

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF
OGBOURNE ST GEORGE HELD ON
THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2011 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Those Present: Mr M Grove (Chairman)
Mrs C Manos

Mrs C Mudge
Mr K Macdonald
Mr P Rouse
Mr K Wallace
Mr P Willis
Mr C Freeman (Clerk)

Mrs J Milton (Wiltshire)

6 residents were present

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

Matters Arising: **Bottom Lane** – The Clerk reported that he, together with the Chairman, had met with Wiltshire Highways people, Steve Cross and Martin Cook, in Bottom Lane and explained the issues. Various scenarios were considered and it was generally agreed that the most effective would be to put a ‘Give Way’ dotted line right across the exit of Bottom Lane by the bridge. This would make it look as if it were only a one way street especially as lane lines would be painted on the roadway of Bottom Lane alongside the Coronation Garden that would effectively narrow it. Sid Bolt, as residents’ representative, thought these measures would go some way to allaying residents’ fears. The Parish Council endorsed this solution. It was also reported that, having seen a motorist speeding through the village, Wiltshire Highways would be willing to install red tarmac at the north and south entrances to the village to emphasize the speed limit area. Again the Councillors were in favour of this action.

Poor’s Gorse Charity Trustee – The Clerk had wrongly assumed that Cllr Wallace would pass on the Council’s thanks to Mrs Wallace for volunteering to be a trustee. He would write to her instead.

Bytham Road Warehouses – The Clerk would bring the fact that landscaping work at these premises, a condition of the planning permission, had not been carried out.

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

Printing of Dragon	£24.00
Clerk’s Salary	£258.47
Village Hall rent & electrical inspection	£150.00

Contracts - The Clerk reported that he had yet to receive the contracts from Scottish power but that they had been promised within seven days.

Clerk’s Workload – It was agreed at a previous meeting to review the volume of work the Clerk was expected to undertake. He had provided the Councillors with details of suggested conditions of service of Local Council Clerks and that he was paid for 3 hours work per week although he often spent a whole day on Parish Council business. He was normally available

to the Parishioners and Councillors on a full time basis. The Chairman felt unqualified to make immediate decisions and took up a suggestion that a working group should be formed to consider the matter. Cllrs Grove, Macdonald & Mudge, supported by Cllr Wallace, would meet to review all aspects of the Clerk's role and remuneration and report at the next meeting. Wiltshire Councillor Jemima Milton would assist as required. Cllr Manos suggested that Councillors should take on some of the Clerk's responsibilities as with the street lighting or parish steward in the past.

Planning:

Brockfield House – The plans for this machinery storage shed had been distributed and it was agreed there was No Objection.

Mill House – Comment was made that the fence height had simply been reduced and the Clerk advised that his understanding of the regulations was that it was in order.

Village Mowing:

Contract Award - The Clerk had passed on quotations for the Parish's grounds maintenance from Bawden, J&J Tree & Garden maintenance and Wiltshire Grounds maintenance service to the sub-committee. They recommended continuing with Bawden, the current supplier. The Parish Council endorsed this decision unanimously.

Mowed Areas - Because the Parish Council undertook to mow the Churchyard on behalf of the PCC there was the possibility that other groups would be in a position to expect their public land to be cut also. A vote in favour of continuing to mow the Churchyard on behalf of the PCC was carried. Residents of Leaze View had been advised that, in future, they would be charged by Wiltshire for mowing the grassed bank by their bungalows. Cllr Milton would take the matter up with Wiltshire – the Clerk would provide details. It was again noted that Mr Sid Bolt regularly mowed the Coronation Garden and it was agreed that the Parish Council would thank him formally.

Public Transport:

Bus Services - Details of the new bus service X5 had been publicised in the Dragon. The Clerk read out the proposed times of the 70 StageCoach service through the village as from April 4th. Other than an evening service it would not change significantly. Cllr Milton reported that a subsidised evening service had been put out to tender by Wiltshire and outcome was awaited. **Bus Stop Bench** – Cllr Manos had requested that the bench in the bus stop on the Old Marlborough Road be chained down in the shelter in winter and outside in summer to prevent it being stolen. Her motion to that effect was not seconded and abandoned.

Parish Forum:

The Chairman reported on an initiative by Mr James Keith, Chairman of Broad Hinton and Winterbourne Basset Parish Council, to organise a conference of Parish Councils in the Area Board. It was felt that a forum representing Parish Councils would be more effective in determining what PCs could do together and address funding issues better than the apparently defunct MAVCAP. The Chairman agreed to attend the initial meeting on April 5th and the subsequent Area Board meeting and report back to the Council. If other Councillors were available for these meetings he would welcome their attendance, too.

Parish Plan

Progress Report - On behalf of Mr Kevin Howard, Chairman of the Parish Plan committee, Cllr Wallace reported with other members of the Parish Plan committee that, as announced in the Dragon, the committee had established focus groups. These would encourage respondents to build on exploring issues raised at the various meetings.

Request for Litterbins – Discussion revealed that the issue of litter in the village, raised by some at the village meetings, had been interpreted as a need for litterbins. It appeared that in places there was a requirement to increase the control of littering and that maybe achieved by the installation of appropriately sited bins but that would be for the future once specific needs had been established by research. Meanwhile it was agreed, as a separate issue from the Parish Plan, to arrange a village litter pick, co-ordinated by Cllr Macdonald and advertised in the Dragon and on the noticeboards. The Clerk and Cllr Macdonald would liaise. It was particularly noted that a lot of litter seemed to be discarded around the school with adjacent residents notably affected. The Clerk would write the the Headteacher to bring this to her attention and invite the school to participate in the litter pick.

Rights of Way:

Cllr Manos raised the issue of the small bridge across the Og close to the old stepping stones crossing. She insisted that the right of way had been diverted and that access to the stepping stones restricted. The Clerk pointed out that the bridge had been seen by the Area Rights of Way warden, Esther Daly, who declared that in her expert opinion it did not constitute a diversion of the path. Cllr Manos produced maps from previous centuries to try to convince the Council that the bridge did divert the path. The Chairman took the maps and deferred the issue until he and other Councillors had the opportunity to examine the bridge and stepping stones.

Parish Steward Worklist:

As the Parish Steward service was not in the direct control of the Parish Council the Clerk was unable to see why this had been listed as an Agenda matter. Cllr Wallace, who had asked for it, conceded that it did not fulfil the criteria for Agenda matters. He asked that the Steward deal with the ivy in the bus shelter but the Clerk pointed out that Cllr Macdonald had agreed to undertake this work at a previous meeting. It was further agreed that the shelter was in need of a new coat of wood preservative which the Clerk said he would obtain for the Councillors concerned to apply.

Clerk's Report:

Cllr Wallace stated that he believed the Clerk's report should be made publicly available as it contained information useful to the parishioners. The Clerk had already stated that he did not agree as it was a briefing for Councillors to consider matters and that relevant issues in the Clerk's report would come out in the minutes once the issues had been considered by the duly elected Councillors. The Chairman noted Cllr Wallace's comment 'was only an observation' and he was content with the status quo.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.11. The next meeting would be the Annual Parish and Annual General meetings on 12th May 2011.