

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 March 2016 commencing at 7:30pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllr Mudge (Chairman)
Cllr George,
Cllr Tuckey,
Cllr Tanner
Cllr Utton

OFFICER PRESENT: Parish Clerk, Caroline Ramsey

ALSO PRESENT: 2 Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

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 14th January 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. PUBLIC RECESS

Members of the public were invited to make representations to Ogbourne St George Parish Council on the planning matters listed at Item 6 below in accordance with Standing Order 3 (e-k). There were no Issues raised.

The meeting was re-convened.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

No applications had been received since the last meeting

No Decision Notices had been received since the last meeting.

7. POLICE REPORT

PC Stan Boardman attended the meeting and gave an update on crime in the Marlborough Area. Councillors raised the issue of diverted traffic through the village when an accident occurs on the A346. Whilst the Council appreciates that traffic is only diverted through Ogbourne St George when an emergency situation arises, it can cause chaos in the village especially during peak times such as school pick up.

PC Boardman stated that investigating a serious road traffic accident is incredibly resource intensive and therefore the police are unable to place officers in the village to undertake traffic management. A number of initiatives have been discussed over the years but there really is nothing that can be done to alleviate the problem. However, PC Boardman agreed to take the council's concerns to the relevant department.

In the course of the discussion it was also agreed that the A346 is a dangerous road especially for lorries and other Heavy Goods Vehicles as the margins are very narrow and do not allow for safe overtaking especially in light of the irregularity of the camber and the hidden dips along the route.

PC Boardman also reported that a number of thefts from sheds and outbuildings had occurred with mostly power tools being taken.

Notwithstanding the above, the Marlborough Area enjoys a relatively low crime rate and Cllrs offered their thanks once again to the local policing teams for the sterling work they do to keep us safe.

8. OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS

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

Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Total
Bawden Managed Landscapes	January 2015 – 1/12 th of total annual quotation	£141.25	£28.25	£169.50
Bawden Managed Landscapes	February 2015 – 1/12 th of total annual quotation	£141.25	£28.25	£169.50
Sally Utton	Dragon Expenses for December/February/March	£45.00		£45.00
Southern Electric	Unmetered Street Lighting	£332.82		£332.82
HMC Batt	Refurbishment of Village noticeboards	£160.00		£160.00
TOTAL		£820.32	£56.50	£876.82

The above payments were **APPROVED**.

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

Opening Balances 9th January 2015		
Treasurers Account	£3592.54	
Business Instant Access Account	£325.00	
Expenditure		(£368.48)
Income		£0.02
Actual Total Balance		£3224.08
Closing Balance 9th October 2015		
Treasurers Account	£2899.08	
Business Instant Access Account	£325	
	£3224.08	
Balances at Bank		£3224.08

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

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk reported that the VAT Submission would be completed at the end of March in line with recommended practice.

10. STREET LIGHTING UPDATE

The Parish Council are in discussions with Wiltshire Council, the Unitary Authority, on the potential upgrade and takeover of responsibility for the street lighting in the village. The lamps and control boxes are old and several of the lights have failed and can no longer be replaced..

The Clerk is scheduled to meet with Peter Binley, Head of Highways Asset Management and Commissioning, Highways and Transport at Wiltshire Council to look at timescales and feasibility.

11. HIGHWAY MATTERS

Councillors raised a number of issues under this item:

(a) Response to Wiltshire Council Bus Consultation.

Wiltshire Council are conducting a consultation into the tax payer subsidised bus services in the County. Ogbourne St George parish is served by the X5 and the 80 services, both of which are earmarked for possible reduction.

It was agreed to write to Wiltshire Council with a copy to our Member of Parliament highlighting the following:-

- The reduction in daytime services would reduce access to work, leisure, health and social services and shops. This would affect the most vulnerable and difficult to reach members of the community the hardest.
- There would be an increased pressure on parking most notably in Marlborough and at the Great Western Hospital
- The current timetable is essential for many of the children in the parish needing to access St John's School in Marlborough.

It was also agreed to include the paragraph on Traffic and Transport from the Ogbourne St George Parish Plan:-

"Bus Service

33% of responding households valued the bus service a lot whilst 11% relied on it. 15% used the bus service daily for accessing local towns for shopping and leisure whilst 14% used the bus for education purposes. From feedback about the bus service people felt it was an important asset to the village, especially for the elderly, school children, teenagers and those without vehicles. Some people felt that the bus service was not regular enough on Sundays or Bank Holidays and that the late bus back from Marlborough should be reinstated. Comments were also received about the need for up to date timetables on the village website and at bus stops in the village. The information gathered from the responses can be used by the Parish Council to support any recommendations in the future should the bus company wish to make changes to services”.

12. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The Parish Council has been asked to nominate a representative for the Village Hall Management Committee. Council agreed unanimously to appoint Cllr Bob Tanner to that position.

A meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee is to be convened that will appoint further members from groups within the village and decide the way forward with regard to the overall management of the Village Hall and adjacent land in accordance with charity commission rules.

13. ITEMS TO NOTE

(a) Marlborough Area Board Meeting 26th January 2016 – The Clerk had attended the meeting which proved to be a very useful. The subject of the meeting was Community Resilience and there were a number of presentations given by experts who deal with Flooding, Snow, Storm, Public Health and the Emergency Services. A range of tools and templates were distributed to enable Parish Councils to refresh their Emergency Plans.

(b) Wiltshire Neighbourhood Planning Roadshow - Wednesday, 16 March 2016 from 17:30 to 20:30 at the Devizes Sports Club - London Road Bridge, Devizes SN10 2DL. This event is for any individual, group or organisation interested in Neighbourhood Planning in their community

(c) Marlborough Area Board - next meeting to be held on 22nd March 2016 from 7.00pm to 9.00pm at, Marlborough Town Hall, Marlborough

(d) North Wessex Downs Heritage Forum – to be held at the Memorial Hall, Lambourn on Wednesday 23rd March 2016 from 10am until 4pm

14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 12th May 2015 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

15. PUBLIC RECESS

Mention was made of the overflowing Bin at Poole's Meadow Playground. The Clerk will investigate whose responsibility it is to ensure the bin is emptied on a regular basis.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

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Cllr Gordon Mudge, Chairman

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