

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF
OGBOURNE ST GEORGE HELD ON
THURSDAY 22 MARCH 2012 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Those Present: Mr K Macdonald (Chairman)
Mrs M Cook
Mr T George
Mr K Howard
Mr R Iliffe
Mrs W Reardon Smith
Mr K Wallace
Mr C Freeman (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Mrs J Milton (Wiltshire)

4 residents were present

Bereavement The Councillors wished to record their sympathy to Cllr Jemima Milton on the recent loss of her husband, John.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meetings, held on 12 & 26 January and 23 February having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. The Chairman apologised for this meeting being held two weeks later than originally planned.

Matters Arising: **Finance sub-committee** – Cllr Wallace had provided minutes of the first meeting which had determined the role of the sub-committee and the scope of the regulations to be created for the Council.

Finance: **Payments** - A current statement of the financial position of the Parish Council was distributed by the Clerk. The following **payments were approved:**

Scottish Power	£74.00
Village Hall Costs contribution	£50.00
Printing of Dragon	£24.00
Clerk's Salary	£258.47
Clerk's Expenses (Quality Stationers)	£8.00

Parish Plan: The Parish Plan committee Chairman, Brian Utton, reported: The Ogbourne St George Parish Plan will move to the next stage of the development process at the end of April with two public meetings to publicise the initial results from the questionnaires returned in January and February. Of the 200 questionnaires sent out by the Parish Plan team, 98 were returned - an excellent response rate compared to other Parish Plans - and a large number of respondents kindly offered to help with future activities. Analysis of the responses is ongoing in readiness for the Initial Findings meetings to be held in the Village Hall on the evening of Friday 27th and the morning of Saturday 28th of April. Some of the data has already been put to good use by the Parish Council in their deliberations over current planning issues including the Poole's Yard plans. The Initial Findings meetings will provide an opportunity for everyone to find out the majority views of the respondents, also to get involved with the final part of the process where the actual Parish Plan is developed by teams dedicated to specific elements of the plan working with any interested parties. The meetings will feature refreshments and the draw for a lucky winner of the £20 M&S vouchers at each meeting, so why not come along and help

ensure the Parish Plan truly reflects the views of the majority and delivers its aim of being a significant driver in the future activities in the Parish.

Cllr Reardon-Smith reported that, from her analysis of the Parish Plan questionnaire returns, the Parish Council received a poor press. Discussion centred on what could be done to improve the Parish Council's image and at what point public involvement in the meetings could be formalised. It was agreed that the Council was relaxed about public contributions from the floor during specific items under debate and consideration would be given to inviting the public to register their wish to speak on a particular agenda item on arrival at a meeting.

It was agreed it was important to ensure up-to-date minutes were displayed on the website. The Chairman agreed to do it regularly.

Planning:

The results of the housing needs survey were summarised by the Chairman. This is a survey model that Wiltshire has 'on the shelf' and it was implemented in very quick time. There was a good response rate of 32.1% with 77 replies received. The survey's recommendations concentrate on households unable to afford accommodation on the open market. Over the next three years the minimum need for new affordable housing development in the parish, based on the responses to the survey, would be 1 one bed home for a single person or couple, 3 two bed homes for couples / families and 3 three bed homes for families. No other categories of affordable homes were identified. Copies of the survey report are available on request to the Clerk.

Chantry Meadow E/2011/0838/FUL - Granted

Crimea Cottage E/2011/1443/FUL – Refused – Appeal submitted

Coombe View Conservatory – E/2011/1612/FUL & E/2011/161/LBC – Granted

Chapel Meadow Farm Buildings – E/2011/1683/FUL – Granted

Hillside E/2011/1691/TCA – Granted

Coniston E/2011/1699/TCA – Granted

Pooles Yard E/2011/1708/FUL – Refusal as follows submitted:

The Parish Council is in favour of some development of Poole's Yard for residential purposes, but, in the wake of a very fruitful open meeting of villagers, **objects to** the current application on the following grounds:

- It would encroach excessively on green field area, and seems inconsistent with policy HC 24, which allows for development, under very strict conditions, on already built areas and also, possibly, with Policy HC26.

Strong opposition to green field development was a feature of a recent and widely responded to Parish Plan questionnaire. *The Parish Council seeks a definitive ruling on the how Policy HC 24 affects this application. The Council would oppose any ruling that could be a precedent for development elsewhere.*

- The Green was included in response to an expressed need for recreational land for both adults and children in the village but the present application does not meet that need and the PC believes The Green would be considered the preserve of the new development. While the Parish Council hopes that suitable space (for eg a football field) can be found, it would be better alongside the development or, preferably, elsewhere in the village.

The Parish Council notes that if the development area was confined to the built space agricultural land would in fact be restored to the applicant, and equivalent land could be released to the village without net loss. This is separate from the provision of a smaller parcel of recreational land under Policy HC 35, which would be welcome. Although this land would be primarily for benefit of the residents on the development, the Parish Council hope that it could be generous enough to allow a children's playground, with some equipment and a bench or two, so that it would be seen as a general amenity.

