

# ORWELL PARISH COUNCIL

## APPROVED MINUTES OF ORWELL PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Orwell Parish Council was held in the back room of the Village Hall on  
16<sup>th</sup> November 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 S Kindersley -CCC (SK)

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### Guest Speakers: Youth Project representatives

**130/11/11 Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from C Hoptroff and J Avery. Cllr Ridgway-Watts was not in attendance.

**131/11/11 Declaration of Interests both personal and prejudicial for items on the agenda:**

WT declared a personal interest in item 148/11/11 as he is one of the Youth Club Leaders. There were no other declarations of interested declared either personal or prejudicial.

**132/11/11 Public participation: for up to 15 minutes members of the public may contribute their views and comments to the Parish Council.**

There were 60+ members of the public in attendance.

Youth Project - Ewan Dingall informed the Parish Council that the Youth Club were setting up a Junior Parish Council and that they are in the process of drawing up a Constitution but could use some additional help from a member of the Parish Council.

Chequers Inn – this is now the last remaining public house in the village and there is concern that the facility could be lost. The residents in attendance were unanimous in that they wanted to look at other options in saving the pub and that a working party should be organised to look at these options.

**133/11/11 Minutes of the last meeting (19<sup>th</sup> October 2011)**

The minutes were proposed by RP to be a true record, seconded by JG all agreed. The Chairman then signed the minutes.

**134/11/11 CCC Report: Monthly notes were circulated**

1. Conditions of footways and roads in the village – A very useful meeting arranged with County/District officers by the Parish Council Chairman to discuss the deterioration of the footways in Orwell. It is hoped that a successful bid for funding to repair the footways will be made. The decision on funding will be made in January 2012. In the meantime the footway sweeper from District Council would suspend activity to prevent further damage pending the outcome of the funding bid.

2. Surface water from 7 and 9 High Street being directed onto the Footway (is being investigated by Highways) – This has now been rectified.

3. Impact on budget cuts on local public transport. (C2 and 75) – CCC may have to rethink their strategy.

4. Hedge at the top of Hillside – Highways are aware of this but as there are no longer any leaves the priority has lessened, but it will be cut.

**Other items:**

Speed limit review – it was proposed by RP that the Chairman write to John Onsloe , CCC regarding the time it is taking to get the speed limit review activated, seconded by SS, all agreed.

**Action: WT**

The proposal for a household waste recycling facility south of Addenbrooke's Road has failed. A new site will now have to be investigated.

