

ODCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ODCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2009 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ODCOMBE (7.30 p.m. – 9.25 p.m.)

Mr B Savill-Daw (Chairman)
Mr C Francis
Mrs D Rennie
Mrs C West

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

Mrs L Boucher (District Councillor)
Mrs D Dunford (SSDC Community Safety Project Officer & Odcombe NHW Co-ordinator)

Mrs E M James (Clerk)

82. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF THE REASONS

An apology for absence was received from Mr Hiscock by reason of family commitments.

83. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARISH COUNCILS (MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT) ORDER 2007

A personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 9(f), was given by Mr Francis by reason of being Treasurer of Odcombe Football Club,

84. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th August 2009

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17th August 2009 as a correct record.

It was **RESOLVED** to bring forward agenda item 11:

85. CRIME, DISORDER AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

- (a) Members noted the contents of a letter from Mrs Dunford, SSDC Community Safety Project Officer attached to the agenda. Mrs Dunford gave an update on Neighbourhood Watch. The next NHW meeting will be held on 29th September.
- (b) Members resolved to approve the payment of meeting hall expenses for Neighbourhood Watch meetings, to be held at the Village Hall, no more than 4 meetings per year, each meeting expected to last no more than 2 hours.
- (c) It was NOTED that Inspector Pritchard had been seconded for 6 months to the International Police Advisory Group. The post of Neighbourhood Police Inspector in South Somerset will be carried out by Inspector Jackie Gold during this period
- (d) Community Policing Awards 2009 – NOTED
- (e) It was agreed to ask PCSO Tailby to arrange replacement traffic cones in Lower Odcombe.

86. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Savill-Daw advised that he had received a complaint regarding the recreation ground hedge. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council was responsible for the hedges surrounding the recreation ground. The Chairman had also been asked to advise who was able to park at The Pound. It was AGREED that the Clerk would investigate this and report back to the next meeting.

87. REPORTS FROM:

- (a) **SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR** - None
- (b) **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** – Mrs Boucher gave details of the Area South Community Forum, planning review and finance.
- (c) **PARISH COUNCILLORS WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS SINCE THE LAST MEETING** – none,

88. CLERK'S REPORT [MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES]

- (a) **Orchard Path** – It was NOTED that SSDC advised that their team would commence the final cuts from 7th September and that Orchard Path should be cut within two weeks. SSDC also stated that although they have cut back hedgerows in the past, and still do under special circumstances, it is legally the responsibility of the owner of the hedge to cut back their hedge and prevent it from encroaching on to the public footpath. SSDC has suffered extensive cutbacks this year and are unable to do some of the additional works that they have done in the past. They request that the Parish Council bring the matter of the hedgerows to the attention of its parishioners to ensure that they maintain their own hedges and prevent them from encroaching onto public rights of way
- (b) **Consideration of photographic competition** – Mr Savill-Daw to report at the next meeting.
- (c) It was NOTED that the Clerk will be on leave from 5 – 9 October and that the office will reopen on 12th October.
- (d) It was NOTED that letters of thanks for the recent grants had been received from Odcombe Village Hall Management Committee and Somerset Rural Youth Project..

89. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) **SSDC** - Area South Community Forum - 1st October 2009 – it was AGREED that Mr Savill-Daw and Mr Griffiths would attend the Forum and raise the possibility of obtaining funding for a youth shelter.
- (b) **SALC** – It was NOTED that The AGM and Area General Meetings will be attended by Mrs Rennie and the Clerk. A summary of consultation papers issued by DCLG had been received from SALC and circulated prior to the meeting.
- (c) **SCC** – recruitment campaign for school governors in South Somerset – NOTED.
- (d) **Yeovil District Hospital** – invitation to AGM to be held on 30th September 2009 – NOTED.
- (e) **SRYP** – It was NOTED that from 1st September Annie Diffey had changed roles within the Somerset Rural Youth Project. Simon Fisher had now replaced her as the Project Worker for South Somerset.
- (f) **Victim Support Somerset** – NOTED, no further action to be taken.
- (g) **SSDC** – garden waste service update – to be sent to the Editor of Odcombe Newsletter.

90. PLANNING

(a) PLANNING APPLICATION CONSIDERED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 79 BEFORE THIS MEETING

The following application had been considered in accordance with Standing Order no. 79 and members NOTED the recommendation made:

09/03101/ful – the change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian use and the erection of stables, store room and a menage (GR 349480/116245)

Land adjoining Park Lane Hollow Lane Montacute – adjacent to parish

RECOMMENDATION: Refusal for the following reasons:

- out of keeping with surrounding landscape
- the Council believe this should remain as agricultural land as by allowing a change of use to equestrian could result in much increased vehicular movements
- there are concerns over drainage as there are existing problems in this area
- one other serious concern is that if the application is granted a further request will follow for the installation of flood lighting which would be unacceptable.

(b) PLANNING UPDATES

- (i) SSDC evidence base tour – NOTED.
- (ii) SSDC Consultation - Lowering of the Site Size Threshold for the Provision of Affordable Housing – no comment to be made.

