

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 14th January 2016 commencing at 7:30pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllrs Mudge (Chairman), George, Sandison, Tuckey and Utton

OFFICER PRESENT: Parish Clerk, Caroline Ramsey

ALSO PRESENT: 4 Members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Tanner

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None Declared

3. **MINUTES**

The Chairman presented the minutes of the last Full Parish Council Meeting, held on Thursday 12th November 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 7 below in accordance with Standing Order 3 (e-k). There were no Issues raised.

The meeting was re-convened.

6. **PLANNING MATTERS**

(a) **Applications**

No applications had been received.

(b) Decisions

Application: 15/09003/FUL

Location: Whitefield C Reservoir, Whitefield Hill, Ogbourne St George,
SN14 0JF

Proposal: Extension to existing valve house at Whitefield C for use as a
pumping station with associated landscaping

Decision: Approved with condition (12/11/2015)

Members noted the decision

Cllr George reported that an appeal had been lodged against the decision of the planning authority to refuse the application at Huntsmead.

Cllrs agreed to re-iterate their original objections to the proposals.

7. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Polly Ritchie attended the meeting and gave an update on crime in the Marlborough Area. Several 'Distraction Burglaries' had occurred locally and residents were warned of the dangers of letting unknown people into their house.

There have also been a number of reported thefts of catalytic converters especially from 4 wheel drive vehicles. Owners were advised to park their vehicles close to walls or hedges to make it difficult for the thieves to saw off the converter.

Notwithstanding the above, the Marlborough Area enjoys a relatively low crime rate and Cllrs offered their thanks 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	November 2015 – 1/12 th of total annual quotation	£141.25	£28.25	£169.50
Bawden Managed Landscapes	December 2015 – 1/12 th of total annual quotation	£141.25	£28.25	£169.50
TOTAL		£282.50	£56.50	£339.50

The above Payments were approved.

Council **NOTED** the current balances at:

Opening Balances 9th October 2015		
Treasurers Account	£4588.74	
Business Instant Access Account	£325.00	
Expenditure		(996.22)
Income		£0.02
		789.28
Actual Total Balance		£3917.54
Closing Balance 9th October 2015		
Treasurers Account	£3592.54	
Business Instant Access Account	£325	
	£3917.54	
Balances at Bank		£3917.54

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

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Precept

Council were presented with the precept figures for 2016/2017

It was proposed by Cllr Mudge and seconded by Cllr Tuckey that there would be no increase in the parish council element of the council tax bill. Band D council tax would be £39.24 constituting a reduction of 25p on last year.

Council agreed unanimously to accept the proposal.

The clerk would submit the Precept Request Form to Wiltshire Council so that they could set the Town and Parish Council proportion of the Council Tax.

(b) Budget

Council were presented with a revised budget for 2016/17 as attached at Appendix A.

It was proposed by Cllr Mudge and seconded by Cllr Tuckey and agreed unanimously, that the Budget for 2016/2017 be adopted.

(c) Internal Auditor

The Parish Council is required by law to appoint an internal auditor to carry out its work in relation to internal controls in accordance with proper practices.

The Council's current Internal Auditor, Mrs Sally Utton has indicated her intention to step down from this role and therefore the council must appoint a new internal auditor. The appointment of an internal auditor is a service that is exempt from the normal contract and tender process, and due to the cost is delegated to the Clerk. However, it was explained that it is good practice for the committee to recommend and Council to appoint the internal auditor on an annual basis

Mr Stuart Wilbur of Microshade VSM is a recognised Local Council Auditor and has been recommended by a number of local clerks.

Council agreed unanimously to the appointment of Mr Stuart Wilbur as Internal Auditor for 2016/2017.

The Chairman and Councillors extended their thanks and gratitude to Mrs Sally Utton for the superb job she had done over the past few years in keeping the council's internal controls in good order and for the work carried out in preparing the accounts for external audit.

10. STREET LIGHTING UPDATE

Cllr Utton agreed to take this project over from Cllr Mudge. The Clerk agreed to contact Wiltshire Council to seek a response from the Officer dealing as no updates had been forthcoming.

11. HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORT MATTERS

(a) Flooding in the lower part of Ogbourne St George

Residents had expressed concerns over the flooding of the lower part of the village due to the blocked storm drains outside Home Farm House. The Clerk will contact Wiltshire Council to get the drains cleared as soon as possible.

(b) To agree a 25% contribution (£100) towards the cost of the white line/virtual footway down the side of the slip road from the A346

Council agreed to grant the £100 contribution.

12. Excalibur Trust Admissions Policy Consultation

The parish council discussed the consultation paper and agreed a response. The Clerk would write to the Trust giving its views as follows:

Ogbourne St George Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed Excalibur Academies Trust Admission Policy for 2016/17. The parish understands the need to make admission to school easier, more transparent and less stressful for parents and is supportive in principal of the application process and proposed timelines. We particularly welcome the priority given to those who live in the village and attend Ogbourne School. However, the Parish Council would like to make the following statement:

“We would urge St Johns International Academy to work collaboratively with the governing bodies of all the member schools of the Marlborough Area Education Partnership to ensure that any child attending the local village school is able to move up to Secondary School with their friends. The move up to Secondary Education is a terrifying experience for many children and being excluded from the school at which all their peers are attending can have a detrimental effect on their ability to make a successful transition”.

The Parish Council request your assurance that children of residents in the village will have considerable priority in gaining admission to St John’s over out of area pupils, even if their children have not attended the local village school for whatever reason”

The Parish Council would also like to take the opportunity to express its concerns about the potential impact on Ogbourne St George Primary School as a result of its recent outstanding results. The continued success of the school will invariably attract more children from outside the village. This in turn may mean that pre-school age children who currently live in the village or children who may move in to the village at a later date could be denied a place and therefore a place at St John’s (as above). There are numerous examples of where parents have been unable to secure a place for their children at oversubscribed village schools, despite living in the catchment area.

The desire of out of catchment parents to place their children in the village school because they believe it will guarantee them a place at St John’s is, even now, placing considerable strain on particularly the road infrastructure of the village at peak times.

The Parish Council again requests your assurances that all children who live in the Ogbourne St George catchment area will be guaranteed a place at the village primary school should they choose to attend.

13. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Councillors agreed to postpone this discussion until the meeting in March as Cllr Tanner who is heavily involved, was not present.

14. ITEMS TO NOTE

(a) Schedule of Meetings for 2016/2017

The schedule of meetings was agreed as follows:

Remaining for 2015/16:

March 10th
May 12th (APM and AGM)

New Parish Year 2016

July 14th
September 8th
November 10th

2017

January 12th
March 9th
May 11th (AGM and APM)

(b) Marlborough Area Board – The Clerk agreed to attend the next Area Board meeting to be held in Marlborough Town Hall on 26th January 2016

15. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 10th March 2016 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

16. PUBLIC RECESS

The Chairman made a special mention of Ogbourne St George and St Andrew Church of England Controlled Primary School. The school has received a letter from the Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb MP congratulating them on their outstanding results.

The school is one of only 187 schools in the country where 100% of pupils gained level 4B or above in reading and maths, and level 4 or above in writing.

The clerk would write to the Head teacher, Mrs Anne Normington conveying the council's warmest congratulations and thanks for what is an incredible accomplishment for a small village school.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

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Cllr Gordon Mudge, Chairman, 14th January 2015

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