

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF  
OGBOURNE ST GEORGE HELD ON  
THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2011 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Those Present: Mr K Macdonald (Chairman)  
Mrs M Cook  
Mr T George  
Mr K Howard  
Mr K Wallace  
Mr C Freeman (Clerk)  
Mrs J Milton (Wiltshire)

15 residents were present

Declaration of Acceptance of Office: Each new Councillor, in turn, declared and signed Acceptance of Office in front of the Proper Officer, the Clerk.

Election of Chairman: Cllr Macdonald was nominated by Cllr Cook and seconded by Cllr George, there being no other nominations **Cllr Macdonald was elected Chairman.**

Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman: Cllr Macdonald declared and signed Acceptance of Office of Chairman before the Proper Officer, the Clerk.

Election of vice-Chairman: It was decided not to elect a vice-Chairman until after the forthcoming election for two further Councillors, scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

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

Resignation of Councillors: The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Martin Grove and the other Councillors who had resigned. Cllr Wallace echoed the Chairman's remarks and felt the Council should acknowledge the work they had done and send them a letter of thanks to each former Councillor. It was noted that a number of the former Councillors did not give reasons for resigning and **it was agreed that the Chairman** would talk to them individually in the form of a leaving appraisal so that the Council could learn for the future.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Correspondence received: The Chairman proposed that, because of the possible confidential nature of the correspondence to be discussed, the public be excluded from the discussion which would be held at the end of the meeting. It was seconded by Cllr George and **resolved unanimously.**

Finance: **Bank Mandate** – The Chairman signed the bank mandate and it **was agreed that Cllr George should be the third signatory** pending election of a vice-Chairman. Cllr George also signed the bank mandate and both signatories took the bank identity forms for submission to the bank.

**Payments** - A current statement of the financial position of the Parish Council was distributed by the Clerk. The Councillors were not inclined to approve the payments listed on the financial statement distributed by the Clerk as they felt they had not had sufficient notice. Cllr Milton (Wiltshire) pointed out that all the payments were for existing contracts that had already been approved by the previous Council. It was agreed that payments to be made would be listed on or with the Agenda in future. Then the following **payments were approved:**

Bawden	£303.60
SEC – Maintenance	£71.23
Scottish Power	£74.00
Printing of Dragon	£24.00
Clerk’s Salary	£258.47
UK-2 for website hosting	£322.77

Planning:

Cllr George stated that he wished for all planning applications to be considered to be listed on the Agenda as published and displayed in accordance with best practice. This was taken as a proposal, seconded by Cllr Howard and **agreed unanimously.**

**Crimea Cottage – E/2011/1443/FUL** – Cllr George declared personal interest and left the room. Cllr Wallace said he had no objection to the plan but had reservations on the effect on the light reduction on the adjoining property, Martlets, (Cllr George’s property) as the proposed building was two storeys high right up to the boundary wall so he objects to the plan. Other Councillors concurred **and it was agreed to respond to the planning department in these terms.**

**Home Farmhouse Trees – E/2011/11480/TCA** Cllr Wallace had visited the site and was concerned at the proposed felling of a Horse Chestnut shown as T1. Some discussion followed and it was felt that as it was not a specimen tree it may be diseased and felling would be wise. The tree officer would require replacement if appropriate. **It was agreed make no objection.**

**Chantry Meadow – E/11/0838/FUL** – There was still concern over obstruction of the highway this time regarding the parking of large horse boxes on the road outside the applicant’s property causing obstruction. Councillors had looked at the site from the hillside and considered its appearance was of a commercial nature rather than domestic. **It was agreed to ask the Wiltshire Councillor handling the application, Cllr Humphries, to request that the application be called-in for consideration by the Wiltshire Council’s planning committee.** It was agreed that the Parish Council’s objections were as before and it is now also concerned that large vehicles are regularly parked in the narrow village street at the end of the applicant's driveway blocking the road for all but the smallest vehicles for periods of around 15 minutes. The number of horses, apparently up to 9, grazing in Chantry Meadow seems inconsistent with domestic use for a family of three people. This scale of usage concerns the Parish Council particularly in the light of the applicant's business which is a horse transport firm. The current appearance of the meadow which is viewed from a conservation area has been transformed from an aesthetic setting to a more commercial equestrian appearance by the current

configuration of tapes, fences stables etc.

**Earthline – E/2011/1515/FUL – No Objection.**

- Queen's Diamond Jubilee: Cllr Cook reported she was part of a group of 'Old School Residents' who were keen to organise an event. Cllr Wallace mentioned he had spoken to Helen Fisher who was keen to get a consensus of what the village might want to do but it transpired that she was part of Cllr Cook's group. **It was agreed that Cllr Cook liaise between the group and the Parish Council, particularly regarding availability of funds to support community events.**
- Olympics: It was reported that the Olympic torch would be passing through the Parish en-route between Marlborough and Chiseldon. Cllrs wanted it to be routed through the village but it would be in transport not being carried. Cllr Milton (Wiltshire) would enquire what could be done. A question was asked whether the school was planning to participate in any way but no-one knew. Members would make enquiries.
- Audio Recording of Public Meetings: Cllr Howard stated there were moves to record all public meetings – the Isle of Wight Council had done it since 2005. Cllr Milton (Wiltshire) said that Wiltshire Council didn't do it and she was not aware of any Parish Councils doing it either. Cllr George felt it would produce a rather boring outcome that would not be accessed as a resource. **It was agreed that Cllr Howard should investigate the cost and produce a feasibility proposal.**
- Parish Plan: The Chairman of the Parish Plan committee, Cllr Howard, stated that he had now stepped down on becoming a Councillor. Brian Utton has taken over the lead role and reported that the questionnaire would be distributed to the village during January. It was thanks to Kevin Howard that the evolving Parish Plan was one of the better ones in Wiltshire and he had done a sterling job. Cllr Wallace stood down as continuity liaison between the Council and the Parish Plan committee, a role Cllr Howard would assume.
- Localism Bill: Cllr Wallace reported that by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 each Parish Council was to have its own Code of Conduct. Wiltshire would be asking if Parish Councils would be willing to consider a model Code of Conduct if it created one and **it was agreed that the PC should welcome this initiative** now even if it did not adopt it in the future.
- Parish Forum: **It was agreed Cllr Macdonald would take over the former Chairman's role by attending the meetings of the Parish Forum.**
- Emergency Planning: **It was agreed that emergency planning could be effected** through liaison with other Parishes through the Parish Forum.
- Eucalyptus Tree: The Clerk had received a letter from Sue Sutton regarding a Eucalyptus tree growing in the Village Hall playground as she felt the roots were invading her garden. **It was agreed to ask Simon Turner to examine it and report back to the Council.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.30. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 12<sup>th</sup> 2012.

Signed as a true record.....

Keith Macdonald Chairman. 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012

DRAFT