

OGBOURNE ST GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Ogbourne St George Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Ogbourne St George on Thursday 10th November 2016 commencing at 7:30pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr Mudge (Chairman)
Cllr Tuckey
Cllr Utton
Cllr Tanner

OFFICER PRESENT: Parish Clerk, Caroline Ramsey

Five Members of the public were present

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Sandison

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES

The Chairman presented the minutes of the last Full Parish Council Meeting, held on Thursday 8th September 2016. Members **AGREED** they be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Village Hall Committee

Cllr Tanner reported that the Village Hall Committee had met and appointed two sub committees; one to concentrate on the maintenance and refurbishment requirements of the Hall and the other to look at Grants to help with any works identified. The sub committees will meet towards the end of November with a further meeting of the full committee scheduled for January 2017.

5. PUBLIC RECESS

There were five members of the public present but no matters were raised.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Applications: The following Planning Applications have been received from Wiltshire Council:

Application: 16/09554/TCA
Location: Orchard House, Chiseldon Road, Ogbourne St George
 SN8 1SU
Proposal: Fell Birch Tree
Comments by: Extended to 11/11/2016

The Council offered no objections

(b) Decisions: The following decisions have been notified to the Parish Council:

Application: 16/09398/TCA
Location: St Georges Church, Church Lane, Ogbourne St George
 SN8 1SU
Proposal: T1 Beech Removal & T2 – T5 Raise Crowns by 2 metres
Decision: Approved 28/10/2016

The decision was noted.

7. POLICE REPORT

There was no representative from Wiltshire Police available and no report had been received.

8. OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS

Council **RESOLVED** to ratify the payment of the following accounts:

Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Total
Bawden Managed Landscapes	September 2016 – 1/12 th of total annual quotation	£141.25	£28.25	£169.50
Bawden Managed Landscapes	October 2016 – 1/12 th of total annual quotation	£141.25	£28.25	£169.50
Bawden Managed Landscapes	November 2016 – 1/12 th of total annual quotation	£141.25	£28.25	£169.50

Sally Utton	Expenses for Printing of The Dragon	£93.92		£93.92
SSE Southern Electric	Account for Q2 2016/17	£153.56	£7.67	£161.23
Microshade Business Consultants Ltd	Preparation of Year End Accounts	£50.00	£10.00	£60.00
Grant Thornton	External Audit	£75.00	£15.00	£90.00
TOTAL		£796.23	£117.42	£913.65

Council **NOTED** the current balances at Bank:

Opening Balances 1st September 2016		
Treasurers Account	£8349.22	
Business Instant Access Account	£325.00	
Expenditure		(348.48)
Income		0.02
Actual Total Balance		£8325.76
Closing Balance 1st November 2016		
Treasurers Account	£8000.76	
Business Instant Access Account	£325.00	
	£8325.76	
Balances at Bank		£8325.76

Council commented that the Bank Balance continues to be in a good and healthy state.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) End of Year Accounts – External Audit

The 2015/16 External Audit has been completed and Council noted the auditor's report. Following a discussion on the contents of the report it was agreed that the Clerk would write to Grant Thornton asking for clarification on two points: -

- (i) The mention of 31st March 2015 which is not in the 2015/16 Period of Audit

- (ii) The reference to 'Borrowings' as the Council has no Borrowings.

The Clerk would report back to the Council with the response from Grant Thornton.

(b) Budget and Precept 2017/18

Council noted the key dates for the 2017/2018 Council Tax Setting Timetable Prior Year

1-Sep-16	Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation opens
4-Nov-16	Wiltshire Council to issue draft 2017/2018 Council Tax Base figures to Parish/Town Councils 6-Nov-15
18-Nov-16	Wiltshire Council to issue revised draft 2017/2018 Council Tax Base figures to Parish/Town Councils affected by boundary changes
19-Nov-16	Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation closes
30-Nov-16	Wiltshire Council to issue revised draft 2017/2018 Council Tax Base figures
13-Dec-16	Cabinet meeting to approve 2017/2018 Council Tax Base 15-Dec-15
20-Jan-17	Deadline for Parish/Town Councils to return approved 2017/2018 precept requests to Wiltshire Council 22-Jan-16
21-Feb-17	Full Council meeting to approve 2017/2018 Council Tax 23-Feb-16

Council resolved to defer the precept and revised budget 2017/18 setting meeting date to January 2017 due to the ongoing government consultation. Wiltshire Council may issue the parish councils with a revised tax base up to 30th November 2016. In addition, it is possible that the council may need to issue revised tax base figures to all Parishes/Towns if the result of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation significantly affects the tax base calculation.

The Council identified two areas of future expenditure; the Street Lighting and Village Hall improvements. It was agreed that any surplus monies from this year would be put into the General Reserves to be available for this kind of demand on next year's budget.

10. STREET LIGHTING UPDATE

Cllr Utton updated the meeting on the report from SSE regarding the results of the street lighting survey. A number of lights in the village are in a poor state of repair with many necessary parts now obsolete. Wiltshire Council are under no obligation to provide street lighting and the Parish Council do not have the finances to replace all the lights as the estimate is around £1,000 per light. A decision needs to be made on which lights are essential to the residents so that those lights can be replaced or upgraded. The residents will be consulted

to ensure that the views of as many parishioners as possible contribute to the final decision.

Council discussed and agreed a public consultation on proposals for a possible reduction of light units in the village in anticipation of and to facilitate handing over responsibility for their upkeep to Wiltshire. Cllr Utton will co-ordinate the consultation including some dates where the public can attend the Village Hall to study the plans and contribute feedback.

11. SPEEDWATCH

Council noted the Community Speed Watch (CSW) – Quarterly Report – October 2016. It was agreed that future updates would be uploaded to the main part of the village website.

12. HIGHWAY MATTERS

(a) Hedge Cutting

Council discussed the issue regarding overgrown hedges at the T-Junction and around the school boundary. Cllr Sandison had agreed to look at this and ensure that the hedges were trimmed accordingly. It was also noted that a large pile of leylandi cuttings had appeared on the footpath. The Clerk would contact the Parish Steward to see if this could be removed.

(b) Other Items

Dave Childs very kindly conducts litter clearance around the village on a regular basis and Council agreed that it would support this by purchasing some black bags in which to collect the litter. A budget of £10.00 was agreed.

The virtual footpath which had been agreed at CATG has not yet been put in place. The Clerk would request an update from Wiltshire Council.

The Council agreed to look again at what to do with the redundant telephone boxes. An item would be put onto the January Agenda.

13. ITEMS TO NOTE

(a) Marlborough Area Board

Council noted the date of the next Area Board Meeting to be held in Marlborough Town Hall at 7pm on Tuesday 22nd November 2016 commencing at 7pm.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 12th January 2017 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

15. PUBLIC RECESS

Prior to the completion of the council meeting members of the public are invited to make representations to the Ogbourne St George Parish Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council, any Parish related matters or to raise any issues of concern. (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960). However, no decisions can be made by the Council, other than on matters already on the agenda.

A member of the public raised the issue regarding inaccessibility of local public footpaths and was informed that this was the responsibility of Wiltshire Council. The Chairman suggested she write or email Wiltshire Council, copying him in so that he can also put pressure on the council to look at the footpaths if necessary.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

.....
Cllr Gordon Mudge, Chairman, 19th January 2017