

**OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
14th OCTOBER 2013
COMMENCING AT 07:45PM IN OWSLEBURY PARISH HALL**

PRESENT

Parish Councillor John Chapman (in the Chair)
Parish Councillors: Gerry Tull, Mark Egerton, Sally Tattersall, Paul Phillips.

IN ATTENDANCE

Clerk: Michael Cleary
PCSO Richard Nolan
7 members of the public (left at varying times up to 9.45pm)

172/13 APOLOGIES

County and District Councillor Rob Humby (District Council meeting)
District Councillor Lawrence Ruffell (District Council meeting)
Parish Councillor Roger Page (holiday)
Parish Councillor Will Martin (overseas business commitment)

173/13 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Councillor Phillips noted his personal interest in matters directly concerning Pitcot Lane and in St. Andrews Church. Councillor Egerton noted he is Secretary of the Cricket Club.

174/13 PRELIMINARIES

Before the commencement of the formal meeting, the Chairman commented that no one would want a repeat of the bad tempered aspects of the debates at the previous meeting. He reminded Councillors of the need to listen to colleagues and to let them speak without interruption, and not to make disrespectful comments.

175/13 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER 2013

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th September 2013 had been previously circulated. There were no amendments to the draft Minutes. The Chairman asked they be formally adopted and his proposal was unanimously approved.

176/13 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Nolan updated the meeting on recent events in the Parish. There had been an accident involving 2 vehicles at the Longwood Crossroads, and a car and a motor cycle had collided in Belmore Lane. A significant theft of agricultural equipment had taken place in the Lower Baybridge Lane area. There had been a number of suspicious sightings in the area and PCSO Nolan commented these may be in relation to potential theft of oil.

Councillors Phillips and Tull commented that bikes were becoming an issue generally in the Parish. In particular, during the previous weekend there had been another accident, this time involving 2 bikes on Whites Hill – they had been racing down the hill and one of them lost control. PCSO Nolan commented there had been few reports relating to bikes, but encouraged parishioners to ensure all incidents involving cars and/or bikes are reported as this would help the Police and the Parish when considering road traffic management issues.

177/13 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

a Planning Applications – statement of intent from owner or agent and public comment.

- I. Mrs Budden outlined the main reasons for the proposed removal of the grey slates on 1 Pond Cottages, Morestead (similar work to be undertaken on 2 Pond Cottages). In particular she noted the slate had been laid in the 1940s and masked many of the attractive original features of the property. In addition the structural report clearly indicated some of the batons were rotten and there was water ingress (solid walls) causing damp. The proposed work would not only deal with the structural issues, but would also make the properties more attractive by

reinstating original features. She responded to questions from Councillors.

- II. David Harding commented on the proposed single storey extension and new garage for The Old White House in Lower Baybridge Lane. He noted the proposed works would provide for additional living space and would fit-in with the rest of the building; there would not be any over-looking or shadowing of neighbouring properties. It would not be visible from outside the property boundary except one small aspect of the existing property from a public footpath. Mr Harding responded to questions from Councillors.

b Other agenda items –public comment.

There were no questions from members of the public on other matters.

178/13 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

a) Bridleway 9 process and procedure

The Clerk updated the Council on the meeting the Chairman and the Clerk had had with the Officers and County and District Councillor Humby on the matters of concern expressed at previous meetings of the Parish Council. The Officers accepted there had been a lack of communication with the Parish and had apologised for this on several occasions. They had changed procedures such that 6 weeks notice would be given if similar situations arose in the future. They confirmed they were satisfied with quality control and the Bridleway had been ‘signed-off’ as being fit for purpose. The monitoring by the contractor would continue through to June 2014. As regards costs, the Officers had explained the framework agreement/tendering process. They explained how the project had been financed and the reasons for the increase in cost from the early estimate of £25k to c£75k. The process had been subject to review at the highest level.

The Chairman commented the Officers had been ‘grilled hard’ and that due process would seem to have been followed. However, he shared the overriding concerns of others that the level of expenditure on just one Bridleway appeared to be excessive, particularly when other popular Rights of Way also required repair/refurbishment. However that was a matter for individual Council Tax payers to take up with HCC/district auditor, and not for the Parish Council which was not a party to the contract.

Councillor Tull reiterated his deep concerns expressed at earlier meetings. He could not understand how so much money could be spent on the bridleway, given its length, condition and his knowledge of ground work/costs. The lack of transparency in the costs gave rise to suspicion that money had not been used properly – he estimated the unexplained costs to be in the order of £40,000. He commented he would pursue the matter privately and would endeavour to speak direct to County and District Councillor Humby.

