

**OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2014  
COMMENCING AT 6PM IN OWSLEBURY PARISH HALL**

**PRESENT.**

Parish Councillor John Chapman (in the Chair)

Parish Councillors: Will Martin, Roger Page, Paul Phillips, Gerry Tull, Sally Tattersall.

**IN ATTENDANCE.**

Clerk: Michael Cleary.

3 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES.**

Parish Councillor Mark Egerton

County and District Councillor Rob Humby,

District Councillor Laurence Ruffell.

**89/14 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS.**

There were no declarations of interest in Agenda items

**90/14 PUBLIC QUESTIONS.**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**91/14 PROPOSED BOOM TOWN TRAFFIC ROUTES.**

- a) The Chairman explained the meeting had been called in the light of the strong concerns expressed by Councillors in connection with the proposed traffic route for the BoomTown Festival in August. At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk summarised the route in question. In essence the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) prepared by BoomTown's advisers, CTM Ltd, envisages up to 75 coaches and most of the anticipated 750 camper vans would be directed along a route encompassing Hazeley Road, Morestead Road and Longwood Road, the objective being to relieve traffic congestion in other parts of the district. The Clerk noted he had had discussions with representatives of Twyford Parish Council and they had expressed similar strong concerns to those of Owslebury Councillors.
- b) All Councillors expressed material reservations about the proposed TMP, including the following:
  - i. the proposed route was not appropriate as it involved tight corners and blind spots at such places as Twyford Post Office, Hazeley Road/Mares Lane, Hazeley Road/Morsestead, blind bends on Morestead Road and the dangerous cross roads at Morestead/Longwood. Councillors understood the objective was to 'spread the grief' but questioned whether a thorough assessment had been undertaken of the route using local knowledge;
  - ii. the TMP had little regard for other road users including heavy farm traffic. It was noted the period of the festival was likely to coincide with the harvest, and grain and other lorries would be using the route on a regular basis throughout the festival. Councillors were sceptical about CTM's comment that this would be 'good' as it would slow down traffic even more; Councillors felt the consequence was more likely to be traffic congestion and frustration;
  - iii. an accident along the route would cause major issues for the whole area;
  - iv. traffic congestion would probably result in people, notably campervans, taking shortcuts through Owslebury's narrow lanes – and the recent experience of traffic avoiding the Colden Common road works had clearly demonstrated the chaos that could ensue, the frustration and aggravation of Parishioners, and the damage to the verges and countryside. In addition it was difficult to know how the 'accredited' road stewards would enforce adherence to the official route;
  - v. the Plan was silent as to financial compensation for those businesses in Twyford and Owslebury which experienced material disruption as a consequence of traffic congestion or restrictions in parking arrangements;
  - vi. Councillors were generally gravely concerned about the potential impact of the TMP on the area.

- c) The Chairman noted that the Council had many questions, and certain proposals and comments in the TMP required greater clarity. Once the facts had been properly assessed, the Council could decide what actions to take in ensuring its concerns were considered at the highest levels in the Police, WCC and BoomTown. This would involve liaison with District and County Councillors, but possibly also representations to the local MP and the Police Commissioner, as well as public statements.
  
- d) The Chairman noted CTM and WCC had agreed to attend a meeting with the Council on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon – this would be an opportunity both for obtaining clarity and for making clear to CTM and WCC the strength of feeling about the matter. The Chairman noted that given the concerns expressed by Twyford Parish Council, Twyford Councillors would be invited to attend the meeting. After further consideration it was **Resolved** unanimously:
  - i. to establish an Advisory Committee to seek clarity on the TMP proposals, to convey the concerns of the Council and to make recommendations to the full Council at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May as to the further steps that should be taken;
  - ii. to appoint Councillors John Chapman, Will Martin and Sally Tattersall to the Advisory Committee (Councillor Chapman to chair the Advisory Committee);
  - iii. to invite Twyford Parish Council to send representatives to join the Advisory Committee for the discussion with CTM/WCC on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**92/15 INFORMATION EXCHANGE.**

The Chairman took the opportunity to exchange information with Councillors in connection with the Parish Hall and the proposed Burial Ground Advisory Committee.

**93/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

The full Parish Council will meet on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 7.45 pm in the Parish Hall.

The meeting concluded shortly before 6.45pm

Chairman: John Chapman

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014

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