91. RECREATION GROUND

(a) Annual Playground Inspection

It was NOTED that the annual playground inspection had been carried out on 22nd June 2009 by SSDC Inspector, Steve Barnes.

- Inspector's comments:
 - BMX track – continue to remove vegetation from riding surface.
 - Slide – minor dents in slide surface
 - 5-a-side goal – plan to paint
 - Roundabout – safety surfacing is starting to wear in places – monitor
 - 2 spring riders – safety surfacing is starting to wear in places – monitor
 - Junior multi-unit - safety surfacing is starting to wear in places – monitor
 - Swings – plan to replace seats, chains and bushes
 - Monitor wet pour wearing
- General comments:
 - There is some general maintenance to complete during the next year.
 - Continue to monitor wet pour wearing.
- Faults identified:
 - Slide – erosion holes at side of slide
 - Swings – 2 cradle swings and 1 flat swing rubber perishing, some corrosion and chain wear
 - Seats, Bin – one seat overgrown by hedge

The two cradle swings had been replaced since the inspection took place. Members were asked to consider replacing chains and bushes as advised by the Inspector and the Clerk gave details of prices for the equipment required and fitting costs. Councillors did not agree to replace these items. It was AGREED that the vegetation on the BMX track would be sprayed and removed by Mr Savill-Daw and that any further vegetation would be removed regularly.

(b) INSTALLATION OF CRADLE SWING SEATS

Using delegated powers the Clerk had requested R T Services to install the cradle swing seats and expenditure of £30 to carry out this work was approved.

(c) PLAYGROUND RISK ASSESSMENT

It was NOTED that the annual risk assessment was carried out on 22nd June 2009 by SSDC Inspector, Steve Barnes. The BMX track was classed as "medium" risk but all other items were classed as "low" risk. Measures taken to control the risk for the BMX track had been identified and it was considered that there were adequate management, inspection and maintenance systems in place. It was agreed to check that the warning signs at the track included the recommendation to use head protection.

(d) HEDGE CUTTING

Members agreed to delegate the authority to order a hedge cut to the Clerk, following consultation with Mrs Rennie & Mr Francis. It was AGREED to request that the hedge be cut as soon as possible.

(e) PLAYGROUND MANAGEMENT PLAN

This item was deferred.

(f) USE OF FOOTBALL PITCH

Mr Francis exercised his right under the Code of Conduct para. no. 12 (1) to make representations and answer questions and then left the meeting.

The Clerk circulated a more simple licence than that circulated with the agenda for consideration to formalise the arrangements regarding the use of the football pitch by Odcombe Football Club. It was AGREED that this licence would be sent to the Football Club for comment.

Mr Francis returned to the meeting.

92. DOG CONTROL ORDERS

It was NOTED that the Streetscene Enforcement Officers are intending to make Dog Control Orders across the district, which will be effective from 31st March 2010. It was AGREED that the Clerk and Mrs Rennie would attend a workshop on 27th October and report back to the meeting to be held on 16th November.

93. HIGHWAY MATTERS

- (a) Speed Indicator Device results for the South Somerset Area - July 2009. It was NOTED that Odcombe showed an increase of 5.8 on the originally recorded speed readings. It was further NOTED that this information had been forwarded to the Speedwatch Co-ordinator with a request for action on the proposed Community Speedwatch.
- (b) The Clerk was given details of highway concerns to report to County Highways.

94. STAFFING

In order to act in accordance with employment requirements it was agreed to set up a Grievance & Disciplinary Panel and an Appeal Panel.

Grievance & disciplinary panel – Mr N Griffiths, Mr A Hiscock, Mrs B Langdon, Mrs D Rennie
Appeal Panel – Mr C Francis, , Mr B Spearing, Mrs C West Mr R West

In accordance with the Clerk's contract, it was AGREED that Mr Savill Daw, Mrs Langdon and Mrs West would review the Clerk's salary and report back to the next meeting. It was NOTED that the NALC & SLCC had agreed the national salary award for local Council Clerks for 2009 – 2010 and this would be brought to the next meeting.

95. FINANCE

- (a) The bank reconciliation statements as at 31st July 2009 and 31st August 2009 were noted and APPROVED.
- (b) It was RESOLVED to approve the following schedule of payments:

Odcombe Village Hall Management Committee	£36.00	Cheque No. 045
Somerset Landscapes Ltd	£149.50	046
G B Sport & Leisure	£215.05	047
SDDC	£77.63	048
R T Services	£30.00	049
Mrs E M James	£213.27	050
HMRC	£270.00	051

- (c) It was NOTED that a direct debit of £12.10 would be taken on 1 Oct 09 by EDF Energy for the electricity supply.
- (d) It was NOTED that Barclays Bank were still in the process of closing the community account.

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

None

97. TO BRING FORWARD ANY MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

The Pound
Clerks Salary Review

98. ITEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION

Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust – Annual Report highlights 2008-09 & Annual Plan Summary
Clerks & Councils Direct – Sept 2009

99. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 19th October 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall.