aired at the Annual Village Meeting and in the Bulletin.

11/04/09 Parish Plan:

Draft Plan - progress report.

So far comments have been favourable, though there are a few still to be received.

Youth Version of Parish Plan - report

A meeting has taken place with the Biological Records Centre and the Youth Participation Officer to discuss the protocol of the Biodiversity Plan. WT has met with the Guides, Scouts and Youth Club who have agreed to carry out a survey in the summer, there will be grant money available.

12/04/09 Parish Council Standing Orders:

.1 - General Standing Orders – Update

Has been amended and is being recirculated, this will then be adopted at the AGM if all agree.

.2 - Financial Standing Orders – Councillors' responses

Will now be amended and recirculated for adoption at the AGM.

13/04/09 Village Maintenance:

.1 – Insurance update for damaged bench in recreation ground.

Clerk has spoken with the Insurance Company, MK to send invoice to Clerk who will then send to the Insurance Company, with a new claim form.

Action: Clerk, MK

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

Action: MK

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

KR to confirm with ORCA if they have now been done.

Action: KR

.4 – Bench in Hurdleditch Road – update (reimbursement of funds and installation of bench)
Has been installed and invoices sent to Dennis Vacher for reimbursement.

.5 – Trees along Hurdleditch Road (planting of oak trees update)

All oak trees have now been planted. There is however a lot of scrub on the verge, RB to will enquire of Dennis Vacher (CCC) who is responsible for the verge and the ditch.

Action: RB

.6 – State of footways – Dennis Vacher (CCC Highway Dept)

Dennis Vacher has inspected the state of the foot ways and has put them on the list for repair.

14/04/09 Notice Boards:

Visit by Dennis Vacher and update on installation.

Dennis Vacher has very kindly agreed to establish the location of the adjacent electrical cable and to erect the notice boards (free of charge). The notice boards have now been ordered and will be delivered to the premises of RB. JC will be on site when the boards are installed.

Action: RB, JC

RB will organise the removal of the notice board outside the shop and have it renovated before re-erection opposite the hairdressers.

Action: RB

15/04/09 Forward Planning:

- Future of the Village Hall

Some members provided RP with written comments on their vision for a future Village Hall. RP agreed to correlate and report back. It was agreed that the Parish Council would take the lead on a feasibility study. The suggestion that a different aspect of the project should be discussed at each of the next few Parish Council meetings was agreed. These would in the main comprise of: facilities required; time scale; location; financing and consultation.

1. April - If? we took a decision to proceed
2. May - What? facilities should we consider to include
3. June – When? a time schedule
4. July - Where? siting for any land or buildings required
5. Sept - How? financing (reserve savings, grants, loans, fund raising events, etc.)
6. Oct - Decision for action

WT suggested links with other organisations, within the village, should be addressed. This is especially true with the primary school who are also looking to developing. Any form of capital funding needs to show partnerships within the village and by combining all the needs it would be better then competing for the same pot of money.

16/04/09 Annual Village Meeting:

Ideas for Agenda

Councillors looked at the proposed agenda and suggested that Allotments and Forward Planning needed to be included.

The Annual Village Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Wednesday 6th May 2009.

17/04/09 Areas of Responsibility :

Village Hall

AGM will be on 28th April 2009

Clunch Pit

The youths have dug up more turf for the construction of a BMX bike jump. The youths concerned have been informed that the area is a SSSI (Scene of Special Scientific Interest) and to desist from damaging the turf.

ORCA

AGM will be on 29th April. The concerns expressed during the last meeting are being addressed.

Footpaths

JA absent

Is it illegal for motorbikes to go along footpaths, Clerk to enquire.

Action: Clerk

Carpark

CW absent

The trees in the car park are looking well.

Pg 557

PoliceNext Neighbourhood Police Panel will be on 22nd April at Gamlingay Village College. A speed check has been carried out in Orwell. A recent survey concluded that people were in favour of safety camera vans being deployed in areas which are not necessarily accident black spots. The police are now considering their options. Speedwatch training is now under way, interested members please contact the Clerk for further information.

Neighbourhood Watch

Some neighbourhood watchers are failing to make contact with residents in their allotted patch. Another neighbourhood watcher is needed for Town Green Road.

ECOPS is working well.

Churchyard/Burial Ground

Grass cut 1 has been completed. The graves which appear to be sinking are being monitored. JG has contacted the 'The Unpaid Work Department', who inform her that they can maintain and repair the graves but need to establish the procedure before undertaking the work, they will then contact JG

Glebe Field

The fence still needs repairing.

Allotments

RB undertook to complete a questionnaire received from the Eastern Representative of the National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners. The article in the March Bulletin has resulted in 10 responses from people interested in obtaining an allotment. KR is awaiting confirmation from them as to their resolve. RB is updating the existing tenant agreement there is a need to revise the annual charge which presently stands at £6, RB to take advice from SCDC.

Youth Liaison

An informal launch will be on 21st April. With the money received from the High Sheriff's Award a table football game was purchased.

Football events are being organised with the school.

The Girl Guides will be celebrating their centenary in 2010 but events will be held this year in order to get the funds needed for next year. There will be a play on the 21st May which will also raise funds for Homeless Children.

18/04/09 Councillors' Reports:

WT

Once again there is dog mess being left, in bags, but hanging in the tree branches along Victoria Avenue. The movement of the foot way at Hillside is causing concern. RB reported that this was one of the foot ways that Dennis Vacher is monitoring.

JG

The foot way along Fishers Lane is also very bad. Dennis Vacher is aware.

There has been movement of the front garden wall at No 1 High Street, RB to make Mrs Ward aware.

Action RB

MK

Mrs Ward is aware of the dead Elm tree adjacent to footpath No.5, but so far no action has been taken.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.25pm
Next meeting will be the AGM on May 20th 2009.

Annual Village Meeting will be on May 6th 2009

Chairman

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.

Pg 558