

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
OF OGBOURNE ST GEORGE HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 7:30pm

Those Present: Mr K Wallace (Chairman)  
Mr M Grove  
Mrs C Mudge  
Mrs C Manos  
Mr P Rouse  
Mr R Smith  
Mr P Willis  
Mr C Freeman (Clerk)  
Mr C Humphries (WCC)  
Mr D Hunter (Kennet)

7 residents were present

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

Matters Arising: **Bell Field:** There was still a small amount of felled timber in the Bell field to which Richard Illiffe said he would be able to give access once harvest was in.

**Cycle Path:** The Clerk had been in contact with Richard Broadhead ROW manager at WCC. It was agreed to include his response in the minutes for future reference. Response dated 20/8/2008: *Further to my response below, I have now been able to discuss the future of the railway path with colleagues in our Property and Estates team and also with our senior bridges engineer. They have explained to me that the leases to Sustrans run until 2012 and that we would not expect to start renewal discussions until approximately a year before that. They do not seem to think that Sustrans won't want to renew them, but I have been able to flag up the issue so that they are aware that if Sustrans do withdraw the need for path is well recognised within this Council. I have suggested that we should seek to formally dedicate and maintain it as a public bridleway (which would continue to include access for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists). Incidentally, the bridge engineer has pointed out that the £500 per year we have been contributing does not include the cost of bridge maintenance, which we have been picking up by default!*

**Street Lighting:** The Clerk reported that he had received grant application forms from Kennet and Cllr Smith had met with Philips Lighting to evaluate the alternative products. He would also seek other manufacturers of similar amenity lighting so that supply, supply and install, or install only quotes could be assembled. It was noted that the work should be completed by April 2009.

**Village Website:** The Chairman had distributed website statistics supplied by Paul Scott as follows:

August 311 Visitors - Between 5 and 30 Unique Visitors a day (Visitors is defined as the sum of the unique visitors per day NOT 311 totally different people coming to the site over the month. Although, I'd be pretty sure the number of people that have visit the site must be 100 plus.)

September 81 Visitors so far - projecting to 304 for the month

September 4th was the second most busy day since launch.

**It was agreed to write to Paul Scott and Tim Frost** thanking them for their efforts in getting the website up and running.

**Play Area:** Cllr Willis and the Clerk had not been able to fit the new swings so far due to the inclement weather. The Clerk had booked the RoSPA inspection for September.

**Unitary Authority:** Cllr Grove volunteered to attend a Parish Consultation meeting at the Ivy House Hotel in Marlborough on 21<sup>st</sup> October at 6:30.

**Woodland Planting:** It was reported that the path was now OK

**Blocked Road Drains:** Cllr Manos would prefer not to be the Parish Steward contact any longer so the Clerk would arrange for contact in future to be with him. **He would check whether the drains had been ‘gully cleansed’.**

**Foul Water:** The Chairman had been to the site and had discovered the source of the foul water. He had been trying to contact the Environment Agency at Wallingford for an engineer to attend but had not yet succeeded. It was suggested that the **Clerk contact Steven Ibbotson at Kennet Environmental services.**

**Telephone Boxes:** Cllr Manos enquired whether there had been any further information regarding the possible removal of telephone boxes in the village. There hadn't but she wanted to know whether the PC should be prepared if BT wanted to remove them. The Clerk observed that they would only be removed if they were little used and not viable and there was no point in opposing such action.

Finance:

A current statement of the financial position of the Parish Council was distributed by the Clerk. The following payments were made:

Mazars – Audit	£141.00
Bawden – mowing	£1100.60
Southern Electric Contracting	£64.50
Clerk salary & back pay	£498.11
Printing of Dragon – 2 months	£28.20

In recognition of the demands on the Clerk's time it was agreed that the Clerk should in future receive payment for three rather than the previous two hours per week. This would be on his current spinal column point 21 backdated to the beginning of the fiscal year.

Planning:

Tree maintenance applications at The Chantry and The Old Rectory and additional buildings and silage clamp at Bytham Farm had been approved by Kennet. Applications for a loft conversion at Ashdown House, a replacement shed at 3 Hallam Cottages, a dormer window at Cotswold House and conservatories at Coome End and the Old Police House had been approved by the Parish Council and returned to Kennet for consideration.

Speeding:

Cllr Smith had produced a draft discussion document on speeding in the village and the possible alternatives to resolve the problems. Much discussion of the document took place and Cllr Humphries offered to arrange to put any viable schemes for speed reduction on WCC's list for action. The areas concerned do not have accident records so will be low priority. An idea was reported that in another area residents have put 30 mph stickers on their wheelie bins so that they could be seen when the bins were out for collection. It was agreed that simple solutions may be effective so costings for gateways to the village that

could be installed by WCC would be sought for the next meeting. **(The Clerk would liaise with Cllr Smith and Cllr Humphries regarding this quote)** Mr Peter Hanson of WCC would advise on solutions they may fund or contribute to after their assessment which may include width restrictions as an eventual viable solution.

School Parking: The Chairman reported that a feasibility study on work to be done on the parking area at the front of the school was being undertaken by WCC.

School Hall: The Chairman reported that the Planning Application for the school hall had not been received by the Parish Council but that it had been finalised by the school and submitted to WCC. He expected that it would be received during October when he was on holiday so it was agreed that the Clerk would contact WCC to ensure the planning application was sent to him. It was agreed to leave the consultation period for residents open until the application had been received and then decide whether a public meeting would be appropriate having analysed the feedback from the consultation. The Clerk advised that there had not been any comments made on the website (save for information posted by Cllr Rouse regarding the scope of responses sought).

Poors Land Charity: As Romaine Daw had now left the village the Chairman of this charity, Tim Frost, was seeking a replacement trustee to be appointed by the Parish Council. It needed someone with wide knowledge of the village and its residents – he had someone in mind and, once he had spoken to them, may ask the PC to endorse their appointment. Meanwhile if the Councillors knew of suitable candidates they should inform Tim Frost.

Speeding Buses: It was reported that buses were often apparently speeding through the village. It was agreed that the **Clerk would write to the Bus companies** advising of the problem and that the PC would take registration plates, date and time of occurrence and report back to the companies for action.

Motor bikes: It was reported that a number of motor bikes had been racing on the cycle path. **The Clerk would report the matter to the Police.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:30pm. The next meeting would be held on Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 7:30pm.