Councillor Phillips shared many of the concerns expressed about the lack of transparency in connection with the costs, and the need to repair other Rights of Way. Similar concerns were expressed by the other Councillors even though there was not much more the Parish Council could do about the matter, having already discussed its concerns with HCC.

b) Kerbing at Hurst Lane

The Chairman noted one of the residents concerned was arranging for an alternative quote to that obtained from Hampshire Highways. The matter was therefore deferred to the next meeting.

Action:	By When:	By Whom:
Kerbing at Hurst Lane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider quotations and likely level of personal and OPC contributions and to determine whether to proceed. 		JC/Clerk

c) Sports Clubs/Cricket Pavilion

Councillor Egerton reported a meeting would take place shortly between the Clubs to consider a joint constitution and he would report-back to Council at its next meeting. In response to a question from the Chairman, he noted consideration would be given to financial matters including any implications for the Council’s budget for 2014/15 and beyond. Health and Safety matters would also be reviewed.

Action:	By When:	By Whom:
Sports Clubs/Pavilion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint committee to be formed of Cricket and Sports Clubs to consider matters outlined in Chairman’s note including proposed operation of facilities, construction and funding of new pavilion (including outline 		ME

planning permission), Health and Safety including potential injury/damage from cricket balls), OPC budget considerations for 2014/15+ and short term arrangements.		
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d) Broadband services

The Clerk noted County and District Councillor Humby would be arranging the meeting with BT.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Broadband services To arrange a meeting with BT, County and District Councillor Humby, the Chairman and Peter Facey to discuss the upgrade of telephone exchanges, installation of broadband cabinet and fibre optic cabling.	ASAP	RH/JC

e) Hedges

The Clerk noted a reminder had been included in the Newsletter.

f) Travellers

Councillors considered and adopted the proposed policy pre circulated by the Clerk (attached to these Minutes) for dealing with unauthorised occupation of Council owned land by Travellers.

g) Boomtown Festival

The Clerk reported a letter had been sent to the organisers and to the HCC and Police Licensing Units setting out the Council's concerns.

h) Bank tree

The Clerk noted that following the last meeting of Council and having consulted with all Councillors by phone or email, an alternative quote had been gained from Arbor-Call. The work could be done at a cheaper rate than that originally proposed, even though there was no profit element in the earlier one. The main reason for this was that Arbor-Call intended to use ropes rather than a 'cherry picker'. Arbor-Call had inspected the tree several times- at the Clerk's request - and had concluded it would be safe to use ropes and that they would be able to access all the dead wood at this time of year. However the Clerk had received contrary advice from the local tree specialist who had originally helped the Council (without charge) in the inspection of the tree. The Council discussed the matter and at the end of a brief debate concluded that as Arbor-Call is a respected supplier and had provided assurances the work could be carried out satisfactorily, they should be asked to undertake the work. They acknowledged with thanks the community spirit of Mr Parrington and his assistance to the Council.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Bank Tree To accept the offer from Arbor-Call to remove dead branches from the Bank tree and to arrange for the work to be undertaken.	ASAP	Clerk

i) Parish Plan

The Clerk reported the Plan was in progress.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Parish Pan To amend and update the draft Plan to include comments from discussions with WCC, HCC and HH, and to take account of advice received from Steve Lincoln (WCC Officer).	November	Clerk

j) Replacement of Glebe Field gate post

The Clerk noted this matter was in hand. The Council acknowledged with thanks Councillor Egerton's contribution of the Oak post.

In the absence of County and District Councillor Humby and District Councillor Ruffell on urgent District business, there was no matter of report for Council to consider.

180/13 HIGHWAYS

- a) Councillor Tattersall commented on the issues to be addressed in relation to the setting up of a Speed Watch operation. She had met with PC Mike Richards for a preliminary discussion. In essence, Speed Watch would be appropriate for the Main Road in the village within the 30mph zone. It may be possible to use it in the 40mph zone on Morestead Road, but PCSO Nolan noted he would need to check whether the equipment was appropriate and that there was a safe place for the team to operate on the Morestead Road. Councillor Tattersall commented PC Richards had suggested there first be a Police review of the actual speed of traffic on Main Road before matters progress much further. This was generally agreed to be a sensible preliminary step. Councillor Tattersall had been in contact with Penny Smith of Twyford Speed Watch and would continue to liaise with her. She noted the cost of the equipment was in the order of £2000- £3000, so the Council would need to be convinced that it would be a worthwhile investment to make.

Councillors noted the real issue was speed limits – 20 mph in the centre and 30 or 40 mph on the Lanes leading to the village centre, and the 40 mph signage, at least, moved further up the Morestead Road. In this respect the (delayed) meeting with Andy Smith, Traffic Management, would be of great importance.

