

ORWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the (back room) of the Village Hall on 19th January 2011 at 19:30 hrs.

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

In attendance: Cllr D Bird (DB), and Mrs J Damant (Clerk)

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- 223/01/11 Apologies for absence:**
Apologies were received from Cllr S Kindersley (CCC), there were no apologies received from Cllr C Watson .
- 224/01/11 Declaration of Interests both personal and prejudicial for items on the agenda:**
There were no declarations of interests declared.
- 225/01/11 Public participation: for up to 15 minutes members of the public may contribute their views and comments to the Parish Council.**
During the meeting there were 6 members of the public present.
Concerns expressed were:
The resident of the Grove Farm, at the bottom of Leaden Hill, reported that he had been pumping out water from the ditch alongside his property for fear of it over flowing onto his property. All the indications are that the piping leading from that ditch to the brook has either insufficient capacity or is partially blocked. The Council are still awaiting reports from Highways and Anglian Water on the CCTV scans which they have promised to undertake. RB to ask that they are brought along to the next SCDC quarterly drains meeting scheduled for early February. **Action: RB**
- 226/01/11 Minutes of the last meeting: 15th December 2010**
The minutes were proposed by RP to be a true record, seconded by MK, all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes.
- 227/01/11 CCC Report: Cllr Kindersley was absent – matters outstanding.**
1. Implementation of new speed restriction on A603
2. CCTV scanning of surface water drainage in Town Green Road, to be carried out by Highways
3. Blocked drains on High Street, Town Green Road and Lotfield Street
4. Conditions of footways and roads in the village and the potholes along Lotfield Street, Stocks Lane and Malton Road
5. Surface water from 7 and 9 High Street being directed onto the Footway (is being investigated by Highways.
- 228/01/11 SCDC Report:**
1. Brian Heffernan – date for the quarterly meeting scheduled in February
RB has received an email from Mr Heffernan requesting dates for the February meeting. **Action: RB**
2. 34 High Street enforcement – The Parish Council expressed the view that the incompetence of the SCDC Planning and Conservation Department was totally unacceptable in having permitted inappropriate materials to be used in the construction of 34 High Street, the dwelling being located in the centre of the conservation area. SCDC have admitted that their lax procedures have given rise to this situation but do not intend to take any further action other than to internally improve their efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness.
Other items
Cllr Bird will be standing down as the Orwell District Councillor in May 2011.
7/9 High Street – Cllr Bird was able to report on this matter. There is water being directed onto the footway which is in breach of the 1980 Highways Act and will be enforced.
CWC have repaired the leak at the bottom of Leaden Hill.
The next Parish Liaison Meeting at Cambourne will be on 29th March at 7pm.

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Cuts are having to be made, there will be no Council Tax increase this year however there maybe a possibility for SCDC to get a 2% grant from the Government.
 Cllr Nicola Harrison is concerned about the lack of public transport, there is a website www.ourtransportfuture.org where residents can leave their feedback.

229/01/11

Financial Matters:

1. Financial Statements for January

Proposed by RP, seconded by JG that the current account statement was correct, all agreed.
 Proposed by RP, seconded by RB that the deposit account statement was correct, all agreed.

2. Payments and Additional payments for January

J Damant	467.07	salary	LGA 1972 s112
Inland Revenue	150.21	PAYE/NI	LGA 1972 s112
MPC	70.00	Jan office rent	LGA 1972 s111
CCC	218.55	Salt bin	LGA 1972 s111
Tank Change	2,896.38	VH Oil tank	LGA 1972 s133
I Rumbold	12.00	Christmas expenses	S137
DC Window Cleaning	18.00	bus shelters	OSA 1906 s9£10
Heron Self Help	25.00	Donation	S137

It was proposed by RB and seconded by RP that all payments were correct, all agreed.
 Cheques were then signed by RP and RB. (shaded payments are additional)

3. Deposits

bulletin	20.00	costs
Newlings of Royston	55.00	burial fees

230/01/11

Planning:

1. Recent Applications:

S/2171/10, 25 Lotfield Street, Extend existing dwelling and build new dwelling in garden
 Meeting open to the public 8.30pm

Concern was expressed on the following:

Extra cars being parked on the road which could cause a visibility issue

The buildings being too large and thus overdeveloping the site

Overbearing on the neighbouring property and blocking out any light.

Meeting closed to the public 8.45pm

The Planning Committee recommend Approval of this application subject to a condition that the velux roof lights on the new dwelling are located as high as possible in the roof to avoid overlooking of the adjacent property.

There are however concerns with regard to access and parking. The proposed shared access will provide no space for turning to allow exit in forward gear from the site and will necessitate 'shunting' of the vehicles unless some are parked in the street thus increasing the street parking.

The Council suggest that the plans could be modified to provide a better solution to the off street parking.

Concern was also raised that the proposed development of the existing dwelling and the building of a new dwelling will result in an over development of the whole site.

