

Osmington Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6th January 2025 at 7.00pm

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

Also in attendance: Miss Leigh Johnson (Clerk) and 8 members of the public.

1/25 Public Participation Time

1.1 A resident requested that if an increase were to be made to the precept to pay for the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), if approved, it would be for a specific period and then reduced.

1.2 A resident seconded the comments made regarding the precept and the TRO.

Also raised was the condition of the noticeboard opposite Shortlake Lane and the need to purchase more user-friendly catches. It was noted that the weeds around the base of the noticeboard made access difficult.

1.3 The Chair of the Village Hall Committee informed members that they awaited further information from their solicitors regarding the village hall lease and it was hoped that this would be provided by the end of January.

In response to a question regarding the broken pane of glass at the bus shelter, the resident was informed that this had been replaced.

1.4 The applicant for planning application P/HOU/2024/07211 – Carisbrooke, Mills Road offered to answer any questions that members may have regarding this application.

2/25 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Nick Ireland.

3/25 Declarations of Interest and Grants of Dispensation

Cllr S Miller declared an interest in agenda item 5.3 P/HOU/2024/07211 as a neighbour of the applicant and remained in the meeting during its consideration.

4/25 Planning Matters

The following planning application was considered:-

P/HOU/2024/07211 – Carisbrooke, Mills Road, Osmington Mills, DT3 6HE – Replacement double garage.

It was **resolved** (unanimously) to support this application.

5/25 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5.1/25 Matters arising from the minutes

83.9 – It was noted that consideration of a grant for the maintenance of the village noticeboards would be included as part of the budget setting process.

83.5 – There would be no further action regarding the fence on the playing field at this time.

90.4 – The hedges at the playing field had now been trimmed.

6/25 Planning Matters

The following planning application was considered:-

P/FUL/2024/06437 – Car Park Kiosk, Ringstead Village Access Road, Ringstead, DT2 8NG – Install 26 panel roof mounted solar array.

It was **resolved** (unanimously) to support this application.

7/24 Parish Amenities

- 7.1 The Playing Field Officer provided a brief update regarding the play area and field. The swing post that had been removed had now been replaced with a new one although another swing was showing signs of rotting. With this in mind, it was hoped to move forward with the play area project in 2025 and Cllr Medrecki would start to look at funding and options for replacement equipment and also look at adult gym equipment. It was noted that there was around £9,000 in the CIL fund that could be used for this project.

Members were asked to consider the purchase and erection of stock-proof fencing to create a defined border around the playing field. This would also address concerns raised regarding the nettles and area at the bottom of the field.

It was agreed that quotes be sought for this.

The Chair stated that the bin at the play area was full and needed to be emptied.

- 7.2 The bin at the church needed to be moved. Cllr Johnson would provide the exact location to the Clerk who would then contact the waste team at Dorset Council.
- 7.3 There had been a few bins that had been destroyed in the recent storms and would need to be replaced. The Clerk would look at different options for commercial bins that would be emptied by Dorset Council and provide options and quotes at the next meeting.

8/24 Highways and Rights of Way

- 8.1 Cllr Kuflik had reported several highways matters to Dorset Council and the response had been slow. The hedge leading up to Eweleaze had been trimmed, however the drain outside 3 Grove Hill remained blocked.
- 8.2 The Chair reported that the hedge at The Smugglers Inn had now been cut back and the path cleared.
- 8.3 Cllr Ballard reported that there were several potholes on Church Lane.

9/24 Finance

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

9.2 The Clerk provided a budget report and the budget for 2025/26 was approved.

Cllr Medrecki informed members that the Clerk's salary was low compared to other nearby parish councils and an increase should be considered at the next meeting once further information was available.

Further to Cllr Medrecki's comments, Cllr Johnson enquired if there was a need/legal obligation to appoint a member as an Employment Relations Officer. The Clerk agreed to look into this and report back to members.

9.3 After the consideration of the budget for 2025/26, members discussed the precept for this period.

It was **resolved** that the precept for 2025/26 be increased to £18,295.77. The Band D equivalent charge would remain the same.

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

Osmington Village Hall – Hire for January	£20.00
Halcyon Landscapes – Grass cutting for November and December	£735.00
Community Heartbeat Trust – Replacement adult pads and battery	£398.94
Leigh Johnson – salary/expenses – November/December	£698.19
HMRC Tax – November/December	£90.60
Weyglaze – Glass replacement at bus shelter	£95.00
Humphries Kirk – Amended village hall lease	£702.24
The Cumbria Clock Company – Service of the church clock	£234.00

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

Hugo Fox – website fee for November and December	£23.98
Unity Trust – bank charges	£17.40

10/24 Council Matters

10.1 Cllr Kuflik provided members with a copy of his completed village map.

10.2 The Clerk would circulate the meeting dates for 2025/26 later in the week and dates for both the AGM and APM would be agreed at the March meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.

Chairman

Date