Action:	By When:	By Whom:
Traffic management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review role of future development of Speed Watch To review outcome of meeting with Police and Traffic management To use Owslebury Newsletter (or some new initiative to capture public attention) to publicise traffic management issues and to help gain public support for the reporting of traffic incidents 	November	ST JC/ST

- b) The Chairman and Clerk commented on the recent meetings in connection with minimising the impact on the village of vehicles trying to avoid the Colden Common road works. They went through the series of actions which had been agreed in principle with Hampshire Highways. Councillors were disappointed the potential impact on Owslebury had not been considered in any great depth at the planning stages of the Colden Common works. The position would get even worse when the Main Road in Colden Common was closed for the January/February work. The Chairman felt the Council would need to continue to put pressure on Hampshire Highways to implement the agreed arrangements as soon as possible, and to encourage the continuing support of County and District Councillor Humby. This included the immediate installation of ‘30 mph ahead’ signage lower down Whaddon Lane, towards Hurst Lane.

Action:	By Whom:
Additional or better signage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider ‘Beware of on-coming traffic’, ‘Unsuitable for HGVs’ and ‘Limited Access’ signage notably at Hurst Lane, Longwood Cross Roads and Owslebury Bottom. Contact Police for temporary ‘Police Slow’ signage Place additional ‘30mph’ signs at beginning of Hurst/Whaddon Lane as well as further up Whaddon Lane Liaise with Hampshire Highways re removal of obstructions to present signage. Discuss with Police enforcement of present restrictions eg 7.5tonne limit 	Clerk Clerk/JC Clerk Clerk/JC

Action:	By Whom:
Temporary traffic lights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss practicality of this option with HH. 	Clerk/JC

Action:	By Whom:

Speed	JC/ST/PB ST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with Police enforcement of current limits. • Set up Speed Watch in time for January road closure at Colden Common • Consider introduction of pinch points • Consider introduction of 'priority' signage and road markings 	Clerk/JC Clerk/JC

- c) The Clerk updated the meeting on the outcome of the recent meeting with Tom Waldron of Hampshire Highways and a HH Structural Engineer to consider how the flooding issues in Pitcot Lane could be mitigated. He went through the series of actions proposed including the installation of a new grip, levelling part of the track, and installing pipework (refer to notes on meeting attached to these Minutes). In particular he and Councillor Phillips noted the Structural Engineer had commented on the lack of appropriate drainage in Main Road, given the installation of country kerbing – this simply added to the problem. Hampshire Highways would return to the Clerk with costings and further information. The Chairman emphasised that should any part of the necessary work be financed privately or in part by OPC, it must be on the basis that Hampshire Highways would be responsible for the continuing maintenance.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Pitcot Lane		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To obtain costings and further information on options and timetable for alleviating flooding in Pitcot Lane. 	ASAP	Clerk

- d) Councillors felt there was no need at present for a litter pick initiative and asked the Clerk to bring the matter back to Council at its March or April meeting.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Litter pick		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To bring forward for consideration at the March or April OPC meetings 	March/April 2014	Clerk

181/13 RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillor Phillips noted the poor state of the Pilgrims Way, past Pitcot Lane. The path was in need of repair and it was agreed the Clerk would report the matter to SDNP for their consideration (the landowner would also be reporting the matter).

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Pilgrims Way past Pitcot Lane		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To report to SDNP the need for repair of the surface and to co-ordinate as necessary with work on related flooding issues.. 	ASAP	Clerk

182/13 PLANNING

a) Planning Applications

SDNP13/04150/LIS	1 Bottom Pond Cottages Morestead Hill Morestead Winchester
Proposal:	Removal of external grey slates on front and partial side of cottage (resubmission)
Closing Date WCC:	16/10/13
Closing Date OPC:	16/10/13

OPC Decision: Support on the grounds as set out in Application, and the improvement to the appearance of a listed building by reinstating the original features.

SDNP 13/04148/LIS	2 Bottom Pond Cottages Morestead Hill Morestead Winchester
Proposal:	Removal of external grey slates on front and partial side of cottage (Resubmission).
Closing Date SDNPA:	16/10/13
Closing Date OPC:	16/10/13

OPC Decision: Support on the grounds as set out in Application, and the improvement to the appearance of a listed building by reinstating the original features.

SDNP 13/04316/HOUS	The Old White House Baybridge Lane Owslebury
Proposal:	Single storey rear extension; replacement garage to one recently demolished due to asbestos content
Closing Date SDNPA:	24/10/13
Closing Date OPC:	24/10/13

OPC Decision: no comment

b) Planning Decisions

Councillors noted the Planning Applications for Land adjacent to Humbee Nurseries (Greener Landscapes), Old Wells Cottage and the Ark Gift Shop at Marwell Wildlife had all been approved. Councillors noted the Greener Landscapes Decision Notice contained significant conditions and it was agreed these should be monitored to ensure compliance, given the significant concerns expressed by Councillors at earlier meetings. In relation to Old Well Cottage, it was noted the garage foundation is at a lower level than the road; given flooding problems experienced on occasion in Main Road, this may cause a problem in the future.

c) Enforcement

The Clerk distributed the latest report from the Enforcement Team at WCC – there were no new cases.

