

**ODCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**77 West Street, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, TA14 6QL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ODCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18th  
SEPTEMBER 2023 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ODCOMBE (7.30pm to 10.20pm)**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. F Cumming  
Cllr B Duffy  
Cllr R West  
Cllr R Parr (acting Chair)  
Cllr K Perry  
Mr T M Heath (Clerk)  
10 Members of the Public (part time)  
County Councillor M Hewitson (part time)

**102/23 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

As both the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council were absent the clerk asked Members to elect a Chairperson to preside over the meeting. Following a proposal from Cllr. West, seconded by Cllr. Perry, Cllr Parr was elected as Chairperson.

**103/23 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor M Hewitson reported that Somerset Council are facing significant financial challenges, statutory services will be maintained and prioritised. 9 out of 10 households across Somerset are participating in re-cycling of household waste. The A30 road resurfacing project was completed 1 week earlier than scheduled.

**104/23 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. D Rennie, Cllr. C Francis, Cllr. J Ashton and Cllr. D Peters.

**105/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS**

No declarations of interest in agenda items were tabled.

**106/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st AUGUST 2023**

It was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2023.

**107/23 PUBLIC SESSION**

Members of the Public (MoP) expressed concerns relating to 'uncut' verges throughout the village and questioned re-wilding initiatives, this was noted. Cllr. Parr explained the situation is complicated by there being various land owners including Somerset Council and Abri. The Parish Council are responsible for maintaining areas within the boundary of the recreational ground.

A MoP raised the issue of blocked road drains, County Councillor Hewitson responded by stating Somerset Council have an on-line reporting tool.

A representative of Odcombe Football Club raised his concerns relating to the quality of the football pitch and sought a joint solution to this (see min. 116/23).

Conrad energy gave a short presentation on the proposed solar park, south side of Camp Road, and the associated planning application. MoPs asked a number of questions. Council informed MoPs that they are able to register their views on the planning application with Somerset Council, on-line links can be found on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

### **108/23 FINANCE**

It was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the bank reconciliation statement dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

It was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the following list of payments

£140.42	Mr T M Heath	Salary adjustment/Expenses
£318.00	HMRC	PAYE
£7.50	Tesco	Clerks Phone
£648.75	KTD Ltd	Grounds Maintenance
£318.20	Mr T Heath	Democratic Services
£48.84	Npower	Electricity supply
£1000.00	Odcombe Church	Grant award

It was noted that an interest credit for August of £33.10 has been received

### **109/23 CHURCH GRANT**

A request from the village Church has been received seeking a funding grant towards the upkeep of the Church graveyard. Council considered the request and concluded that as the Church is open to all faiths and is an important feature of the village, awarding a grant could provide benefit across the community. Therefore, following a proposal from Cllr. Perry, seconded by Cllr. Cumming a grant of £1000.00 was awarded. Council noted that the £1000.00 value formed part of the 2023/2024 budget. Council agreed to add this award to the list of approved payments (min.108/23 refers)

### **110/23 EMAIL ACCOUNTS**

Following a recommendation by the Clerk, Council **RESOLVED to APPROVE** a cost of £18.00 plus VAT per year for each Member, should they wish to obtain a .gov.uk email account for Parish Council business. Members to inform the Clerk of their preference.

### **111/23 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

Following a meeting between Cllr. Peters, Cllr. Parr and Somerset County Highways on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023, Cllr. Parr provided Members with a synopsis of responses from Highways.

Council await a reply to questions relating to overhanging trees and cutting of verges in the village.

Somerset Council Infrastructure Project team have replied to the Parish Council stating "When the traffic calming scheme on Old Road was developed, options around pedestrian facilities were also looked at (including a virtual footway), but there just wasn't sufficient space in the highway to accommodate a provision. Virtual footways haven't been supported for a few years now. However, if we were to consider a virtual footway again, then any location would need to put through the assessment proforma that we developed to determine where they would be safe/ suitable to consider. I would note that there is a path off Rex Road that links through to the village hall area. I appreciate that still leaves a gap in the ped provision from the crossroads and may not be the 'desire line,' but the extent of the gap in a 'safe' route is less than being stated. I don't believe there is sufficient space between the 30 gateway on Camp Road and the crossroads to safely accommodate an additional hump. The built-up environment doesn't start until the crossroads is reached and there is a danger the hump would be hit at too greater speed. It could be added to the list to be looked at further, but with limited funds, it wouldn't be a priority to progress. At the other end (Ham Hill Road) the roads are too narrow to require an additional hump.

I don't have any speed data to hand for this area but would anticipate the speeds being generally compliant with the posted 30 limit, although there will always be antisocial drivers".

Council agreed that a communication should be developed on the above and published to residents via normal channels.

Council will continue to monitor feedback on speeding vehicles throughout the village and communicate as and when appropriate to Somerset Council.

### **112/23 REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

Environmental Working Party – Members agreed to the planting of trees along the bank where cars have recently driven up and down.

Recreational Area Working Party – Cllr. Parr gave an update on the proposed routing of cables in support of the Village Hall electrical supply upgrade. Council have been assured that cables will follow the route of existing lines and therefore will track through the edge of the play area.

Council noted an updated play area action log, issued by the Clerk ahead of the meeting.

Communication Working Party – Nothing to report.

Car Park Working Party – Following a site visit, a formal quotation has been received for the production of a tender document and post contract support tasks. Members **RESOLVED to APPROVE** an increase in expenditure from £500.00 (min. 91/23 refers) to £825.00. The Clerk will continue to keep the Village Hall and other stakeholders appraised of the project with an aim of finding the most suitable window of opportunity, should the works proceed. Council decided not to undertake any interim repair of pot holes at this stage.

Planning Working Party – Application 23/00685/COL for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use; confirmation of Use Class of building as a single private dwelling house. Church View Chapel Hill Odcombe Yeovil Somerset BA22 8UH is awaiting a decision.

A new application has been received in month, change of use from care home (C2) to 1 No. dwelling house (C3), Church View Chapel Hill Odcombe Yeovil Somerset BA22 8UH/. Council confirmed their support for this application.

Finance Working Party – Nothing to report.

Local Community Network (LCN) – No meeting has taken place in the period.

Village Hall Liaison Representative – Nothing to report.

### **113/23 CRIME, DISORDER AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Nothing reported.

### **114/23 CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence requiring a Council decision was tabled.

**115/23 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TASKS**

It was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** an additional 3 cuts of category A areas, spread evenly across the remainder of the growing season at a cost to Council of £175 per cut. It was requested that trees and bushes at the junction of Old Road and Lower Odcombe be cut back to allow full visibility of the finger post.

**116/23 MATTERS ARISING FROM CLERK’S REPORT**

Council noted the Clerks report issued to Members on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The Clerk reported back key points from a recent meeting with the Football Club, Council agreed to arrange a further meeting with the Football Club ahead of the October meeting. It was agreed that a planning meeting be arranged to cover the 2024/2025 budget and precept as well as the grounds maintenance specification for next financial year. Council agreed to switch suppliers of the welcome to Odcombe Hamstone due to ongoing delays caused by the current supplier.

**117/23 ITEMS OF INTEREST AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

CCTV at and around the Village Hall.

**118/23 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of council will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

.....Meeting Chair

16<sup>th</sup> October 2023