

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
OF THE PARISH OF OGBOURNE ST GEORGE
HELD ON THURSDAY 8 MAY 2008 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30pm

Those Present: Mr K Wallace (Chairman)
Mr M Grove
Mrs C Manos
Mrs C Mudge
Mr P Rouse
Mr R Smith
Mr P Willis
Mr C Freeman (Clerk)
Mr C Humphries (WCC)
Mr D Hunter (KDC)
Mr Peter Hanson attended on behalf of the WCC Highways Dept

9 Residents were present

Minutes: The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were signed.

Matters arising: **Railings:** It was reported that the railings along Church Lane and those along the path to the Bus Stop had been repaired or replaced.
Bus Timetables: Timetables had been installed on the Bus Stop shelters.
Minutes: The resident concerned agreed that minutes were now displayed to her satisfaction.
Village Website: Significant progress had been made on developing a village website which was expected to be launched in approximately six weeks.

Chairman's Report: The Council had an especially expensive year with expenditure exceeding the precept. Details of the expenditure are dealt with in the Clerk's finance report. As a result to maintain reserves the Council had to raise the precept for year 2008-9 from £3500 to £5000. During the year the Council attended to 27 items affecting the village. Of these 16 were resolved with the remainder still to be concluded. Included in the unresolved items are Speeding (you may have noticed temporary speed warning indicator signs erected along the Old Marlborough Rd approach to the village) and illegal parking at the T junction where the High St meets the Old Marlborough Rd. The Council processed seventeen Planning Applications requiring consent. There were 2 applications opposed by the Parish Council; these were subsequently approved by the District Council. For the coming year the Council has already identified a number of issues. Foremost is the future maintenance of the village streetlights, which are currently maintained by the Parish Council. During the past year the Council spent more on maintaining the lighting system than it received in grants. Due to the age of the current lighting systems this level of expenditure is likely to remain with an increasing risk of higher expenditure if the lights have to be replaced. This becomes more likely as UK/European regulation covering street lighting is updated. In most villages in Wiltshire the District or County Council manages street lighting. Steps will be taken to assess the feasibility of transferring this responsibility to either the District or County

Council. Other major issues identified for the coming year are road and path re-surfacing in the village. The Parish Council always welcomes residents' suggestions for improvements in the village. Finally I would like to express my thanks to the Clerk and members of the Council for their support during the last year. I would also like to acknowledge the time spent free of charge by councillors in undertaking tasks which the village would have had to pay for by engaging professional services.

There were no questions on the Chairman's report.

Financial Report: The Clerk reported that £5362.38 was brought forward from 2006/2007 which, together with a precept of £3,500, VAT refund of £349.97, footway lighting grants of £802 (for 3 years) and bank interest of £103.34 meant the total available for the year was £10,117.69. Expenditure of £5605.23 represented the basic costs of services within the Parish such as grass mowing and street lighting together with tree pruning, playground clearing, refurbishment of notice boards and an election fee. £4512.46 was carried forward to 2008/2009. A resident suggested that the accounts be distributed for approval by residents or displayed on the notice board. The Clerk advised it was the Councillors' role to approve payments and the Clerk's to keep accurate accounts. All payments were shown on the minutes displayed on the board. Annual accounts were always satisfactorily audited by Auditors appointed by the Government. If residents had any objection to the accounts there was a formal route for making complaint to the Auditor.

Charity Reports: Ogbourne St. George Village Hall
Report follows

Ogbourne St George Poor's Land or Poor's Gorse
Report follows

Village Hall Lease It was reported that representations made to the Charity Commissioners had been successful and a new Village Hall lease would be completed to ensure the Village retained the Hall for the foreseeable future.

County Information Cllr Humphries distributed his annual report on the activities of the County Council.

Highways Mr Peter Henson outlined Highways department priorities for the forthcoming year and reassured Councillors that views put forward by the Council would be considered.

Speeding It was noted that the newly installed temporary speed warning signs were effective in reducing speed through the Old Marlborough Road. Cllr Hunter provided details of the Lockeridge traffic calming business plan and various possibilities were suggested. Cllr Smith would collate them for a future meeting of the Parish Council.

There being no further business the Annual Parish Meeting closed at 20:20.