- Infrastructure: Villagers were concerned about capacity of services to cope and possible flooding. These issues would presumably be considered by the relevant authorities.
- The brick and sarsen wall is a feature of the application. It is in poor condition in parts, and the Parish Council is not willing to assume responsibility for its upkeep. At one stage it was considered for inclusion in the houses. If it is retained, this or another use (eg the back wall of additional garages) might be found for it by the applicants.
- Parking: although parking provision is included in the plan the Parish Council consider that there could be overspill into the High Street and would welcome advice from the Highways Department on the increased level of parking there as well as the general increase in traffic. The Council also considers it short-sighted not to include garages in the plans for three of the open market houses (even if this is not possible in the case of the affordable houses). It fears that there will be a series of early but haphazard applications to build them.

The Parish Council suggest that only outline planning permission be considered at this stage, so that there can be detailed discussion leading to early agreement on an acceptable scheme. Development is needed, but has to be got right for this AONB.

Southend House E/2012/0005/FUL - Granted.

Pendoggett E/2012/0140/TCA - Granted

QEII Playing Fields Opportunity:

The Parish Council was considering the QEII Playing Fields opportunity which would register 2012 public recreation sites. Further details could be found at www.qe2fields.com. The Parish Council felt that as there was some possibility in the creation of a new playing field in the parish it would be better to keep this opportunity on hold at the present time.

Wiltshire Standards and Code of Conduct:

Wiltshire Council would be supplying a draft Code of Conduct for Parish Councils to adopt to Clerks shortly. Cllr Wallace understood there would be two areas of difference from the existing code. These would be that dispensations become the responsibility of the Parish and although Wiltshire will be able to recommend sanctions it would be up to the Parish to implement them. **It was agreed to include this issue** on the Agenda of the next meeting scheduled in May.

Jubilee Celebrations:

Cllr Cook reported on plans for the Jubilee celebrations and that the approved funding application from the area board had been returned successfully. Funds should be received soon. Cllr Cook advised that monies would soon be required for food etc. The Clerk would arrange for cheques to be cashed as required. **Where match funding was required it was agreed that the Parish Council would underwrite such requirements.** Plans so far include a Scarecrow competition, a big Jubilee

party, children's memento, open gardens and a village beacon. It was hoped that there would be sufficient funds for fireworks.

- Next Meeting Date: The date set in the Standing orders for the next meeting (the AGM), the second Thursday of May, is inconvenient for some Councillors. **It was agreed to amend the Standing Orders such that the AGM could be held on any Thursday in May and it was also agreed that this year's meeting would be held on Thursday 3rd May 2012.**
- Tree Officer's report The tree officer, Simon Turner, had reported on the Eucalyptus Tree causing potential damage in the garden of 1 Liddiards Green. Cllr Wallace had been in touch with the resident, Sue Sutton, and he understood that she was obtaining an independent assessment of the potential of the roots of the Eucalyptus tree to cause damage to her property. It was agreed to do nothing until that was available.
- Staffing Committee: **It was unanimously agreed to establish a staffing committee**, Cllrs Reardon Smith and Iliffe volunteered as members. Cllr Macdonald said he would make up the number. It would be a standing committee and would establish its terms of reference. Wiltshire has model templates which it would consider and would report back to the Parish Council.
- Gateposts at end of Old Marlborough Road: It had been reported that gateposts had been erected at the end of the Old Marlborough Road. The Clerk had been in touch with the local resident, Mr Matthew Coplestone, who said he had erected them as he had had problems with people parking in the space outside his gate. He was looking to purchase the piece of land from Wiltshire if possible. The Clerk had also reported the matter to the Highways department who had inspected the area and would be asking for the gateposts to be removed.
- Friends of the Coronation Garden: Cllrs Macdonald and George acting as 'Friends of the Coronation Garden' had made application to the Area Board for funds for a new oak bench. It was understood that it would be considered at the next meeting on 27th March.
- Complaints Committee: The Chairman wanted to amend membership of the Complaints committee to include members of Wiltshire Standards and WALC. The Clerk had already advised that this was not an urgent matter as there were no complaints, as defined by the Standing Orders, for the committee to consider. The Chairman proposed that an extraordinary meeting be held next Tuesday 27th March solely to discuss this matter. The Clerk advised that it would be difficult to issue a proper meeting summons in time to fulfil legal requirements but was spoken over by the Chairman. **It was agreed to hold a meeting on Tuesday 27th March, venue to be determined.**
- Litter picker: It was reported that a villager was willing to litter pick as he walked round the village. To do so he would like a litter picker. **It was generally agreed that would be a good idea** and it was also suggested that gloves and a collection receptacle could be provided. Cllr Reardon Smith would provide the Clerk with details of appropriate items to be purchased.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.50. The next meeting, the AGM and APM, is scheduled for Thursday May 3rd 2012.

Signed as a true record.....

Keith Macdonald Chairman. 3rd May 2012

DRAFT