

OGBOURNE ST GEORGE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Ogbourne St George Parish held at the Village Hall, Ogbourne St George on Thursday 12th May 2016 commencing at 7:00pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr Mudge (Chairman)
Cllr Tanner
Cllr Tuckey
Cllr Sandison
Cllr Utton

OFFICER PRESENT: Parish Clerk, Caroline Ramsey

ALSO PRESENT: 5 Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received

2. MINUTES

The Chairman presented the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on Thursday 12th March 2015. Members **AGREED** they be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising not already covered within the agenda.

5. CHAIRMAN' REPORT

The Chairman presented his annual report:-

"This report covers the period from the last Annual Parish Meeting on 12 March 2015 to the present.

The year began with the departure of our locum clerk Paul Russell who had served this Council so well since it was appointed under s 91 of the Local Government Act 1972 in January 2014. In February 2015, we appointed Tamsin Witt as our new clerk.

Day to Day Management

During the year commencing March 2015, the Council have met on eight occasions in March 2015, May 2015, June 2015 (Extraordinary Meeting), July 2015, September 2015, November 2015, January 2015 and March 2016. The sole purpose of the Extraordinary Meeting was to resolve to sign the leases for the Village Hall (see below). The Council's first task in March 2015 was to re let the grounds maintenance contract and that was to Messrs. Bawdens, who are now in to the second year of a three-year contract. During the year various small scale planning applications were considered by the Council. Street lighting was a continuing theme throughout the year. The village street lighting is life expired and cannot be replaced as it fails. The Council is examining alternative management options principally that of Wiltshire Council assuming responsibility on the proviso that white lights will be installed. There are several issues still to be resolved.

The major achievement of 2015 was the conclusion of the leases with the Diocese of Salisbury for the Village Hall and the land adjoining the Village Hall for a period of 35 years. With this it has been possible to revitalise the Village Hall Management Committee and for the main users, the Little Dragons Pre School, to apply for much needed grant funding.

The financial position of the Council has been much healthier this year, with a small surplus for the first time in several years. The 2014/15 External Audit was been completed with no major issues reported. In January 2016 Council considered the revised budget for Financial Year 2016/17. Council resolved to set a precept of £9000 which would result in a Band D charge of £39.24 per annum a reduction of £0.25p.

Changes of Parish Clerk and Councillors

In August 2015 after only a few months in post, Tamsin Witt resigned as Parish Clerk owing to family commitments and the Council welcomed Caroline Ramsey, formerly Town Clerk of Carterton in Oxfordshire as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Caroline took up her post in September 2015. Richard Iliffe, decided to step down as a Councillor during the year as did Timothy George who is moving out of the village. The Council would wish to record its grateful thanks to both of them. The Council welcomed two new co-opted Councillors – Brian Utton and Bob Tanner – in November 2015.

Elections

Council is aware that it is an interim and appointed Council and accordingly discussed the possibility of holding elections during the year. It concluded that, with the requirement of Wiltshire Council that parish councils contribute to election expenses, it would be prudent to wait until May 2017. At that time, parish elections will be held across Wiltshire as will elections to the unitary council. Not only will the cost be lower but this Council will then be back in step with the four-yearly election cycle.

Acknowledgements

As Chairman I would wish to acknowledge the tremendous support I have received from my fellow Councillors. As I concluded last year, the Parish Council is just the visible portion of what goes on in a village such as Ogbourne St George. Every day and completely unseen, people are out tending to the church, organising things, cleaning things, mending things, going to committee meetings and each one of them with their contribution however small makes this a better place to live in"

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Ogbourne Village Hall, Management Committee Report Year ending 31st December 2015

A Report from the Village Hall Management Committee was presented by Charlotte Frost along with the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ending 31st December 2015. These are attached.

The meeting discussed the subject of Grant Funding for the Village Hall and it was suggested that this would be an item for the next management committee meeting.

(b) Ogbourne St George Poor's Land (Poor's Furze), Trustees Report for year ending 31st January 2016

A Report from the Ogbourne St George Poor's Land (or Poor's Furze) was presented by the Chairman of the Trustees, Tim Frost. This is attached

7. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no public questions.

8. NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The next Annual Parish Meeting will be at 7.00pm in May 2017 (date to be agreed following local council elections in May 2017)

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Cllr Gordon Mudge, Chairman, 12th May 2016