

Odcombe



Parish Council

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ODCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21st October 2024 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ODCOMBE (7.00pm to 9.15pm)

PRESENT:

Cllr D Peters (Chair)

Cllr F Cumming

Cllr R West

Cllr K Perry

Cllr R Parr

Cllr B Duffy

Cllr C Francis

Cllr J Ashton

2 Members of the Public (present until completion of agenda item 123/24)

Mr T M Heath (Clerk)

119/24 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Rennie.

120/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr Parr declared an interest associated with agenda item 126/24 (e) and therefore will not take part in any discussion regarding the quotation received from a local contractor.

121/24 CHAIRMANS OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed colleagues and members of the public to the October 2024 full Council meeting.

122/24 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2024, which were duly signed by the Chair.

123/24 PUBLIC SESSION

Representatives from the Triangle Trust were in attendance and gave a brief overview of the trusts objectives which are to provide important medical equipment, not readily available on the NHS, for use at the Medical Centre in Stoke-sub-Hamdon. The trust are holding recruitment evenings on 14th November 2024 at the Lighthouse Café, Stoke sub Hamdon, 7:00pm start, and 19th November 2024 at Montacute village hall, 8:00pm start and would welcome support from the local community. Council agreed to advertise the events on its website and Facebook pages.

124/24 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

No County Councillor present. The Clerk reported his concerns over the recent lack of communication from the two County Councillors which is having a direct impact on his ability to fulfil the requirements of the Parish Council. Cllr. Peters said he would email Cllr. Hewitson regarding this matter.

125/24 CRIME, DISORDER AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Nothing reported or discussed

126/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- (a) The Clerk reported he has been in discussion with Yeovil Hydraulics regarding fitting of a new bearing on the roundabout in the play area. Council have been quoted an hourly rate of £60.00 plus VAT to undertake the work. As Council previously agreed to a budget of £556.00 plus VAT (min. 51/24 refers) for this task, the Clerk actioned Yeovil Hydraulics accordingly and have supplied them the bearing. Work is planned to take place before the end of October 2024.
- (b) Cllr. Peters reported the trial line markings in the car park appear to be withstanding wear and the impact of the weather therefore, it was **AGREED** to proceed with marking the rest of the car park.
- (c) Cllr. Peters reported the two days of Flail work has been completed and that this has made a significant difference to many areas of the village.
- (d) The Clerk reported hedge cutting of Chapel Hill, recreation ground side was completed late September.
- (e) The Clerk informed Council he had written to Somerset Council Arborist team regarding the risk to public safety associated with the Oak Tree along Old Road but had not received a satisfactory response. Therefore, an email was sent to Cllrs. Hewitson and Patrick asking for assistance in this matter, no response has been received to date. As requested by the Council, the Clerk presented a report on the Oak tree from a local tree specialist and an associated quotation for remedial works. It was **AGREED** to undertake a task to try and establish ownership of the land where the tree lies before contracting for any works.
- (f) Following some minor amendments, Council **APPROVED** designs for two signs to be placed at the play area and one sign to be mounted onto the fence by the BMX track. Members **AUTHORISED** the procurement of the signs, poles, and brackets at a cost of £276.88 plus VAT.

127/24 FINANCE

- (a) The bank reconciliation statement as of 30th September 2024 was **APPROVED**.
- (b) A list of payments, detailed below were **APPROVED**.

£24.59	Mr T M Heath	Expenses
£975.00	Premier Landscaping	Grounds Maintenance
£1800.00	Fern Garden services	Hedge Cutting - Chapel Hill
£25.00	Odcombe Village Hall	Rental Charge
£800.00	A.S.H Services	Hedge Cutting
£8.09	Tesco	Clerks Phone
£475.97	Mr T Heath	Democratic Services
£14.07	Npower	Electricity
£4.59	Npower	Electricity

Council **NOTED** receipt of £20.98 monthly interest from the NatWest business account and 286.50 Quarterly Interest from Unity Trust Bank.
- (c) Council **NOTED** the quarterly financial monitoring statement, detailed below.

