

Osmington Parish Council

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1st March 2021 at
7.00pm

Present: Cllr Mr N Ireland (Chairman and DC Councillor), Cllr. Mrs H Ballard, Cllr Mr P Botham, Cllr Mrs C Dempsey, Cllr Mrs F Groves and Cllr Mr V White.

Also in attendance: Miss Leigh Johnson (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

16/21 Public Participation Time

- 16.1 An objection was made with regard to planning application WP/20/00672/FUL as it would have a detrimental visual impact in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Some flora, fauna and wildlife habitat would also be destroyed.
- 16.2 Concerns were raised with regard to planning application WP/20/00672/FUL. It was already perceived that the junction at the viewpoint was dangerous and this could be exacerbated with further year-round traffic at the site. Concern was also raised regarding water run off especially with regard to wetter winters.
- 16.3 The traffic concerns at Upton/Ringstead and Osmington Mills were raised again. Although these areas had been added to the Summer Traffic Steering Group, set up by Dorset Council, it was felt that further action was required. The Chairman agreed to clarify the position regarding the steering group with Stephen Mephram (Highways) and look at options, such as signage, to mitigate future incidents.
- 16.4 The significant amount of work being undertaken at Osmington Holidays was raised including the removal of hedges and trees. The Chairman suggested that an enforcement query should be raised.

17/21 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S Miller.

18/21 Declarations of Interest and Grants of Dispensation

Councillor Botham declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 as a member of the Osmington Society.

Councillor Ireland declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 as a member of the Dorset Council Planning Committee and would not take part in the debate.

19/21 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 4th January 2021 and 8th February 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

20/21 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

21/21 Planning Matters

The following planning decisions were noted: -

21.1 None

The following planning application/s were considered: -

- 21.2 **WP/20/00672/FUL** – Land between track to White Horse Lane and Osmington Hill, Weymouth, Easting 371150.000, Northing 83183.000 – Construction of replacement of an Ancient Monument Viewpoint, car park, a polytunnel and an agricultural building with solar panels.

It was **resolved** to Object to this planning application for the following reasons;

1. The proposed agricultural building and polytunnel would have a significant detrimental visual impact in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Please refer to the AONB Management Plan, policies and objectives C1a, C2f and C4a.
2. Safety concerns were raised regarding not only the junction at the viewpoint but also with regard to campers accessing Northdown Farm.

22 /21 Parish Amenities

- 22.1 Jane Lock provided an update on the creation of a wildflower meadow including a bug hotel, bird and bat boxes. Work had already started at the village hall sites and seeds had been donated which were appropriate to the soil type at the parish field. A site visit would be arranged to identify suitable areas at the parish field before any work commenced. Other sites around the village had been identified, such as the top of Chapel Lane and a potential site at Plough Close.

- 22.2 It was noted that the parish noticeboard maintenance had yet to be completed and it was hoped that work could progress once Covid-19 restrictions allowed. Some repairs and maintenance had been completed recently and the litter bin emptied.

It was **resolved** that a new litter bin be purchased to replace the broken one.

- 22.3 It was **resolved** to extend the current grass cutting contract for a period of 2 years.

23/21 Highways and Rights of Way

- 23.1 Members noted that the road from the White Horse Farm entrance would be resurfaced from mid to late July 2021.
- 23.2 The condition of Lower Church Lane remained an issue. Patching work had been added to the Highways work programme. Flooding had also taken place due to a blockage. This had now been cleared.
- 23.3 The traffic mirror near to the Osmington garage had been moved to reduce reflections for drivers at night.
- 23.4 The Chairman had requested an update on the work to the bridleway as this was still outstanding.
- 23.5 Councillor Groves had reported the condition of the footpath alongside Craig's Farm and also informed members of an open slurry pit nearby. The Chairman would make enquiries as to whether or not this should be fenced off.

24/21 Finance

24.1 The cashbook balances, budget report and bank reconciliation were received and approved.

24.2 It was **resolved** to approve the following payments: -

WWCS Grass cutting – January/February 2021	£303.98
Leigh Johnson – salary/expenses – January/February 2021	£737.44

24.3 The Clerk provided a verbal report regarding moving to online banking. It was noted that not all banks understood the needs and requirements of a Parish Council, especially with regard to multiple signatories. The Clerk proposed Unity Trust bank as a preferable option.

It was **resolved** that further information regarding Unity Trust and their services and a personalised protocol for online banking be brought to a future meeting before the switch was formally approved.

24.4 Members considered a number of documents prepared by the Clerk in readiness for the annual audit of the financial year 2020/21.

It was **resolved** that:

- (a) The Council's Risk Assessment be amended as discussed and 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 Associates be appointed as Internal Auditor for the year 2020/21.

25/21 Council Matters

25.1 The Parish Council considered its response to the consultation on Dorset Council's Local Plan Options and agreed to submit no formal comments regarding this.

25.2 Members discussed the planning of the Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting for 2021.

It was **resolved** that both meetings be held on Tuesday 4th May 2021.

25.3 The meeting dates for 2021/22 were noted.

25.4 The Community Grant Awarding Policy and application form were considered.

It was **resolved** that the Policy be adopted with immediate effect.

25.5 A request was made to include preparations for a village "spring" clean to be added to the July agenda.

25.6 Members were informed of the development of a forward plan to maintain the White Horse. A site visit had been proposed between Dorset Council, Heritage England and Ordnance Survey when it was possible to meet. The maintenance plan and budget line

would be discussed at the July meeting and consideration given to whether the Parish Council could make an annual contribution towards costs.

- 25.7 It was noted that the Asset of Community Value clause for the public conveniences near to The Smugglers Inn would expire on 7th April 2022. There may be a need in the future to revisit the ownership, maintenance and running costs for this facility.
- 25.8 The church ramp would be completed within the next few weeks.
- 25.9 Members discussed the running costs of the defibrillator which were currently met by the Osmington Society. There would be a need to review these arrangements in the near future and consider a contribution for this.
- 25.10 Councillor White informed members that the new cooker and hood had been installed in the Village Hall.
- 25.11 Councillor White also informed members that there may be a need to install a barrier/chain across the village hall car park during the summer months. This had arisen due to beach goers using the car park previously. It was noted that a walkway for pedestrian access would be maintained.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm.

Chairman

Date