

OCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ODCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 16TH MARCH 2009 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ODCOMBE
7.30 p.m. – 8.53 p.m.)

PRESENT:

Mr B Savill-Daw (Chairman)
Mr C Francis
Mr B Spearing
Mr R West

Mrs B Langdon (Vice-Chairman)
Mr N Griffiths
Mrs C West

Miss H Lefeuvre (District Councillor)

Mrs E M James (Clerk)

223. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF THE REASONS

An apology for absence by reason of holiday was received from Mrs D Rennie. An apology for absence by reason of ill health was received from Mr M Wheller. These apologies were accepted and approved.

224. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARISH COUNCILS (MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT) ORDER 2007

Mr Spearing declared a personal interest in planning application 09/00632/OUT by reason of living in Rex Road.

225. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH February 2009

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

226. REPORTS FROM:

(a) **SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR** – It was NOTED that County Highways had agreed that the double chevron sign will be replaced with a single chevron sign when existing from Dray Road onto Ham Hill Road. It was agreed to ask that the VAS be moved closer to the Village Hall.

(b) **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** – a copy of the report from Miss LeFeuvre is attached to the minutes.

(c) **PARISH COUNCILLORS WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS SINCE THE LAST MEETING** - None

227. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr Savill-Daw reported that he had attended the funeral of former District Councillor Alan Cornelius.

228. CLERK'S REPORT [MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (for information only)]

(a) Orchard Path (min. no. 180(b)) – it was AGREED that Mr Savill-Daw would speak with a local resident regarding the path.

(b) Odcombe Recreation Ground (min. no. 205(b)) - Quotations for the landscaping contract will be brought to the next meeting.

(c) It was NOTED that the Clerk attended the SLCC Practitioners Conference on 27th & 28th February 2009 and attended workshops including The Code of Conduct, Annual Returns and Freedom of Information.

(d) It was NOTED that no public interest report will be made by the Audit Commission regarding previous accounts.

(e) It was NOTED that the Clerk attended the SALC meeting on "The Power of Well-Being". It was further NOTED that this power could not be used at present by the Parish Council as the Council does not currently fulfil the requirements laid down by statute.

(f) Repair Work to Skate Park – it was NOTED that the work should be completed within two weeks.

(g) Odcombe Walkers – Mr Savill-Daw to meet with Mr Loxton to agree a site for the noticeboard.

229. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Cllr Tony Lock, Chairman of the Area South Community Safety Action Panel - Community Payback scheme – NOTED.

(b) Digital UK –requesting the Parish Council consider whether any further action should be taken with regard to advising parishioners on the switch to digital TV. NOTED – Mr Savill-Daw to talk to the Luncheon Club.

(c) SSDC – Guidance leaflet on dispensations for Parish Councillors - NOTED.

(d) SSDC – Easter, Spring and Summer Bank Holiday recycling and refuse collections – NOTED.

(e) The Big Tidy Up – NOTED.

(f) SSDC – Final flood awareness workshop – to be held on 15th April at Broadway Village Hall (nr Ilminster – NOTED.

(g) Mrs B Strong – Parish Council representative to Area South Joint Committee - NOTED.

230. PLANNING

(a) DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS

Members were asked to note the approval, with conditions of planning applications **08/05357/FUL** and **09/00105/FUL** .

(b) APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 79 BEFORE THE MEETING

In accordance with Standing Order no. 79, Councillors NOTED and APPROVED the recommendation made for the following application:

09/00483/FUL – the erection of an agricultural building (GR350198/116010)

Land OS 0028 Park Lane, Odcombe

RECOMMENDATION: Approval, subject to:

A condition that no further development can take place without planning permission being sought;
The proposed hedge screening should be a condition of approval.

(c) APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

09/00606/TPO – application to fell a Horse Chestnut tree shown as T19 of the South Somerset District (Odcombe No. 2) TPO 2008 (GR350693/115467)

St Peter & St Pauls Church, Chapel Hill, Higher Odcombe

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

09/00632/OUT - the erection of a dwelling (revised application)(GR350759/5340)

27 Rex Road, Higher Odcombe

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

The meeting was closed for public debate.

The meeting reopened after public debate.

(d) PLANNING UPDATES

(i) 05/02486/FUL - The Planning Enforcement Officer had advised that she believed the work required to the visibility splay had been carried out in accordance with the planning condition, but that due to Council's concerns an officer from County Highways, Taunton, will also inspect the work.

(ii) Pye Corner Farm – The Planning Enforcement Officer advised that she had met with the owner of the property. Proposals for remedial works are being investigated.

(iii) Easselgate – it was agreed to ascertain what action was being taken by the Planning Enforcement Officer.

231. CONSIDERATION OF GRANTS

In accordance with its powers under Section 142 of LGA 1972 it was RESOLVED to make a grant of £50 to the South Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau.

232. BARCLAYS BANK

It was NOTED that an initial offer of £300 had been made by Barclays Bank to cover 50% of the Clerk's overtime claim. The Clerk had written to request a further £500 in excessive bank charges but no response had been received to date.

233. COUNCIL WEBSITE

At the last meeting it had been agreed to pay for the annual hosting of a website to be designed by the Clerk, A free web design had been offered which would result in additional expenditure of £15 in the first year but would save many hours of staff time. It was RESOLVED to accept the offer of a web design and pay the additional expenditure.

234. SEWAGE

Complaints were raised regarding the flooding of raw sewage at Lower Odcombe, in that the pumping station by the sub-station floods fairly often. Wessex Water is already aware of this situation as they are called out by residents to deal with the aftermath. An orchard at Lower Odcombe had flooded with sewage on many occasions and only recently two houses at Yarn Barton had their gardens flooded by a very large amount of sewage. The Council considered this to be a serious health hazard to residents. It was AGREED that a letter should be sent to Wessex Water advising them there are too many incidents taking place, that the sewage system should be investigated and measures taken to alleviate the problem. It was also agreed to bring this problem to the attention of Mr David Laws, MP, Environment Agency, County Councillor Bakewell and South Somerset District Council.

235. CRIME, DISORDER AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

It was noted that a meeting of Neighbourhood Watch would take place on 17th March 2009, the cost of the hire of the hall to be paid by the Parish Council from money held specifically for Neighbourhood Watch.

236. HIGHWAY MATTERS

It was NOTED that gully emptying had not been carried out at Street Lane, the Clerk to advise County Highways.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Council RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted (personnel issues).

237. CLERK'S SALARY

In November 2008 (min. no. 147) an interim pay award, pending arbitration, was made to the Clerk, the hourly rate being £10.364. Following arbitration, the joint recommendation of NALC and SLCC for the year to 31st March 2009, for SPC 23 had been agreed at £10.394 per hour. In accordance with the Clerk's contract Mr Francis proposed and it was RESOLVED to approve this increase, the award to be back-dated to 1st April 2008, the amount outstanding being £11.65. Members NOTED that during 2008-2009 the Clerk had used 21.5 as the monthly payment hourly figure, which had resulted in a slight under-payment of salary as 21.667 hrs should have been paid. From 2009-2010 21.667 hours will be paid per calendar month.

Council RESOLVED to re-open the meeting to press and public.

238. FINANCE

(a) The bank reconciliation statement circulated at the meeting was NOTED and APPROVED.

(b) It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

Mrs E M James – corporate management & democratic core - to be advised	£188.12 & £29.64
HM Revenue & Customs –	£155.60
Odcombe Village Hall Management Committee	£44.00
Citizens Advice Bureau (grant)	£50.00

It was ALSO resolved to pay the affiliation fee for 2009/10 to SALC, in the sum of £161.07, the cheque being dated 1st April 2009

(c) A commission charge of £2 from Barclays Bank was NOTED.

239. COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME – SUCH MATTERS ARE FOR NOTING OR DEFERRAL TO A FUTURE MEETING

It was AGREED that the Clerk would notify Councillors of the highway faults reporting telephone number.

240. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

Adoption of accounts

Review of insurance

241. ITEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION

The Standards Board for England – Town & Parish Standard, February 2009
SSDC – Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 4th February 2009.
SSDC – Arts Directory, South Somerset
CPRE – Somerset Matters, Spring 2009 Newsletter and Annual Report
Clerks & Councils Direct – March 2009
The Playing Field Winter 08-09

242. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 20th April 2009 at 7.30p.m. at the Village Hall, Odcombe. The meeting will close at 8.00 p.m. to allow the Annual Parish Meeting to take place and will re-start on completion of that meeting.

Minute 226 (b)

District Councillor Report - March 2009

Audit Commission

A recent audit commission gave SSDC a level 4 rating for the way it makes its spending clear to the public and an overall level 3 rating for how it used its resources in 2008 (maximum score is 4). The council came out as the highest scoring district council in Somerset and is one of the two top scoring district councils in the South West.

The figures show that the district council is doing more each year for less, despite the fact that the Audit Commission raised the bar in its assessment criteria this time. In the current climate it is even more vital that we plan ahead, are clear about the way we use our limited resources, and make considered decisions.

The council's financial management, value for money, financial standing, risk management and financial reporting were assessed with three out of the five category scores improving on last year.

Somerset Waste Partnership Recycling Register

Somerset Waste Partnership is one of the first UK local authority organisations to publish an "End-Use Register" for 2007/8. The report has shown that:

- Everything that is collected for recycling in Somerset is being recycled with no stockpiling.
- Over 90% of materials collected are recycled here in the UK, with just 8% being recycled overseas.
- The energy saved by recycling reduced carbon emissions by 118,000 tonnes compared to the environmental impact of burying these materials in landfill sites is equivalent to the carbon produced by 33,000 cars or 20,000 homes per year.
- Even with the recent economic downturn, materials collected for recycling in Somerset continue to find markets.
- 163,000 tonnes recycled saving us almost £7 million in disposal costs and landfill tax.

Somerset Waste Partnership plans to publish the Recycling End Use Register annually. A full copy can be downloaded from Somerset Waste Partnership website

Business Support Facility at Yeovil Innovation Centre (Copse rd)

The new 'Business Solutions' facility - set up in conjunction with Business Link, Yeovil College and South Somerset District Council - is a drop-in resource room open all week for any local business or entrepreneur to use without prior appointment. In these economically trying times it is important that a business can readily access information and advice. Further information can be found at the Yeovil Innovation Centre website, telephone 01935 385900.

Flagship Play Area

Work is due to start in Yeovil this month to create a £340,000 play destination designed with the help of hundreds of local schoolchildren by an award winning landscape design company. The 'Flagship Playspace' – which will enlarge the existing play facilities at Yeovil Recreation Centre. Contractors are due to start onsite on Monday 23 March, aiming to complete the work ready for this year's school summer holiday.

Treetop walkways, tunnels, a shipwreck, skull and snake slides, aerial runway, water play and a refreshments kiosk are included in the design, which was formed through extensive public consultation last year.

This will be a regionally significant destination for play, at no cost to the parents. The design will enhance the existing landscape through using natural play materials such as sand, water and plants, creating a place where children can test their boundaries and build up their confidence. The contours of the land and the trees are all incorporated into the design and used to their best potential.

The scheme is one of the town's key Yeovil Vision projects and is going ahead after funding was secured from the Big Lottery Fund, Yeovil Vision, South Somerset District Council, The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and Somerset County Council. Yeovil Town Council is contributing towards the play space running costs.

During the peak season, a part time Play Ranger will be employed and using the new playspace as a base they will run free play activities for children to enjoy.

This playspace will be exciting for children of a wide age range. The project is separate to the proposals for a Sport Zone and emerged as part of South Somerset District Council's Play Policy and Strategy. No open space will be lost through delivering the project. More information can be found on the Flagship Playspace pages or on the Yeovil Vision website.