183/13 BUS SERVICES

The Clerk noted HCC had asked for the Council's final comments before determining the bus transport arrangements for the Parish. He explained he had been in contact with parents of 16+ year old Peter Symonds students –who were particularly affected as under the original proposals, whilst obliged to attend college, the students would not be entitled to free public transport – and would be meeting, with the Chairman and Councillor Egerton, with a focus group of older parishioners to establish their transport requirements. He would draft a letter of response for Councillors to consider but in view of the HCC deadline, comments would need to be made by email. The Chairman noted the issues involved students on the one hand, to the shopping and, more particularly, surgery and hospital needs of older or infirm parishioners. A variety of options would need to be considered involving, ideally, HCC, but also options such as pre-paid taxi's, a mini bus service using Bishop's Waltham as a hub, and community transport arrangements with volunteer drivers. Councillors debated the issues involved and the implications in the longer term for the Parish- the lack of public transport could lead to people having to leave the Parish unless they had cars (both older groups and those having to travel to work).

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Community transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk to draft a final response to HCC on transport needs of Parish. 	ASAP	Clerk

184/13 BURIAL GROUND

The Clerk informed Council he had received notification that additional burial space would be needed within the next few years (maximum of 4 years). The Parish Council would need to consider the options available, but if nothing could be found or afforded the matter would need to revert to the District Council for assistance. During the course of the discussion it was noted the options could include the removal of existing and very old graves, subject always to law, use of the Glebe Field as an additional burial site (likely to be unpopular) or acquisition of additional land (expensive). After a short debate it was agreed the Clerk should work with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to seek the views of Parishioners. The PCC and the Council would then need to consider the matter further.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Addition burial space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk to work with PCC so as to ascertain Parishioners views on options 		Clerk

to increase burial space.		
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185/13 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION

a) Payments and receipts

Councillors noted the payments to be made subject to the approval of the Council, together with the actual receipts since the last meeting:

Voucher	Amount (£)	Payee	Purpose
PAYMENTS			
59	40.00	Hampshire Playing Fields Assn	2013/14 subscription
60	60.00	OPHMC	Hall hire June/July/August
61	100.00	Society of Local Council Clerks	2013/14 subscription
62	290.81	M Cleary	Clerk's net pay September
63	9.01	M Cleary	Clerk's expenses September
64	193.60	Post Office	Clerk's PAYE September
65	32.50	TLC	Webmaster monthly invoice
66	25.00	Hampshire Pension Fund	Contribution towards pension fund deficit re former Clerk
67	416.84	Cannon	July Green keeping (VAT £69.47)
RECEIPTS			
	880.76	VAT	Reclaim for period April -
	0.86	Interest	30 day deposit account
	250.00	Hampshire Playing Fields Assn	Grant re Dragon's Teeth and Mound
	11,499.99	WCC	2 nd installment of 2013/14 Precept
	65.00	St Andrews Church	Grass cutting July*

b) Councillors noted the report by the Clerk on the receipts and payments for the 6 months ended 30th September compared with budget. They noted the Council was operating well within the phased budget. The Chairman asked that Councillors give thought before the next meeting on items which should be included in the 2014/15 budget.

c) Councillors agreed to review at their next meeting the reserves required by the Council.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Reserves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review purpose and adequacy of reserves.. 		Clerk/All

186/13 RECREATION AND PLAY GROUNDS

a) The Clerk noted there had been a preliminary request from a football club seeking to use the Recreation Ground on a regular basis. It was agreed the Clerk should liaise with the Owslebury Clubs and agree the detailed terms and conditions, should the matter progress, in accordance with the agreement between the Council and the Clubs.

b) Councillors approved the Clerk's request that there be an interim inspection of the Play Area.

Action:	By when:	By whom:
Play Area Inspection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk to arrange for an interim Inspection of the Play Area. 		Clerk

187/13 CORRESPONDENCE

Councillors noted the recent communications received by the Clerk. They noted Councillor Tattersall had agreed to become a Village Agent under the Age Concern Hampshire/HCC project to help improve the lives of the elderly in dealing with energy and other such issues.

188/13 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed the agenda items should include consideration of the Church. OMCA and Council plans to mark the anniversary of World War 1 and of D-Day.

189/13 DATE OF NEXT TMEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be on 11th November 2013 at the Parish Hall commencing at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed shortly after 9.45pm

Chairman.....John Chapman Date: 11th November 2013