

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF OGBOURNE ST GEORGE
HELD ON THURSDAY 14 MAY 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL
FOLLOWING THE APM

Those Present: Mr M Grove (Chairman)
Mrs C Manos
Mrs C Mudge
Mr P Rouse
Mr R Smith
Mr K Wallace
Mr P Willis
Mr C Freeman (Clerk)
Mr C Humphries (WCC)
Mr D Hunter (KDC)
Mr Martin Cook attended on behalf of the WCC Highways Dept
9 residents & visitors were present

Election of Chairman: Cllr Martin Grove was proposed by Cllr Wallace and seconded by Cllr Manos. There being no further nominations Cllr Grove was deemed elected Chairman.

Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman: Cllr Grove declared, and signed, Acceptance of Office as Chairman of the Parish Council in front of the Proper Officer, the Clerk, who signed it.

Election of Vice Chairman: Cllr Paul Rouse was proposed by Cllr Willis and seconded by Cllr Mudge. There were no other nominations and Councillor Rouse was deemed elected as vice-chairman.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising: **30 mph signs:** The Clerk reported that he had received 24 circular 30 signs for sticking to the sides of bins. Cllr Humphries advised that the new signs would be triangular as the circular ones may cause problems prosecuting speeding motorists. It was agreed that the existing signs should be used before new ones were obtained.

Cycle (Sustrans) Path: The Chairman reported that he had been able to secure supplies of aggregate for the cycle track.

Internal controls: Cllr Wallace requested, in line with the agreement at the previous meeting, that the Council's internal control procedures be put on the Agenda for a future meeting. The Clerk asked that Cllr Wallace put in writing the specific issues he felt needed discussion before it was put on the Agenda.

Finance: **Annual Return:** The Parish Council approved the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2009.

Annual Governance Statement: The Parish Council approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2009.

Payments: A current statement of the financial position of the Parish

Council was distributed by the Clerk. The following payments were made:

WALC subscription	£134.63
Southern Electricity - Power	£182.12
Community First - Insurance	£302.33
Printing of Dragon – 2 months	£27.60
Clerk’s Salary (inc back pay)	£260.44
Bawden contracting	£274.68

Planning:

Outcomes of planning applications since last meeting:

Appeal: land adjacent to Mill House – Rejected

Leaze View – No Objection – granted

Lower Upham Microlight School – Strong Objection

Rectory House – No Objection

Home Farmhouse - Amended plans – No Objection.

It was noted that there were two current applications: Cotswold House and The Manor. The Chairman felt that a meeting would be appropriate for the Manor application and the Cotswold House application could be decided at the same time.

Bell Field:

The Clerk had circulated email correspondence between him and Julia Wall the immediate neighbour to the Bell Field. It was agreed that the Parish Council was in favour of re-establishing the Bell Field as a proper playing field and to that end it was agreed to spend up to £500 on suitable goals and nets. The Clerk would seek grants from the football foundation and the playing fields association. The current orientation of the pitch, north - south, was considered to be the most practical for players. As it was felt there was a danger of not engaging to mitigate concerns it was agreed that Cllr Rouse would open a dialogue with the neighbours at Staddles and Liddiards Green to ensure any perceived problems were overcome. It was noted that the fence between Staddles and the Bell Field had not been replaced despite an agreement with Andy Wall to do so; also there is a gate allowing direct access to the Bell Field; the property was on the boundary line and two ground floor windows had been installed that were not shown on the approved planning permission. The school had sought permission to use the Bell Field which had been granted following discussion between the Clerk and Chairman. It was observed that if the school were using the Bell Field often then the Parish Council may wish to ask for a contribution towards the upkeep.

Wooldridge &
Thomegay Charity:

The Chairman proposed two candidates, Frances Maundrell and Terry Knight, for the role of Trustees of this Charity. No other Councillors had suggested candidates so it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Rector with their details.

Clerk’s contract:

The Chairman had discussed the situation with Kate Fielding at WALC who had been in touch with ACAS. She confirmed that the existing verbal contract was valid (having been Clerk for 31 years he had an implied contract in law) and legally binding and that the Clerk was entitled to have a written contract. In case of a dispute a written contract provides a proper framework. The Clerk again advised he was ambivalent however he felt

that if he was to enter into a written contract then it would have to be on the current terms and conditions of the NALC standard Clerk's contract with paid hours of work as recommended. The Clerk took this position as these would be the terms the Council would have to offer if it were advertising the vacancy for an experienced Clerk. This would be considerably more expensive for the Parish. Cllr Wallace took the view that the Clerk should be paid through PAYE but the Clerk read from the document Governance and Accountability for Local Councils as follows: Page 38: HM Revenue and Customs seek to avoid setting up a PAYE system for a single employee wherever possible... It was agreed that the current payment situation was acceptable. *Councillor Manos left the meeting at 22:11.* Cllr Rouse stated there was a standard job description which could incorporate a simple contract. It was agreed to vote on the situation, the resolution being to retain the current status quo. Cllr Wallace asked for the vote to be recorded. Four Councillors voted in favour of the resolution: Cllrs Rouse, Willis, Mudge & Grove. Cllr Wallace voted against and Cllr Smith abstained.

- ROW over river: It was suggested that the right of way over the river where a bridge had been constructed had been diverted. The Clerk explained that the ROW department at WC felt the bridge was simply an alternate and possibly more convenient route close to the stepping stones. The Clerk agreed to address the question of the concrete bollards outside the gates of The Manor with Mr Tuckey.
- Speeding Buses: It was reported that buses were still speeding through the village. The Clerk was asked to write to the bus company.
- Marlborough Area Board: Cllr Wallace volunteered to be the Parish representative at the Area Board meeting.
- Parish Plan: It was agreed to seek someone with experience of Parish Plans to present the benefits of a plan to the Council.
- Agenda for training: It was suggested that there should be an agenda for Councillors' training.
- There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.35. The next meeting would be held on Thursday July 9th 2009.