Current Account	£ 250.00
Reserve Account	£ 16,054.95
Unity Trust Account	£ 41,619.51
Sub Total	£57,924.46
Outstanding Payments	£ -
Total as Cashbook	£57,924.46
Budgeted Receipts (Oct to Mar)	£ 1,881.88
Sub Total	£59,806.34
Less Ringfenced Lines	
General Reserve	£ 8,033.00
Car Park Charging Project	£ 9,000.00
BMX Track Upgrade	£ 11,000.00
Play Equipment	£ 14,000.00
Car Park Maintenance	£ 1,340.00
Sub Total	£43,373.00
Working Capital	£16,433.34
2024/2025 Expenditure Budget	£ 38,666.00
2024/2025 Expenditure	£ 22,459.85
Remaining 2024/2025 Budget	£16,206.15
Unallocated Budget	£ 227.19

128/24 REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

- (a) Environmental Working Party – Two hawthorn trees to be planted.
- (b) Recreational Area Working Party - Nothing reported or discussed.
- (c) Communication Working Party – Cllr. Peters and the Clerk presented costs, benefits and opportunities associated with investment in a new Parish Council website. Council therefore **APPROVED** moving to a new web provider at a cost of £2000.00 plus an annual support contract cost of £250.00.
Cllr. Peters provided an overview of the content for the next village newsletter.
- (d) Car Park Working Party - Nothing reported or discussed.
- (e) Planning Working Party – No new planning applications have been received Since the last Council meeting.
- (f) Finance Working Party – Met 18th October 2024, no issues raised.
- (g) Local Community Network - Nothing reported or discussed.
- (h) Asset and Service Devolution Working Party - Nothing reported or discussed.
- (i) Village Hall Representative – Cllr. Cumming reported a Village Hall committee meeting had recently taken place with no issues raised for Council to consider.

129/24 RANGER TASKS

Council **AGREED** to action the ranger with the following tasks:

- clear moss from play equipment bases
- trim down Orchard Path
- clear the drainage Channels – Broadway junction
- trim around the phone box in Lower Odcombe
- Clear grass from under the ship in the play area
- Fill and turf the hole by the goal posts in the play area

130/24 HIGHWAY MATTERS

The Clerk reported on a meeting held with County Highways during September. Subsequently Council **APPROVED** a list of recommended tasks for Highways to undertake, many of which are as a consequence of requests from local residents. Therefore, the Clerk will confirm with highways the following:

- Lower Odcombe corner. Highways to develop a scheme which is to include marking the road in both directions with SLOW. Also, a sign in both directions identifying a sharp corner and reduce speed.
- Broadway. Junction with Ham Hill Road, double yellow lines to be painted on each side of the junction approx. 15m in total length
- 2t redundant posts to be removed
- Vegetation surrounding road signs to be cut back
- Speed humps to be re-painted
- Camp Road warning posts missing or damaged, a better solution to be considered.

131/24 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that there is no correspondence that requires a Council decision.

132/24 RECREATIONAL AREA USAGE AND ACCESS POLICY

Following communication from a number of residents expressing their concerns with motorised vehicles using the BMX track and surrounding areas it was **AGREED** to update the recreational ground usage and access policy to issue 2, to make it clear that the BMX track is solely for the use of unpowered bicycles and scooters. All other use to be prohibited. In addition, model vehicles of any kind will not be permitted to be used in any area of the recreation ground or car park. The updated policy is to be placed on the Parish Council website and displayed on the notice board at the village hall.

133/24 COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Following a difficult meeting with a local resident Council **AGREED** to amend the communications and social media policy to issue 2, to add the following paragraph. 'In all meetings with members of the public and any other parties, meetings should always be attended by two representatives of the Parish Council unless judged to be unnecessary.' The updated policy to be placed on the Parish Council website.

134/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CLERK'S REPORT

- (a) Members **NOTED** the Clerks report dated 14th October 2024
- (b) Council **AUTHORISED** to purchase of a replacement battery for the defibrillator placed at the village hall and one set of pads. Total cost £282.95 plus postage plus VAT.
- (c) Council **NOTED** the 2025/2026 financial planning meeting, scheduled for 4th November 2024, starting at 7:30pm.

135/24 ITEMS OF INTEREST AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

No specific items were requested.

136/24 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of council is planned for Monday 18th November 2024 starting at 7:00pm.