

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
OF OGBOURNE ST GEORGE HELD ON THURSDAY 11 MARCH 2010  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 19:30

Those Present: Mr M Grove (Chairman)  
Mrs C Manos  
Mr K Macdonald  
Mrs C Mudge  
Mr K Wallace  
Mr P Willis  
Mr C Freeman (Clerk)  
Mrs J Milton (Wiltshire)

Apologies were received from Mr P Rouse (who attended at 20:15)  
PCSO Polly Ritchie (Wiltshire Police) attended to give the neighbourhood policing report  
4 Residents were present

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on February 4th, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising from  
January 14<sup>th</sup> and  
February 4<sup>th</sup> meetings:

**Defibrillator:** The Clerk awaited a response from the British Heart Foundation and would follow up again.

**Football Goals:** It was reported that the nets were not in place. The Clerk would follow up.

**Sustrans Cycle Path:** The Clerk had discovered, at the Area Boards Review Workshop which he attended with the Chairman, that an Issue had been created at the Area Board but the PC had not been notified about it. Cllr Milton would discuss with the Area Board a better way to ensure PC's were properly included in Issues matters. The Clerk stated that he had heard there was a new Sustrans contact and he would endeavour to find out the situation.

**Councillor Training:** The Clerk had arranged for Cllr Macdonald to attend a training course on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**Village Hall Trees:** The Clerk and Chairman had still not been able to attend to the overhanging tree in the village hall car park due to inclement weather.

**BT Kiosks:** The Clerk reported that the matter was now being progressed with Wiltshire Council.

Finance:

**Reserves:** As the Area Board had made grants for items normally considered to be expenditure from Precept, such as notice boards and village gateways, it was considered appropriate to review the reserve held by the Parish Council. This reserve had been built up over a number of years so that the PC would usually be in a position to incur unplanned expenditure without the need to arrange borrowing or rely on grant aid. The new Wiltshire Council has created a fund to pay for local election expenses so there was now no need to reserve for that. Cllr Milton stated that, although the Area Board had been able to carry forward its grant

monies, grants would not necessarily be forthcoming in future for Preceptable items. It was agreed to monitor grants made by the Area Board over the next six months and defer the matter for consideration at the September meeting.

**Payments:** A current statement of the financial position of the Parish Council was distributed by the Clerk.

The following payments were made:

Printing of Dragon – 2 months	£24.00
Clerk's Salary	£258.46
WALC – Standing Orders book	£25.00
Glasdon replacement glass for bus shelter	£71.67
Village Hall – Usage contribution	£50.00

Planning:

Applications and outcomes since last meeting:

E091629 Golf Course - Granted

E100049 Parsonage Piece – No Objection – Amended plans circulated - Granted

E100067 Bytham Road Warehouses – Objection submitted – Highways comments added to application

E100101 Whitefield Cottage - No Objection - Granted

E100151 Telecommunications equipment - No Objection

It was suggested that a link on the website to the planning portal would allow residents to see local plans. The Clerk would arrange.

Parish Plan:

Cllr Wallace had requested that this item be discussed with the intention of finally resolving whether the Parish community wishes to create a Parish Plan with the help of the Parish Council. Concern was expressed as to what a Parish Plan would achieve. It was agreed to produce a flyer for insertion into the Dragon and invite residents to express their interest in creating a Parish Plan at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. Information would be included on the website, too. Only two villages in the area had created Parish Plans, Ogbourne St Andrew and Baydon. If the community felt it would be beneficial to proceed first contact with these two parishes may be worthwhile.

Bell Field:

At a recent meeting the current Headteacher made a request that the Bell Field be made more usable by the school. In the first place it needed to be levelled and proper pitches marked out. He had furnished the Clerk with official dimensions. Some discussion centred around the Landy that was used many years ago but as it was now pasture it was no longer available. It was agreed to commission a feasibility study and create a drawing of how a level playing field would look. Cllr Willis would take a lead role. It was observed that the paling fencing around the Bell Field was dilapidated which may expose the barbed wire fencing, erected by the farmer, to players and cause injury. Part of the feasibility study would comprise a risk assessment.

Rights of Way:

Cllr Macdonald had created a listing of work required to footpaths and stiles. It was agreed to forward it to Rights of Way warden, Esther Daly so that she could be in touch with Cllr Macdonald, for action. Concern was again raised over the blocked footpath near Meadow Cottage and Cllr Rouse agreed to try to involve the Ridgeway Trails office to unravel the stalemate.

It had been reported that part of the cycle track adjacent to the kennels appeared to be cared for as if was the garden of the kennels and cyclists and walkers were inhibited from using it. It was agreed to approach the owners to discover the situation. The Chairman and Clerk would investigate.

- Potholes: A number of Councillors were concerned at the state of the slip road off the A346 as it significantly deteriorated. It had been advised that it would be resurfaced in due course as it was surface erosion rather than odd potholes.
- Parking at T junction: The Clerk would ask PC Sarah Watts to monitor and, if appropriate, take action regarding inconsiderate parking at the main junction.
- Dragon: It had been noted that the Dragon no longer contained details of the Parish Council minutes. It was agreed to put a note in the Dragon giving the date of each recent PC meeting and stating that the minutes were available on the website or notice board.
- Liddiards Green Bus Stop: Passengers waiting in the bus shelter were often unable to see the approaching bus in time so it was decided to ask Richard Gamble at WC to make the bus stop permanent rather than request.
- SLOW signs: SLOW signs had appeared either side of the school apparently related to the increase of traffic through the village due to the road works at the A346 bridge. It was suggested that their positioning was in itself a hazard. Cllr Milton would investigate.
- Annual Parish Meeting: It had been requested that attendees at the APM be provided with Agendas, minutes of the previous meeting and financial statements.
- There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.10. The next meeting, the APM and AGM, would be held on Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup> 2010.