

Odcombe



Parish Council

77 West Street, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, TA14 6QL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ODCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15th JANUARY 2024 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ODCOMBE (7.00pm to 8.50pm)

PRESENT:

Cllr D Peters (Chair)
Cllr F Cumming
Cllr B Duffy
Cllr C Francis
Cllr K Perry
Cllr R Parr
Cllr R West
Mr T M Heath (Clerk)

170/23 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

171/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None raised

172/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th NOVEMBER 2023

Following a proposal from Cllr. Francis, seconded by Cllr. Duffy, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2023.

173/23 PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public (MoP) raised an issue regarding water flowing into his property. The source of the water comes from the recreational ground drainage system that runs onto Chapel Hill and then into the estate of the MoP. A video was shown to Councillors highlighting the problem. Council agreed to contact County Highways requesting a site visit with the aim of finding an effective solution.

174/23 REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Environmental Working Party – Nothing reported

Recreational Area Working Party – The Clerk reported he had written to Somerset Council Wayleaves officer expressing concerns raised by members over the electrical cabling works at the recreational ground, associated repairs and updating of routing plans, no response received to date. The Clerk also wrote to the Chair of the Village Hall on this matter, and reported the hall have raised their own concerns with the contractor. The football club wrote to Council raising their concerns on the works as a corner of the pitch has been damaged. The Clerk requested the football club to write to the Village Hall as they are the client.

A recently received Somerset Council play area inspection report, dated December 2023 was tabled. In response, Council approved an updated play area action plan, dated January 2023 which details corrective actions to be taken forward.

Communication Working Party – The Chair reported he had issued his first monthly message to residents via Facebook and the website and plans to issue a further communique shortly focusing on the car park refurbishment and energy savings.

Car Park Working Party – Following Council's decision at the December 2023 meeting, R Moore has been formally tasked with undertaking car park resurfacing work during the week of 12th February 2024. Cllr. Dufty, the surveyor, and the Clerk met with Richard Moore on 9th January 2024 at the Village Hall to finalise plans. Works are expected to take up to 5 days to complete, during this time access to the car park will be limited to emergency vehicles only. The contractor may undertake some preliminary works ahead of the 12th February, but these will not impede on access to the car park. The only risk to work not being completed as scheduled is if the temperature falls below the allowable level to lay the tarmac. The clerk met with the Chair and Booking Secretary of the Village Hall on 10th January 2024 to share the finalised plans with them and prepare a joint communication to users of the car park informing them of the works and dates when the car park will be unavailable for use. Following the fitting of the 4th LED light in the recreational ground car park a re-assessment of electricity consumption for the four street lights and the defibrillator, located in Lower Odcombe has been completed. The outcome of the reassessment will lead to a saving of approx. £730 per annum based on today's unit price.

Planning Working Party –

Council noted the position of applications:

23/02903/TCA - Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery works to various trees included within Conservation Area, 1 Coathays, Lower Odcombe, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 8TX. **Application permitted.**

23/02331/HOU - Proposed rear extension and new roof light to the rear elevation, 26 Westbury Gardens Higher Odcombe Yeovil Somerset BA22 8UR. **Application permitted.**

23/02891/HOU - The erection of detached two bay carport to the front of the dwelling, Beverley, Lower Odcombe, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 8TW. **Awaiting decision**

Finance Working Party – The working party met ahead of the meeting to review the current position of Council finances, no issues were raised to Council.

The Clerk reported that the outstanding issue relating to invoices for ranger services has been resolved. Invoices are to be re-issued demanding payment for one day of ranger work rather than four as previously quoted.

Local Community Network (LCN) – The Chair provided a summary of the recent LCN where a number of concerns were raised relating to Somerset Council's Asset and Service Devolution scheme and the timing of it.

Asset and Service Devolution working Party - An online meeting between the Asset and Devolution Working Party and Somerset Council has been arranged for the 17th January 2024. Members were issued on 5th January 2024 with correspondence from Somerset Council outlining budgetary issues and proposed cuts to services.

Village Hall Representative – Nothing reported.

175/23 MEMBERSHIP TO SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

It was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the Clerks annual membership to the Society of Local Clerks at a cost of £144.00.

176/23 FINANCE

It was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the bank reconciliation statement dated 31st December 2023.

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

£27.97	Mr T M Heath	Expenses
£144.00	Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership
£413.78	HMRC	PAYE
£7.50	Tesco	Clerks Phone
£475.97	Mr T Heath	Democratic Services
£92.06	Npower	Electricity Supply

Members noted receipt of VAT claim of £529.54, interest from NatWest of £21.04 and interest from Unity Trust bank of £280.67.

Members noted the quarterly financial monitoring statement, contained with the Clerks report. Cllr. Parr asked the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) about what appeared to be a significant shortfall in expenditure against the approved budget. The RFO responded stating that some high value invoices are anticipated prior to year end which will take expenditure for the year to within 15% of the approved budget.

177/23 ASSET REGISTER

It was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the January 2024 asset register which will be available for viewing via the Councils website.

178/23 CRIME, DISORDER AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Nothing raised.

179/23 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Council have received a response from Somerset Highways regarding the removal of the 2t limit along Dray Road. In summary the response was *"The project to put in place a 7.5t weight restriction zone across a wider area of Odcombe village, requested by a number of villagers, resulted in the 2t limit exclusion being superseded, this is normal practice. In addition, County Highways division could find no records as to a culvert along Dray Road, they consider a 7.5t restriction as adequate and safe for this road."* Residents who asked questions on this matter have been informed. Cllr. West asked if the 2t limit could be reinstated as he had personal experience of damage caused by large vehicles. The Chair responded by saying that he will discuss this matter when he next meets up with County Highways and report back to Council.

Chinnock Hollow – Somerset Council have considered the level of objections received to the proposed Traffic Regulation order (TRO), a decision has been taken not to permanently close Chinnock Hollow for now, but instead continue with the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) currently in place, which is not due to expire until the 14th March 2025.

Members raised concerns regarding cars parked in potentially dangerous places throughout the village. Via his monthly message to parishioners, the Chair agreed to ask residents to consider others when parking vehicles.

180/23 CORRESPONDENCE

A resident wrote to Council offering a free of charge service to clear fallen trees within the Parish. Council agreed to keep this offer on record should the need arise in the future.

A resident has written in regarding speeding issues along Chapel Hill as well as concerns over wheelie bins being left on the road. Cllr. Peters has arranged to meet the resident to discuss further.

181/23 MATTERS ARISING FROM CLERK’S REPORT

Council noted the Clerks report dated 9th January 2024.

182/23 ITEMS OF INTEREST AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

None tabled.

183/23 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of council will take place at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 19th February 2023.

184/23 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the exclusion of press and public allowing commercial in confidence business to be dealt with under agenda item 16.

185/23 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 2024/2025

Following consideration of tenders and a subsequent evaluation, Council unanimously agreed to offer the contract for 2024/2025 to Premier Landscaping and Garden Services, subject to a meeting between the contractor, Cllr. Peters and Cllr. Parr to clarify a few small points.

.....Meeting Chair

19th February 2023