

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 21st December 2011 at 7.30 pm

Present: Mr W Talbot – Chairman (WT), Mr Steve Sparkes – Vice Chairman (SS), Mrs J Graham (JG), Mr P Grant (PG), Mr M Kenyon (MK), Mr R Primett (RP) and Mr N Whittingham

In Attendance: Mrs J Damant – Clerk and Cllr T Ridgway-Watts (TRW) (SCDC)

- 154/12/11 Apologies for Absence:**
Apologies received from Mr P Grant, Mr C Hoptroff, Mrs J Avery and Cllr S Kindersley (CCC)
- 155/12/11 Declaration of Interests both personal and prejudicial for items on the agenda:**
There were no declarations declared.
- 156/12/11 Public participation: for up to 15 minutes members of the public may contribute their views and comments to the Parish Council.**
There were three members of the public in attendance.
- 157/12/11 Minutes of the last meeting (16th November 2011)**
The minutes were proposed by RP to be correct, seconded by JG all agreed. The Chairman then signed them.
- 158/12/11 CCC Report:**
Cllr Kindersley had given his apologies but his report had been circulated.
WT has noted that there are several grants looking at local broadband and the Clerk was asked to enquire of Cllr Kindersley if Orwell is eligible? **Action: Clerk**
WT reported that the 50mph speed limits along the A603 (Hillside) have now been erected. Cllr Kindersley was thanked for his help in this matter.
- 159/12/11 SCDC Report:**
1. Investigate the fuel oil entering the brook (SCDC Environmental Team)
The fuel entering the brook is still be investigated by Pat Mathews (SCDC). Cllr Ridgway-Watts will follow up. **Action: TRW**
2. Footways on the High Street, damaged by the SCDC road sweeper.
A meeting has taken place as already minuted. The date for a meeting concerning funding in January was not known. Cllr Ridgway-Watts will enquire. **Action: TRW**
Other items:
Financial Strategies – the housing debt may have an impact on funding issues throughout the district. There are however Discretionary grants – Cllr Ridgway-Watts will forward further information to the Clerk. **Action: TRW**
Emergency Plan – Clerk is arranging a meeting with Lawrence Green and other clerks. **Action: Clerk**
Grass Cutting – Clerk has received information stating that SCDC will carry on with the grass cutting, can Cllr Ridgway-Watts please get confirmation on this and how many cuts will now been carried out. **Action: TRW**
Signs - The question was raised on whether Parish Councils can erect signs on the footway lights ie, Neighbourhood Watch. **Action: Clerk**
- 160/12/11 The Chequers Public House:**
The first meeting took place on the 13th December and there were 25 attendees. A Steering Group has now been formed of interested individuals to investigate the viability of different models for village involvement in ensuring the future of the pub. The next meeting is to take place on 1st February.
It was proposed by RP that the Parish Council put aside £350 to help with costs, this was seconded by SS, a vote of 5 in favour; 1 abstained motion carried. This will be paid on presentation of invoice

161/12/11

Financial Matters:

1. Financial Statements for October – proposed by RP seconded by NW all agreed.
 2. Payments and Additional payments for October – proposed by RP seconded by SS all agreed. Shaded area - additional payments; these are payments which are not unexpected and have a prior agreement to be paid but were not on the agenda.

J Damant	481.05	salary	LGA 1972 s112
Inland Revenue	121.89	paye/ni	LGA 1972 s112
J Damant	9.87	expenses	LGA 1972 s113
MPC	70.00	office rent	LGA 1972 s113
MPC	47.50	clerk training	LGA 1972
Clunch pit	652.61	RPA grant	LGA 1972 s113
S Baker	140.00	chapel orchard tree	OSA 1906 s9/10
Fieldgate Nurseries	120.00	christmas tree	S137
(chairman's descretion as stated in StandingOrders) Not minuted.			
ORCA	9.00	pavilion rent	LGA 1972 s113

Other items: It had been discussed and minuted that £500 should be put aside for the Jubilee Celebrations, this was formally proposed by RP and seconded by SS all agreed.

162/12/11

Planning:

Affordable Housing – Hundred Houses Society have built some affordable housing in Barrington. The Barrington village connections have now been allocated but there remains some housing so they have now opened the offer up to bordering villages. They have requested if Orwell Parish could but a notice up stating that there could be some housing available, under the Affordable Housing regulations for residents with an Orwell connection. It was proposed by SS that a notice should be done for the notice board and website, seconded by NW all agreed.