2. SCDC Decisions

S/63 Town Green Road permission granted for extension.

S/1704/10, 83 High Street – permission has been granted for a two storey side extension

3. Affordable Housing

a.- Report on Planning Aid discussions

b.- Proposed list of questions to be asked of Circle Anglia.

RB and WT have met with Mr Phil Grant and are currently putting together a list of questions for Circle Anglia.

c.- Mrs Schuyler Newsted (SCDC) will be attending the meeting next month to discuss the regulations in regard to allocation of affordable dwellings. A list of questions will be collated from councillors and forwarded to Mrs Newsted, before the meeting.

231/01/11

Precept Allocation of 2011/2012

Councillors examined the accounts, it was then proposed by RP that a precept of £30,203 be set, seconded by RB all agreed. This equates to a Band D rated house being charged £61.82 per annum, an increase of £3.06 from last year's figure.

232/01/11

Correspondence and Clerk's Report:

P3 Grant application – given to JA

The Localism Bill – copies given to all councillors

CCC – Public footpath diversion No. 10 and 12 (part) now formalised.

Cemex meeting on 20th January – RB will attend and report back at the next meeting.

Trailblazers – this is a project being headed by Cambridgeshire ACRE. They are looking for four parish councils to come on board to help set it up, these will be communities wishing to lead the way in taking on the Big Society challenge. At the moment they have had a good response and as Orwell is due to have a Parish Council election this year, it was thought that it should be left to the new council to decide whether they wish to join the scheme.

Clerk has emailed Chris Sproston CCC concerning the street light on Hurdleditch, (opposite the school), there now appears to be two lights in the village with the same number.

Other items:

NHS consultation forms given to each councillor to fill out as individuals.

Volunteers wanted for the digital switchover – training sessions offered are 27th January for those interested.

CCC – school partnership – this was emailed as sessions were being held on the 18th and 19th January - nobody able to attend.

The Great Poppy Party weekend on 10,11 and 12th June 2011.

Road closures to celebrate the Royal Wedding on 29th April.

CCC – Cambridgeshire Older People's newsletter, CCC – Highways (winter services), Affordable housing, RPA – the guide to cross compliance, Royal Wedding commemorative mugs.

233/01/11

Parish Plan:

KR is still editing the document, but may need further input, WT suggested involving another member of the original Steering Group. KR will arrange. **Action: KR**

234/01/11

Village Maintenance:

1. Trees at Manor Farm are being looked at by the Arboriculturalist Officer (CCC)

2. Footway hedge on the A603 between the Wimpole turning and Fishers Lane. Clerk has emailed Highways, still waiting for the hedge to be cut back.

3. Heavy mud being left on the highway from farm vehicles – situation has improved.

235/01/11

Committee Reports and Areas of Responsibility:Village Hall

Next meeting is on the Monday 24th January

Clunch Pit

Natural England have acknowledged the receipt of the new contract application.

ORCA

The next meeting is on the Wednesday 26th January. Community Grants are being reviewed.

Burial Ground

It was reported that a gravestone in the churchyard had fallen down, this was due to frost damage making it unstable. This will be repaired by the family, but for the time being it is laying flat.

Allotments

There is a vacancy at Fishers Lane, KR will contact the next person on the waiting list.

Action: KR

236/01/11

Councillors' Reports and agenda items for the next meeting:**RB**

The Localism Bill includes proposals to abolish the whole Standards Board regime. The Common Code of Conduct, Standards Committees with the power to suspend Councillors and the Unelected Central Body are all to be axed. This means that in future failure to register or declare an interest, or deliberately seeking to mislead the public about an interest will become a criminal offence. Councils can adopt a voluntary Code of Conduct but the suspension of a member will no longer be an available option. SCDC have written to the Secretary of State expressing the views that it would be unwise to have so few remaining sanctions.

They believe that they should include a middle ground so that the public can be assured that allegations are taken seriously. It was thought that the threat of facing criminal charges for failing to register an interest correctly would discourage candidates from standing for elections.

MK

Is still putting together the village tree survey on the Chestnut trees, some of which appear to be suffering from the disease 'phytaphora'.

Many of the gulleys in the roads are blocked, Clerk has reported blocked drains in High Street, and Town Green Road, will report Lotfield Street.

Action: Clerk

Potholes in the village roads and footways are increasing along with more on Malton Road.

Clerk to contact Highways.

Action: Clerk

JA

This year's working parties for Chapel Orchard have restarted.

WT

The Youth Project have nearly completed their biodiversity project.

KR

Would it be possible to combine May Day celebrations with the Royal Wedding on May 1st.

KR will discuss with the Village Show Committee.

Action: KR

Agenda items for next meeting:

May 1st celebrations

Great Poppy Celebrations

Parish Plan

Community Grants (ORCA)

Elections - 5th May 2011

Annual Village Meeting - 4th May 2011

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.50pm. The next meeting will be on 16th February in the 'back room' of the Village Hall.

Chairman

Date

