

Osmington Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Mrs S Miller (Chair), Cllr. Mrs H Ballard, Cllr Mr N Ireland, Cllr Mr M Johnson, Cllr Mr B Kuflik, Cllr Mr J Little and Cllr Mr J Medrecki.

Also in attendance: 4 members of the public.

11/25 Public Participation Time

- 11.1 A resident asked if the village gates could be cleaned as they looked dirty.
- 11.2 He also asked when the swings were likely to be replaced as there had been several questions from residents. It was confirmed that this would be discussed as an agenda item later in the meeting.

12/25 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from The Clerk.

13/25 Declarations of Interest and Grants of Dispensation

There were no declarations of interest or grants of dispensation.

14/25 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

15/25 Matters arising from the minutes

- 1.2 – Cllr Kuflik informed members that he had replaced the noticeboard catches with more user-friendly wing nuts.
- 7.2 – It was noted that the litter bin near to the church would be discussed as an agenda item later in the meeting.

16/25 Planning Matters

- 16.1 No planning decisions were noted.
- 16.2 The following planning application was considered:-

P/CLE/2025/00858 – Mills View, Grove Hill, Osmington, Weymouth, DT3 6EZ – Certificate of Lawfulness to continue using the property as a dwelling in breach of the agricultural occupancy condition.

It was **resolved** to submit no comment regarding this application.

17/25 Parish Amenities

- 17.1 The Clerk had obtained quotes for the grass and hedge cutting quotes for 2025/26.

Cllr Medrecki provided some background information regarding the quote from WWCS as it was considerably lower than the other quotes provided.

Whilst the last contractor had provided a good service, it was agreed to appoint the contractor with the lower quote.

It was **resolved** that:-

- i. WWCS Environmental Services be awarded the contract for 2024/25.
- ii. There would be 18 cuts per year instead of the 15 cuts stipulated in the contract.
- iii. There would be flexibility for the timing of the hedge cuts (within the legal guidelines).
- iv. An annual trim of the nettles at the bottom of the playing field would take place at a cost of approximately £100.00
- v. The contract would be for three years at the fixed price of £1384.96 per annum.

- 17.2 Cllr Medrecki also informed members that he had obtained a quote from WWCS for the installation of stock-net fencing to form a boundary around the perimeter of the playing field. As the quote had only been received that morning, it was proposed by Cllr Ballard and seconded by Cllr Medrecki to suspend Standing Orders for this item to be considered.

After further discussion it was proposed by Cllr Ireland and seconded by Cllr Little that the quote be approved.

It was therefore **resolved** that the quote to provide approximately 100m of stock-net fencing be approved at a cost of up to £2000.00.

- 17.3 Cllr Little provided some background and an update regarding the implementation of an emergency plan for Osmington. The structure of the document had been completed and now needed to be populated with individuals and businesses that would be willing to assist in the event of an emergency.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Little would confirm a date for a meeting with stakeholders and a budget of £100.00 be approved for expenses for the meeting.

- 17.4 Cllr Medrecki provided an update on his research into the replacement/refurbishment of the play area equipment. To replace the whole play area would be very expensive so a short-term plan to bring the existing equipment up to standard would be drafted.

Cllr Miller pointed out that it was important to replace the swings that had been taken away as these were likely to be the most popular and most used piece of equipment in the play area.

Cllr Medrecki stated that he would contact Pontins to see if they were able to provide a grant for any of the work.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Medrecki would provide costings and a short-term plan at the meeting in May.

- 17.5 It was noted that some of the signage at the play area was outdated and would need to be removed.

- 17.6 Cllr Miller informed members that little progress had been made regarding the type and cost of replacement bins.

It was agreed that the Clerk would chase this again and Cllr Johnson would provide a What3Words location to the Clerk for the relocation of the bin near to the church.

- 17.7 Mr White provided a brief update from the trustees regarding the village hall lease. It was noted that the incumbent solicitor had left the practice and would be replaced within the next few weeks, after which an update would be provided.

Cllr Miller proposed that a Village Hall Officer be appointed to improve liaison between the parish council and the village hall trustees.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Johnson be appointed to the role.

- 17.8 It was **resolved** that the Annual Spring Clean be scheduled for either the 5th or 12th April 2025. (It was confirmed after the meeting that the date would be 12th April 2025).

18/25 Highways and Rights of Way

- 18.1 Cllr Kuflik informed members that a new path from Chapel Lane to Craig's Farm had been put in from East Farm to the Craig's Farm yard. This was in fact on the wrong side of the road and had been reported to Dorset Council.
- 18.2 The drain outside 3 Grove Hill had been cleaned and jetted.
- 18.3 A resident had raised a concern regarding access for fire engines in Church Lane. Cllr Miller agreed to investigate whether or not the correct size engines were being sent.
- 18.4 Cllr Medrecki asked about the path closure behind The Smugglers Inn as there was no beach access. It was noted that there were steps from PGL and work tended to take place once better weather allowed.
- 18.5 Cllr Ireland informed members that the Traffic Regulation Order report was due to be released on 28th March 2025.

19/25 Finance

- 19.1 The cashbook balances, budget report and bank reconciliation were received and approved.
- 19.2 It was **resolved** to approve the following payments: -

Weymouth Town Council – Play area inspections for October, November and December	£108.00
Osmington Village Hall – Hire for March	£20.00
Osmington Village Hall – Defib battery and pads	£310.50
Dorset Council – Waste collection from December to March	£236.34
Halcyon Landscapes Ltd – Grass cutting for January and February	£735.00
Dorset Council – Parish election recharge, May 2024	£1016.73
Leigh Johnson – Clerk's salary/expenses for January and February	£762.86
HMRC – Tax for January and February	£102.60

It was **resolved** to retrospectively approve the following payment/s made in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.1.

Hugo Fox – website fee for January and February	£23.98
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- 19.3 Members considered a number of documents prepared by The Clerk in readiness for the annual audit of the financial year 2024/25.

It was **resolved** that;

- (a) The Council's Risk Assessment be approved for consideration by the Internal Auditor;
- (b) The Council's Asset Register be approved for consideration by the Internal Auditor;
- (c) The Internal Controls be noted; and
- (d) Paula Harding of Barker Fox be appointed as Internal Auditor for the financial year 2024/25.

- 19.4 As discussed at a previous meeting, it was agreed that future costs for the defibrillator housed at the village hall be met by the parish council.

- 19.5 Members discussed remuneration for the Clerk and pension options. Although the Clerk had provided some pay points for other clerks in the local area, members did not have enough information to agree a pay point at this time.

Cllr Miller stated that it was important to look after the wellbeing of the Clerk as well as ensuring that the correct salary was being paid.

Cllr Johnson enquired again as to the need for an appointed officer to be responsible for the Clerk's wellbeing.

Cllr Ireland suggested that the Clerk look at the annual pay award as per green book workers at Dorset Council.

It was **resolved** that a pay award/pay scale increase be approved when further details had been confirmed and discussed.

20/25 Council Matters

- 20.1 Members noted the dates of future ordinary meetings and agreed that the Annual General meeting be held on Monday 12th May. The AGM would be held in the main hall.
- 20.2 The Annual Parish Meeting date was agreed as the 30th May. The APM would be held in the main hall from 6pm for a 6.30pm start.
- 20.3 Cllr Kuflik informed members that a resident had proceeded to obtain quotes for work to trees on his property at Church Lane.
- 20.4 Cllr Little informed members that Speedwatch would recommence shortly.

The meeting ended at 8.17pm.

Chairman

Date