Action: SS

163/12/11

Risk Assessments: including financial risks

Software has been ordered but not yet received.

Action: Clerk

164/12/11

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

Orwell Past and Present – letter has been reissued with some amendments.
 Clerk left a message with Mr Richard Hoole, requesting that he does not proceed with this until the Clerk has identified who the land owner is.

Other items:

Invoice has been sent to Wimpole for this years bulletin payment of £696
 Clerk has been in contact with Rebecca Currie (Wickstead Play Equipment) and has now received two quotes for a replacement Camel springy for the recreation ground.

165/12/11

Minor Highways Improvement Scheme:

Has been sent to Highways.

166/12/11

Communication and Knowledge Sharing in the Parish

SS in currently in the process of combining the information.

169/12/11

Parish Plan:

This was agreed at the previous meeting to adopt but was not signed off. Proposed by RP and seconded by MK to sign the document off all agreed. Chairman then signed off the documentation.

170/12/11

Village Maintenance:

1. Village furniture – annual check update from MK – still being done.
2. Trees – the Parish Council trees need attention particularly those along Hurdleditch Road and Malton Lane. MK proposed that a quote received for £300 by Meadow Nursery, should be accepted this would cover all the trees which need attention, seconded by JG all in favour. **Action: MK**
3. Chairperson Board – needs updating, it was proposed by MK to accept the quote for £30 to do the two missing names, seconded by SS all in favour. **Action: MK**

4. Tennis courts - Clerk has been in contact with the Tennis Court contractors who have asked for photographs of the cracks. The cracks have formed despite extra costs to lay a foundation that should prevent this problem. The company (Anglian & Midland Sports) claim that there has not been enough rain and if the gaps are filled they may then buckle. It was proposed by RP that the contractors come on site and investigate now. Clerk to arrange, MK will also be present. MK and Clerk will also take the photographs requested by the company. **Action: Clerk/MK**

- 171/12/11 Queens 60th Birthday Celebrations:**
A meeting has now taken place. The venue is still to be decided as there are costs involved in holding it on the street as the road needs to be officially closed off, if it is held on the Recreation Ground there would no cost. Funding is going well and there is a lot of local support.
- 172/12/11 Recreation Ground Redevelopment:**
Clerk has been in contact with Rebecca Currie (Wickstead Play Equipment) and has now received two quotes for a replacement Camel springy for the recreation ground. ORCA have £1,014.26 in the Parish Council accounts, however the costs would be £1,075.00. It was proposed that the Clerk enquire whether the cost would be covered under the S106 agreement. If it does then the extra money could come from that fund, if it does not it was proposed by MK to increase the money from the Parish Council's general funds to cover the cost, seconded by NW all agreed. **Action: Clerk**
Tennis courts (see item 170/12/11)
- 173/12/11 Committee Reports and Areas of Responsibility:**
Burial Ground
Rabbit fencing - MK still to meet with Meadow Nursery. **Action: MK**
- 174/12/11 Street Lighting – could some of them be turned off?**
Clerk has been in contact with Paul Quigley but has not had any response.
- 175/12/11 Photo voltaics - would the be of use on community buildings?**
RP reported that there are new designs which could be cheaper this to be kept active as and when new information becomes available.
- 176/12/11 Repairs to Church Footpath:**
Quotes being received - Clerk to get further quotes. **Action: Clerk**
- 177/12/11 Housing Strategy Consultation:**
Questionnaire to be completed by 31st January. Concillors to look at this and send any remarks back to the Clerk who will then amalgamate them. **Action: All/Clerk**
- 178/12/11 Councillors' Reports and agenda items for the next meeting:**
NW
Website – NW has been in contact with Andy Lees concerning updating the website so that it can be more active. NW is currently looking at other parish websites and suggested that it may be of benefit to start using facebook which is an excellent way to interacting with the residents of the Parish. Will report at the next meeting. **Action: NW**
- 179/12/11 Action Points or Agenda Items for next meeting:**
Junior Parish Council, Burial Ground, Website, Precept

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 next meeting is on Wednesday 18th January 2012.

Chairman

Date

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.