- 135/11/11 SCDC Report: (Cllr not in attendance so no report)**  
It was proposed by MK that a letter be written to the District Councillor inviting him to attend the meetings, seconded by RP, all agreed. Chairman will write. **Action: WT**
- 136/11/1 The Chequers Public House:**  
The Parish Council will instigate the setting up of a Village Working Group to research securing the pub as a Community Asset. PG will write an article for the Orwell Bulletin and put up a notice on the notice board. **Action: PG**  
It was also suggested that a letter be written to the Planning Department at SCDC informing them of the Parish's decision and that more time may be needed for the village to investigate further avenues – this is in case a Change of Use is put forward. It was proposed by SS that the Chairman write, seconded by PG all agreed. **Action: WT**
- 137/11/11 Financial Matters:**  
1. Financial Statements for October – proposed by RP, seconded by NW that the statement was correct, all agreed.  
2. Payments and Additional payments for October
- |                            |        |                     |                |
|----------------------------|--------|---------------------|----------------|
| J Damant                   | 480.85 | salary              | LGA 1972 S112  |
| Inland Revenue             | 122.09 | PAYE/NI             | LGA 1972 S112  |
| Meldreth Parish Council    | 70.00  | November rent       | LGA 1972 s111  |
| DC Windows                 | 10.00  | bus shelter windows | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| S Baker (Meadow Nursery)   | 300.00 | Grass cutting       | OSA 1906 s9/10 |
| <b>Additional Payments</b> |        |                     |                |
| Royal British Legion       | 17.00  | Poppy wreath        | S106           |
- Other items:**  
Burial ground training with SLCC, cost is £90 which would be shared with Meldreth Parish Council. It was proposed by JG that the cost of £45 was acceptable, seconded by RP all agreed.  
All payments were proposed by RP and seconded by JG all agreed.
- 138/11/11 Planning:**  
**7 The Grove, S/2027/11** - Two storey rear extension - The Parish Council recommends **Approval** with no comments.  
**SCDC Decisions:**  
**69 High Street, S/1705/11** – permission has been granted for extension to dwelling, replacement outbuildings, new entrance gates and landscaping.  
**69 High Street, S/1707/11** – permission has been granted for alterations – refurbish cottage and replace lean to and single storey outbuildings with extension for porch, hall, cloakroom kitchen and utility. Replace range of barns/outbuildings with new fence 2 garages, workshop and guest accommodation, new gates.
- 139/11/11 Risk Assessments: including financial risks**  
Software has been ordered.
- 140/11/11 Correspondence and Clerk's Report:**  
Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCV) Meeting at Swavesey on 29<sup>th</sup> November.  
Hedge at the corner of Hurdleditch Road and A603 – Mr Hoole has offered to cut the hedge at a cost of £100 and will also look at the hedge at the corner of Fisher's Lane. Before this can be agreed it was suggested that the Clerk find out who the land owner is as they may be responsible for the hedges. **Action: Clerk**  
A letter has been received from Orwell Past & Present asking for the Parish Council's support which they need in writing in order to apply for grants. This was proposed by RP to be a good idea, seconded by MK all agreed. Clerk to write. **Action: Clerk**  
The second request was to look at the Meldreth History Group website to see if Orwell could do something similar – NW is reviewing the web site and will bring recommendations to the next meeting **Action: NW**
- 141/11/11 Minor Highways Improvement Scheme:**  
It was proposed by MK that the junction on the A603 with Hurdleditch to have double white lines be applied for again, seconded by NW all agreed. Chairman to apply. **Action: WT**  
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- 142/11/11 Footways: – following site meeting**  
See item 134/11/11.1  
WT further reported that the meeting had been very successful and that Orwell was one of the five bids being put forward by CCC Highways Department. There will be no cleaning done to the footways until after the January meeting.
- 143/11/11 Communication and Knowledge Sharing in the Parish**  
A meeting has taken place. The Clerk and SS will catalogue all office items and list all items held by other organisations. **Action: Clerk/SS**
- 144/11/11 Parish Plan:**  
WT proposed that the plan should be adopted, NW seconded, vote taken - 5 in favour, 2 abstained.
- 145/11/11 Village Maintenance:**  
Village furniture – annual check update from MK – still in progress
- 146/11/11 Queens 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations:**  
Beacon – Russel Watkins, Environmental Officer SCDC has no objection to the beacon being lit. Still confusion on who actually owns the beacon.  
Information on road closures sent to CH.  
Money collected £500 from the Parish Council; £100 from the WI. There will be £300 from the Orwell Players and £150 from Wimpole Parish Council.
- 147/11/11 Recreation Ground Redevelopment:**  
Play Equipment – To be inspected monthly, not weekly (123/10/11). Clerk has inspected for November and December. Dave Titchmarsh will now check the equipment.  
The tennis courts are still suffering from major cracks, Clerk to ask the contractors to come and inspect the courts again. **Action: Clerk**
- 148/11/11 Junior Parish Council:**  
See item 132/11/11 – the Parish Council are in favour of the setting up of a Junior Parish Council, RP volunteered to help them in setting up their Constitution. **Action: RP**
- 149/11/11 Committee Reports and Areas of Responsibility:**  
**Clunch Pit**  
Invoice for the repairs to footpath 6 have been sent to the P3 team at CCC  
**Burial Ground**  
Clerk has spoken with Russel Watkins, Environmental Officer SCDC. If the Parish Council are the land owners they can decide on how they wish to handle any concern with the rabbits. It was suggested to get a private pest controller in – may be a problem if there are badger sets nearby. The Parish Council can use guns, ferreting or gassing. SCDC's main concern would be of excessive noise (shot guns).  
Rabbit fencing is recommended for a long term solution – suggestion is to put the fencing up first then tackle the rabbits. Meadow Nursery have been approached but need further instructions concerning the gates and soil removal. MK will arrange a site visit and will also look at the side gate onto the footpath. JG will also attend. **Action: MK/JG**
- 150/11/11 Street Lighting – could some of them be turned off?**  
RP suggested that it might be worth investigating the possibility of turning some of the footway lights off during the night, PG supported this suggestion. Clerk to make enquiries. **Action: Clerk**
- 151/11/11 Photo voltaics - would the be of use on community buildings?**  
This might be a beneficial system for the pavilion and village hall. It was suggested that the Parish Council investigate this further with a feasibility study and available grants. RP and MK will make enquiries concerning the Village Hall and how they received their grant. **Action: RP/MK**

- 152/1111      **Repairs to Church Footpath:**  
Quotes being received. Site visit to be arranged.      **Action:Clerk**
- 153/11/11      **Councillors' Reports and agenda items for the next meeting:**  
**SS**  
Training and information held at Cambourne (SCDC) on 25<sup>th</sup> October. SS reported that this was an informative meeting and that the notes had been circulated. If any councillor had question to bring them to the next meeting.  
**Clerk**  
Roles & Responsibilities – Localism Bill at Ely on 14<sup>th</sup> November – did not attend.  
Burial Ground – Cambridge 16<sup>th</sup> November – was a very informative meeting, notes will be circulated. There will be a need to put in place new policies.      **Action:Clerk**
- 152/11/11      **Grants:**  
WREN – There are now new guidelines and Orwell would not be able to apply.  
Community Chest Grants (SCDC) – ORCA may apply for this grant.
- 153/11/11      **Action Points:**  
None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.10. The next meeting will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

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Chairman

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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.